

USER'S GUIDE

A. Introduction

Japan	Category: General Japan supports and appreciates the proposed revisions to Section A of the User's Guide, which clarify the nature and practical use of the Terrestrial Code, including the distinction between mandatory notification requirements and other recommendations that may be adapted to each Member Country's specific conditions. Japan considers that these revisions will enhance the clarity, practicality and usefulness of the User's Guide for Veterinary Authorities and stakeholders.
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- 1) The WOA *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*) establishes standards intended for the improvement of terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide. The purpose of this guide is to advise the *Veterinary Authorities* of WOA Member Countries on how to use the *Terrestrial Code*.
- 2) *Veterinary Authorities* should use the standards in the *Terrestrial Code* notably ~~to set up to plan and implement~~ measures providing for early detection, internal reporting, notification, control or eradication of pathogenic agents, including zoonotic ones, in terrestrial *animals* (i.e. mammals, birds, reptiles and bees) and preventing their spread via *international trade* in commodities, which includes *animals* and *animal products*, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade. These measures may include the establishment and recognition of *animal health status* applied to countries, *zones*, *compartments* or *herds/flocks*.
- 3) The WOA *Manual of Diagnostic tests and vaccines for terrestrial animals* (hereafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Manual*) is a reference document to be read in conjunction with the *Terrestrial Code*. It provides technical standards on diagnosis and vaccines, as well as detailed epidemiological information for relevant diseases.
- 4) Notification of listed diseases and emerging diseases and related measures taken is a mandatory requirement for Member Countries. Other recommendations may be adapted to each Member Country's specific conditions, such as animal production or animal health situation, and domestic regulations.
- 5) Although only notification of listed diseases and emerging diseases as described in the *Terrestrial Code* is compulsory (hence the use of the term 'shall'), membership to WOA implies a general commitment to apply its standards (hence the use of the term 'should').
- 6) While the *Terrestrial Code* standards provide recommendations to be implemented, they do not prescribe a defined implementation process. This means that the standards should be adapted and incorporated into national laws, regulations or other official documents, thereby providing a basis for *Veterinary Authority* and other *Competent Authorities* to develop prevention and control measures. In practice, the way international standards are integrated into domestic legislations depends on each Member Country's legal system, disease status, and capacity, resulting in diverse implementation methods among Member Countries.
- 7) The *Terrestrial Code* provides standards that deliver essential sanitary information and technical guidance to its Member Countries, including for the negotiation and agreement of science-based import requirements, as reflected in international veterinary certification. All sections of the *Terrestrial Code* contribute together to support Member Countries in the safe trade of *commodities* and the improvement of animal health and welfare globally.
- 8) Member Countries may apply different measures than those recommended by specific standards in the *Terrestrial Code*. Regarding sanitary measures for international trade, such measures should be scientifically justified, as recognised by WTO's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. The *Terrestrial Code* provides methodologies for risk analysis to support this.

- 39) WOAHA standards comprise recommendations that are based on the most recent scientific and technical evidence information. Correctly applied, they protect animal health and welfare and veterinary public health during production of and trade in *commodities*, and in activities involving the use of animals.
- 410) The absence of chapters, articles or specific recommendations on particular pathogenic agents, surveillance strategies, *animal health status* or trade in *commodities* does not preclude the application of appropriate *sanitary measures* by the *Veterinary Authorities*, provided they are based on *risk analyses* conducted in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code*.
- 544) The year that a chapter was first adopted and the year of its last revision are noted at the end of each chapter.
- 612) The complete text of the *Terrestrial Code* is available on the WOAHA website and individual chapters may be downloaded from: <https://www.woah.org/>. Additional guidelines relevant to the application of certain aspects of the *Terrestrial Code* may also be available on the WOAHA website.

