

## SECTION 1.

# NOTIFICATION, DISEASES LISTED BY THE OIE AND SURVEILLANCE FOR AQUATIC ANIMALS

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## CHAPTER 1.1.

### NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES, AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

#### Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the OIE Organic Statutes, Member Countries shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Competent Authority* of its *territory or territories*.

All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

#### Article 1.1.2.

- 1) Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important *diseases of aquatic animals* and their *pathogenic agents* and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these *diseases*.
- 2) To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4.
- 3) For the purposes of this chapter an 'event' means a single *outbreak* or a group of epidemiologically related *outbreaks* of a given *disease* that is the subject of a *notification*. An event is specific to a pathogen and strain, when appropriate, and includes all related *outbreaks* reported from the time of the immediate *notification* through to the final report. Reports of an event include *susceptible species*, number and geographical distribution of affected *aquatic animals* and *epidemiological units*.
- 4) To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the OIE *disease* reporting format.
- 5) The detection of the *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease* in an *aquatic animal* should be reported, even in the absence of clinical signs. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between *pathogenic agents* and clinical *disease* is constantly developing and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of clinical *disease*, Member Countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of point 1 above.
- 6) In addition to notifying findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3. and 1.1.4., Member Countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*. Information shall include *quarantine* measures and restrictions applied to the movement of *aquatic animals*, *aquatic animal products*, *biological products* and other miscellaneous objects which could by their nature be responsible for transmission of *disease*. In the case of *diseases* transmitted by *vectors*, the measures taken against such *vectors* shall also be specified.

Article 1.1.3.

The *Competent Authority* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

- 1) in accordance with relevant provisions in the *disease-specific chapters*, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or e-mail within 24 hours of any of the following events:
  - a) first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - b) recurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following the final report that declared the *outbreak* ended;
  - c) first occurrence of a new strain of a *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - d) a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by the *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease*, present within a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - e) occurrence of a *listed disease* in a new host species;
- 2) weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *disease* has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event notified, a final report should be submitted;
- 3) six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of *listed diseases* and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
- 4) annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

Article 1.1.4.

*Competent Authorities* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

- 1) a *notification* through WAHIS or by fax or email, when an *emerging disease* event has occurred in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - 2) periodic reports subsequent to a *notification* of an *emerging disease* should continue:
    - a) for the time necessary to have reasonable certainty that:
      - i) the *disease* has been eradicated; or
      - ii) the situation has become stable;
- OR
- b) until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the OIE list as described in Chapter 1.2.;
- 3) a final report once requirements in point 2a) or b) are met.

Article 1.1.5.

- 1) The *Competent Authority* of a country in which an *infected zone* or *compartment* is located shall inform the *Headquarters* when this country, *zone* or *compartment* becomes free from the *disease*.
- 2) A country, *zone* or *compartment* may be considered to have regained freedom from a specific *disease* when all relevant conditions given in the *Aquatic Code* have been fulfilled.
- 3) The *Competent Authority* of a Member Country which establishes one or several *free zones* or *free compartments* shall inform the *Headquarters*, giving necessary details, including the criteria on which the free status is based, the requirements for maintaining the status and indicating clearly the location of the *zones* or *compartments* on a map of the territory of the Member Country.

Article 1.1.6.

- 1) Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases* and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to provide the OIE with other important *aquatic animal* health information.

- 2) The *Headquarters* shall communicate by email or through the interface of WAHIS to *Competent Authorities* all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.5. and other relevant information.

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NB: FIRST ADOPTED IN 1995; MOST RECENT UPDATE ADOPTED IN 2016.

