

CHAPTER 5.9.

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH MEASURES APPLICABLE ON ARRIVAL

Article 5.9.1.

- 1) An *importing country* should only accept into its *territory* live *aquatic animals* that have been subjected to examination by a member of the personnel of the *Aquatic Animal Health Service* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* and that are accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* (see Model Certificates given in Chapter 5.11.).
- 2) An *importing country* may require sufficient advance notification regarding the proposed date of entry into its *territory of aquatic animals*, stating the species, quantity, means of transport and the name of the *frontier post*.

In addition, any *importing country* shall publish a list of the specified *frontier posts* supplied with the equipment required for conducting control operations at importation and enabling the importation and transit procedures to be carried out in the most speedy and efficacious way.

- 3) An *importing country* may prohibit the introduction into its *territory of aquatic animals* if these were found, on examination carried out at the *frontier post* by a member of the personnel of the *Aquatic Animal Health Service*, to be affected by a *listed disease* of concern to the *importing country*.

Refusal of entry may also be applied to *aquatic animals* that are not accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* conforming to the requirements of the *importing country*.

In these circumstances, the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* shall be informed immediately, thereby providing an opportunity for checking the findings or correcting the *certificate*.

However, the *importing country* may prescribe that the importation be placed immediately in *quarantine* in order to carry out a clinical observation and biological examinations with a view to establishing a formal *diagnosis*.

If the *diagnosis* of a *listed disease* is confirmed, or if the *certificate* cannot be corrected, the *importing country* may take the following measures:

- a) return the *aquatic animals* involved to the *exporting country* if this rejection does not involve *transit* through a third country;
- b) slaughter and destroy in cases where re-shipment would be dangerous from a health point of view or impossible from a practical point of view.

Article 5.9.2.

- 1) An *importing country* should only accept into its *territory* raw uneviscerated fish of those *species susceptible* to a *listed disease* destined for introduction into an aquatic environment or for human consumption that have been subjected to examination by a member of the personnel of the *Aquatic Animal Health Service* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*, and that are accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* (see Model Certificates given in Chapter 5.11.).
- 2) An *importing country* may require sufficient advance notification regarding the proposed date of entry into its *territory* of a consignment of products of aquatic animal origin destined for human consumption, together with information on the nature, quantity and packaging of the products, as well as the name of the *frontier post*.

Article 5.9.3.

On arrival at a *frontier post* of a *vehicle* transporting *aquatic animals* infected with any specified *listed disease*, the *vehicle* shall be considered to be contaminated and the *Aquatic Animal Health Service* shall apply the following measures:

- 1) unloading of the *vehicle* and immediate transportation of any possibly contaminated material, such as water or ice, to an establishment assigned in advance for its destruction and the strict application of the *aquatic animal* health measures required by the *importing country*;

- 2) *disinfection of:*
- a) outer clothes and boots of the crew on the transporting *vehicle*;
 - b) all parts of the *vehicle* that were used in the transport, moving and unloading of the *aquatic animals*.

NB: FIRST ADOPTED IN 1995; MOST RECENT UPDATE ADOPTED IN 2004.