B. *Terrestrial Code* content

- 1) Key terms and expressions that are used in more than one chapter and require precise interpretation for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* are defined in the Glossary, in the case where common dictionary definitions are not deemed to be adequate. The reader should be aware of the definitions given in the Glossary when reading and using the *Terrestrial Code*. Defined terms appear in italics, except in titles of chapters or articles. In the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Code*, a hyperlink leads to the relevant definition. In the *Terrestrial Code*, the term 'or' is used in the inclusive sense, meaning that it can be one, the other or both, except where 'or' is preceded by 'either'.
- 1bis) The expression 'for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*' appears throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, including at the beginning of the Glossary and in chapters where diseases or their occurrences (cases), or other related terms, are defined. It means that those terms should be used as defined throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, notably for notification.
- 2) The term "(under study)" is found in some rare instances, with reference to an article or part of an article. This means that this part of the text has not been adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates and the particular provisions are thus not part of the *Terrestrial Code*, while they continue to be the subject of specific work, until they are amended or deleted.
- 3) The standards in the chapters of Section 1 are designed for the implementation of measures for the diagnosis, *surveillance* and *notification* of diseases, *infections* and *infestations*. The standards include procedures for *notification* to WOAHA and procedures for the recognition of the *animal health status* of a country, *zone* or *compartment*. Section 1 thus provides transparency to trading partners through WOAHA notification on their respective animal health status for *listed diseases*. This is fundamental baseline information for setting risk-based import requirements.
- 4) The standards in the chapters of Section 2 are designed to guide an the importing country in conducting import *risk analysis*, in particular in the absence of WOAHA recommendations on particular pathogenic agents or *commodities* to inform sanitary requirements and certification. The *importing country* should also use these standards to justify import measures which are ~~more stringent than different to~~ existing WOAHA standards. Section 2 also provides principles and guidance on *safe commodity* criteria.
- 5) The standards in the chapters of Section 3 are designed for the establishment, maintenance and strengthening evaluation of *Veterinary Services*, and the evaluation of their quality, including *veterinary legislation* and communication. These standards are intended to assist the *Veterinary Services* and *Veterinary Authority* of Member Countries to meet their objectives of improving terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health, ~~as well as to~~ They also assist Member Countries to establish and maintain confidence in their *animal health status*, their ability to deliver *international veterinary certificates* and the related capacity to meet import requirements as well as to provide operational assurances for trade.
- 6) The standards in the chapters of Section 4 are designed for the implementation of measures for the prevention and control of pathogenic agents within Member Countries' territories. Measures in this section include notably *animal identification*, traceability, zoning, compartmentalisation, disposal of dead animals, disinfection, disinsection, *biosecurity*, and general hygiene precautions, *vaccination* and *disease official control programmes*. Some chapters address the specific *sanitary measures* to be

applied for the collection and processing of semen and embryos of *animals*. Standards in Section 4 reflect detailed information and capabilities including for safe trade.

- 7) The standards in the chapters of Section 5 are designed for the implementation of general *sanitary measures* for international trade. They address veterinary certification and the measures applicable at each stage of the trade process by the *exporting, transit and importing countries*. They also include recommendations for Member Countries to discuss and establish bilaterally agreed *sanitary measures* and *international veterinary certificates*, as well as define equivalence of *sanitary measures*. A range of model veterinary certificates is provided to facilitate consistent documentation in *international trade*.
- 8) The standards in the chapters of Section 6 are designed for the implementation of preventive measures in animal production and processing systems. ~~These measures are intended~~ to assist Member Countries in meeting their veterinary public health objectives. They include ante- and post-mortem inspection, control of hazards in *feed, biosecurity* at the animal production level, and the control of antimicrobial resistance in *animals*. Standards in Section 6 also provide recommendations that may be applicable to the international trade of non-human primates and other commodities such as food and feed.
- 9) The standards in the chapters of Section 7 are designed for the implementation of *animal welfare* measures. The standards cover production, transport, and *slaughter or killing of animals*, as well as the *animal welfare* aspects of free-roaming dog population control, working equids, and the use of *animals* in research and education. Detailed parameters provided in some recommendations are meant to guide Member Countries in choosing those that are most suitable to their situation.
- 10) The standards in each of the chapters of Sections 8 to 16, i.e. disease-specific chapters, are designed to inform of the occurrence of WOA *listed diseases* and to prevent the pathogenic agents of those listed diseases from being introduced into an *importing country*, from spreading within a country or having harmful consequences, while facilitating safe international trade of commodities, based on the relative *animal health status* of their country, zone or compartment of origin, or as a *safe commodity*. Some chapters include specific measures for surveillance and to prevent and control the *infections* and *infestations* of global concern. Sections 8 to 16 relate to the categories of diseases, *infections* and *infestations* of multiple species, Apinae, Aves, Bovinae, Equidae, Leporidae, Caprinae, Suidae and Camelidae respectively. Although WOA aims to include a chapter for each WOA *listed disease*, not all WOA *listed diseases* have been covered yet by a specific chapter. This is work in progress, depending on available scientific knowledge, and as prioritised the priorities set by Member Countries the World Assembly of Delegates.
- 11) A disease-specific chapter covers some or all of the following components:
 - Chapter title and number;
 - An introductory article, including a brief description of the disease, its context and the aim of the chapter, the definition for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* of the disease and the animal hosts, which play a significant role in the epidemiology of the disease, and the definition of its occurrence ('case definition'); the introductory article may also include the setting of incubation, infective period, and other aspects of the disease and its consequences in terms of surveillance, *animal health status* and trade;
 - An Article on *safe commodities*;
 - Articles on provisions for *animal health status* applied to countries, *zones, compartments,* ~~or herds/flocks,~~ apiaries or other subpopulations;
 - Articles on recommendations for safe trade of *commodities*;
 - Articles on inactivation of the pathogenic agents present in specific *animal products*, materials or fomites; ~~and~~
 - Articles on *surveillance* of the disease; and
 - Articles on the prevention and control of diseases including containment and protection zones.

Not all disease-specific chapters include all these components and some chapters may include only one article on the definition of occurrence for the purpose of *notification* to WOA. Each chapter includes only those provisions considered, at the time of adoption, relevant to address WOA Members' needs with regards to the specific disease; and that are supported by sound scientific and technical knowledge.

The recommendations in these chapters that are related to *international trade* assume that the pathogenic agent is either not present in the *importing country* or is the subject of a control or eradication programme. The *sanitary measures* recommended in the standards take into account the nature of the moved or traded *commodity*, the *animal health status* of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment* of origin, and the *risk* mitigation measures applicable to each *commodity*.

C. Specific issues

1) Notification

Chapter 1.1. describes Member Countries' obligations under Organic Statutes of the Office International des Epizooties. Listed diseases, as defined and described in their relevant disease-specific chapters, and emerging diseases, as prescribed in Chapter 1.1., are compulsorily notifiable, either immediately or routinely every six months depending on the disease situation. Member Countries are encouraged to also provide information to WOA on other animal health events of epidemiological significance, notably findings of pathogenic agents that do not comply with case definitions of the *listed diseases*.

Chapter 1.2. describes the criteria for the inclusion of a disease, *infection* or *infestation* in the WOA List and Chapter 1.3. gives the current list. *Listed diseases* are divided into categories based on the animal hosts. Recommendations for animal health surveillance in Chapter 1.4. are essential for early detection.

2) Diagnostic tests and vaccines

It is recommended that specified diagnostic tests and vaccines in *Terrestrial Code* chapters be used with a reference to the relevant section in the ~~WOA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals~~ (hereafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Manual*). Experts responsible for facilities used for disease diagnosis and vaccine production should be fully conversant with the standards in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

3) Freedom from a disease, infection or infestation

Article 1.4.6. provides general principles for declaring a country or *zone* free from a disease, *infection* or *infestation* ~~and which may be complemented by specific requirements in the listed disease-specific chapters, including for some diseases for which an official status is granted by WOA.~~ Chapter 1.6. describes the procedures for free status recognition and self-declaration.

4) Prevention and control

Chapters 4.4. and 4.5. describe the measures that should be implemented to establish *zones* and *compartments*. Zoning and compartmentalisation are important tools to prevent and control diseases and to facilitate safe trade.

Chapters 4.6. to 4.12. describe the measures which should be implemented during collection and processing of semen and embryos of animals, including micromanipulation and cloning, in order to prevent animal health *risks*, especially when trading these *commodities*. Although the measures relate principally to WOA *listed diseases* or *infections*, general standards apply to all infectious disease *risks*. Moreover, in Chapter 4.8. diseases that are not listed are marked as such but are included for the information of Member Countries.

Chapter 4.15. addresses the specific issue of the prevention and control of bee diseases and some of its trade implications. This chapter should be read in conjunction with the specific bee disease chapters in Section 9.

Chapters 4.18. and 4.19 related to vaccination and disease control are applicable in endemic or

epidemic situations, as well as in free countries or zones experiencing emergence or reemergence of diseases, or at increased risk of disease introduction. Chapters 4.13. and 4.14. related to the disposal of dead animals and to disinfection and disinsection are essential recommendations for complementary measures to control and eradicate diseases.

Chapter 6.5. is designed for the implementation of general *biosecurity* measures in intensive *poultry* production. Chapters 6.6., 6.13. and 6.14. provide recommendations for some specific prevention and control plans for the unlisted foodborne pathogenic agent *Salmonella* in poultry, bovine and pig production systems as part of the *Veterinary Services* mission to prevent, eliminate or control food safety *hazards* in animal production.

Chapter 6.12. deals specifically with the zoonotic risk associated with the movements of non-human primates and gives standards for certification, transportation and import conditions for these *animals*.

5) International Trade requirements

a) Generalities

Veterinary Authority should implement sanitary measures at the borders of their countries, in order to prevent the introduction of listed diseases, especially when the country or a zone of the country is free or when official control measures are being applied against those diseases. The general measures to be applied are described in Section 5 of the *Terrestrial Code*.

~~*Sanitary measures related to international trade should be based on WOAHP standards. A Member Country may authorise the importation of animals or animal products into its territory under conditions different from those recommended by the Terrestrial Code. To scientifically justify more stringent measures, the importing country should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with WOAHP standards, as described in Chapter 2.1. Members of the WTO should refer to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).*~~

Chapters 5.1. to 5.3. describe the general obligations and ~~ethical~~ responsibilities of *importing* and *exporting countries* in *international trade*. *Veterinary Authorities* and all *veterinarians* directly involved in *international trade* should be familiar with these chapters. Chapter 5.3. also describes the principles of equivalence of measures, the process of negotiation of bilaterally agreed measures, and the WOAHP informal procedure for dispute mediation. Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. describe the measures to implement at export, transit, and import of commodities. They are an essential pillar of prevention of international spread of animal diseases.

b) Safe commodities

WOAHP aims to include an article listing the *commodities* that are considered safe for trade without the need for *risk* mitigation measures specifically directed against a particular *listed disease, infection or infestation*, regardless of the status of the country or *zone* of origin for the agent in question, at the beginning of each *listed disease*-specific chapter in Sections 8 to 16. ~~This is work in progress and some chapters do not yet contain articles listing safe commodities.~~ When a list of *safe commodities* is present in a chapter, *importing countries* should not apply trade restrictions to such *commodities* with respect to the agent in question. The safety of those *safe commodities* should be considered both when trading as well as for disease control regarding domestic movements. Chapter 2.2. describes the criteria for inclusion of a *commodity* in the list of *safe commodities* of a disease-specific chapter.

6)c) International veterinary certificates

An *international veterinary certificate* is an official document that the *Veterinary Authority* of an *exporting country* issues in accordance with Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. It lists animal health requirements and, where appropriate, public health requirements for the exported *commodity*. The quality of the *exporting country's Veterinary Services* is essential in providing assurances to trading partners regarding the safety of exported *animals* and products. This includes the *Veterinary Authority's* ethical approach to the provision of veterinary certificates and their history in meeting their notification obligations.

International veterinary certificates underpin *international trade* and provide assurances to the *importing country* regarding the health status of the *animals* and products imported. The measures prescribed should take into account the *animal health status* of both *exporting* and *importing*

countries, and zones, herds/flocks or compartments within them, and be based upon the standards in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The following steps should be taken when drafting *international veterinary certificates*:

- a) i) identify the diseases, *infections* or *infestations* from which the *importing country* is justified in seeking protection because of its own health status. *Importing countries* should not impose measures in regard to diseases that occur in their own territory but that are not subject to *official control programmes*;
- b) ii) for *commodities* capable of transmitting these diseases, *infections* or *infestations* through *international trade*, the *importing country* should apply the relevant articles in the *listed disease*-specific chapters. The application of the articles should be adapted to the *animal health status* of the country, *zone, compartment* or *herd/flock* of origin. Such status should be established according to Article 1.4.6. except when articles of the relevant *listed disease* chapter specify otherwise;
- c) iii) when preparing *international veterinary certificates*, the *importing country* should endeavour to use terms and expressions in accordance with the definitions given in the Glossary. *International veterinary certificates* should be kept as simple as possible and should be clearly worded, to avoid misunderstanding of the *importing country's* requirements;
- d) iv) Chapters 5.10. to 5.13. provide, as further guidance to Member Countries, model certificates that should be used as a baseline.

7)d) Guidance notes for importers and exporters

It is recommended that *Veterinary Authorities* prepare “guidance notes” to assist importers and exporters understand trade requirements. These notes should identify and explain the trade conditions, including the measures to be applied before and after export and during transport and unloading, and the relevant legal obligations and operational procedures. The guidance notes should advise on all details to be included in the health certification accompanying the consignment to its destination. Exporters should also be reminded of the International Air Transport Association rules governing air transport of *animals* and *animal products*.

[...]

GLOSSARY

ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS

means the status of a country, ~~zone, or a compartment, herd, flock, apiary or other subpopulation~~ with respect to an ~~animal disease~~ infection or infestation in accordance with the criteria listed in the relevant disease-specific chapter or Chapter 1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

ANIMAL HOST

means an animal whose infection or infestation with the pathogenic agent of a listed disease plays a significant role in the epidemiology of the disease and defines a case requiring notification.

CONTAINMENT ZONE

means an infected zone, defined within a previously free country or zone, ~~which includes all suspected or confirmed cases that are epidemiologically linked and~~ where movement control, *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures* are applied to prevent the spread of, and to eradicate, the *infection* or *infestation*.

FREE ZONE

means a zone in which the absence of a specific *infection* or *infestation* in an ~~animal subpopulation~~ has been demonstrated in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

means a disease, infection or infestation ~~listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, should be brought to the attention of~~ reported to the ~~this~~ Veterinary Authority, in accordance with national regulations.

NOTIFICATION

means the procedure by which:

- a. the *Veterinary Authority* of a Member Country informs the *Headquarters*,
- b. the *Headquarters* inform the *Veterinary Authority* ~~Authorities~~ of Member Countries,

of the occurrence or presence of listed diseases, ~~infection or infestation or emerging diseases~~ in accordance with Chapter 1.1.

POULTRY

means all birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of ~~any commercial animal products~~ commodities or for breeding for this purpose, and fighting cocks used for any purpose, ~~and all birds used for restocking supplies of game or for breeding for this purpose, until they are released from captivity.~~

~~Birds that are kept in a single household, the products of which are used within the same household exclusively, are not considered poultry, provided that they have no direct or indirect contact with poultry or poultry facilities.~~

Birds that are kept in captivity for other reasons, including those that are kept for shows, racing, exhibitions, zoological collections and competitions, and for breeding or selling for these purposes, as well as pet birds, are not considered *poultry*, provided that they have no direct or indirect contact with *poultry* or *poultry* facilities.

Japan	Category: Clarification Rationale: Japan understands that, under the current definition of <i>commodity</i>, the term is not limited to commodities intended for trade. Japan also understands that this is why the proposed definition of commercial poultry in Chapter 10.4. refers specifically to <i>commodities</i> intended for trade. Based on this understanding, Japan considers that the proposed definition of <i>poultry</i> may include birds kept for household consumption and birds kept in establishments supplying pet birds. Japan supports the proposed revision of the definition of <i>poultry</i>, as it would allow a broader range of captive bird populations that may play a role in the amplification and shedding of avian influenza viruses to be covered by disease control and monitoring measures. Japan would appreciate clarification on which bird populations would remain outside the proposed definition of <i>poultry</i>, such as domestic birds kept solely for ornamental or pet purposes.
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PROTECTION ZONE

means a zone where specific *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures* are implemented in response to an increased risk of disease introduction to prevent the entry and spread of a pathogenic agent into a free country or zone, ~~from a neighbouring country or zone of a different animal health status.~~

ZONE

means a ~~part of a country~~ geographical area defined by the *Veterinary Authority*, containing an ~~animal population or subpopulation~~ with a specific *animal health status* with respect to an *infection* or *infestation* or specific animal health management measures ~~for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention or control.~~

DRAFT CHAPTER 7.2

ANIMAL WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT

Japan	Category: General Rationale: Japan expresses its respect to all those involved for their long-standing efforts in the development of this chapter. With a view to further refining and broader dissemination, Japan submits the following comments for consideration.
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[...]

Article 7.2.3.

Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter:

ASSEMBLY CENTRE

means any place where animals from different sources are temporarily collected to form a consignment to be sold or redirected to other site(s) (e.g. auction markets, sale barns, and facilities holding animals for an abattoir).

CONTINGENCY PLAN

means a plan outlining the steps to be taken to address unexpected events that may occur during the journey, including emergencies, that could put *animal welfare* at risk.

JOURNEY ORGANISER

means a person or company responsible for ensuring the planning and the necessary logistical arrangements for the entire *journey* are made in advance, including those necessary to safeguard the animals' welfare. This can be an exporter or importer, transporter, freight forwarder, owner, *animal handler*, or driver.

ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF VESSEL

means a vessel with facilities to enable road or rail vehicles to be driven and off the vessel.

REST STOP

means a *resting point*, where animals are unloaded from the vehicle into an intermediary facility in order to prevent the animals from suffering and exhaustion.

TRANSPORT PROCESS

means the period that includes the planning and preparation of the *journey*, the *journey* itself, and the post-*journey* period.

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: means the process period that includes the planning and preparation of the <i>journey</i> (including loading), the <i>journey</i> itself, and the post-<i>journey</i> period up to unloading. Rationale: The definition describes the transport process as a "period", although a process and a period are different concepts. While loading and unloading could be understood as being encompassed within "planning and preparation" and "the post journey period," they are not explicitly mentioned in the definition, which may give rise to differing interpretations. To clearly define the scope of the transport process, it is therefore preferable to explicitly include loading and unloading.
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TRANSPORTER

means any person or company transporting animals on its own account or on behalf of a third party.

Article 7.2.4.

Hazards to animal welfare

A wide variety of *hazards* have an impact on *animal welfare* during the different stages of animal transport. [EFSA, 2022].

These *hazards* can have negative impacts on the welfare of the animals, such as injuries, *distress*, morbidity and mortality, that can be assessed through animal-based measures. In the absence of feasible animal-based measures, resource-based and management-based measures may be used instead.

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: These <i>hazards</i> can have negative impacts on the welfare of the animals, such as injuries, <i>distress</i>, morbidity and mortality, that can be assessed through animal-based measures. In the absence of feasible animal-based measures, resource-based and management-based measures may be informative used instead. Rationale: While we agree that resource based and management-based measures may ultimately influence animal welfare outcomes, the state of an animal is, as suggested in Article 7.1.2, evaluated through a comprehensive consideration of multiple elements such as behaviour, physiology, and health. Therefore, it is difficult to support the statement that these indicators can serve as substitutes for animal-based indicators. Although we propose amended text, if the original text is to be retained, it would be helpful to provide specific examples how such indicators could serve as substitutes for animal-based indicators. This is because, at present, it remains unclear how they are intended to be applied.
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Hazards to animal welfare can be minimised by appropriate design, maintenance, and use of premises, facilities, and *means of transport*; appropriate choice of equipment; good planning, coordination, monitoring, handling, and transport practices; and proper training and competency of personnel.

Common *hazards* that can negatively impact *animal welfare* throughout all stages of the *journey* include:

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- a) selection and transport of unfit or compromised animals;
 - b) exposure to a novel environment;
 - c) mixing of unfamiliar and different categories of animals;
 - d) inappropriate animal handling or restraint;
 - e) inadequate provision of feed and water;
 - f) inappropriate design or maintenance of facilities or *means of transport*;
 - g) inappropriate *space allowance*;
 - h) poor driving or piloting;
 - i) exposure to unfavourable microclimatic and environmental conditions;
 - j) poor ventilation and air quality;
 - k) exposure to excessive noise or vibration;
 - l) insufficient number or duration of rest periods;
 - m) prolonged *journey* times;
 - n) inappropriate road quality or rough water conditions.

Hazards specific to a particular stage of the *journey* are provided in the articles that follow.

Article 7.2.5.

Measures to assess animal welfare during transport

The welfare of animals during transport should be assessed using animal-, resource- or management-based measures. The routine use of feasible animal-based measures is recommended, and the appropriate thresholds should be adapted to the different conditions in which animals are transported.

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: The welfare of animals during transport should be assessed using animal-, resource- management-based measures. The routine use of feasible animal-based measures is recommended, and the appropriate thresholds should be adapted to the different conditions in which animals are transported. Rationale: Animal welfare should not be assessed solely based on management-based measures. However, we do not object to the use of resource based and management-based measures as part of a combined assessment, provided that animal-based measures remain central to the evaluation.
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The *Competent Authority* should collect data on the business operators involved in the transport of animals to define target and threshold values for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this chapter. It is recommended that target values or thresholds for animal-based measures be based on current scientific evidence and appropriate national, sectoral, or regional standards. Whatever the basis of the measure, if welfare outcomes are unsatisfactory, Members should consider and implement the necessary changes to resources or management to improve the welfare outcomes.

If the set threshold of an animal-based measure is exceeded, an investigation should be launched, and corrective actions should be taken.

Animal-based measures that can be used to assess *animal welfare* throughout the journey are provided in the relevant articles of this chapters.

Animal-, resource-, and management-based measures specific to a particular stage of the *journey* are provided in the articles that follow.

[...]

Article 7.2.7.

Responsibilities of persons involved in the journey

General considerations

Once the decision to transport the animals has been made, the welfare of the animals during their *journey* is a very important consideration and is the joint responsibility of all authorities and people involved. These responsibilities are described in more detail in this article.

A *journey* should not commence until all relevant documentation listed in Article 7.2.10 has been accepted by the *Competent Authority* at the point of departure and destination, including the transit countries, where applicable.

1. Competent Authorities

The responsibilities of *Competent Authorities* include:

- a) establishing minimum standards for *animal welfare* during transport, including requirements for inspection of animals for the fitness of transport during the journey and appropriate certification and record keeping;
- b) setting standards for facilities, *means of transport* and *containers* for the transport of animals;

- c) setting standards for the competence of farm managers, *animal handlers*, transporters, drivers, pilots, masters and managers of facilities in relevant issues in *animal welfare*;
- d) ensuring that *Competent Authority* staff receive appropriate and ongoing training for their role(s) in enforcing in *animal welfare* standards during transport;
- e) ensuring that all stakeholders relevant to the journey are informed of relevant *animal welfare* issues;
- f) implementing of the standards, including through accreditation or interaction with other organisations;
- g) ensuring that sufficient and competent staff are available to implement and enforce *animal welfare* standards during transport;
- h) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of *animal welfare* standards;
- i) monitoring and evaluating the use of *veterinary medicinal products*;
- j) giving animal consignments priority at border inspection posts to avoid unnecessary delay;
- k) taking actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the *journey* in accordance with Article 7.2.25;
- l) being prepared to work with the transporter and all relevant personnel to resolve any emergency situation arising during a *journey*;
- m) communicating with other relevant *Competent Authorities*, including those in exporting, transit or importing countries, before, during, or after the *journey* regarding *animal welfare* jurisdiction and responsibilities, and any situation that may represent significant risk to *animal welfare*.

2. Journey organisers

The *Journey* organisers, as defined in this chapter, should be responsible for scheduling and further logistical aspects of the *journey*.

Their other responsibilities may include:

- a) ensuring that all other persons involved in the *journey* are clearly aware of the whole *journey*, and are each assigned to their respective responsibilities in advance so that it is clear who is responsible for the tasks listed in this article, throughout the entire *journey*;
- b) ensuring the availability of suitable facilities at the start and at the end of the *journey* for the assembly, loading, transport, unloading and holding of animals, including facilities for any rest stops, transfers and *resting points* during the *journey* and emergency planning;
- c) ensuring suitable *means of transport* and *containers* with adequate space and ventilation according to the species to be transported;
- d) ensuring the presence of sufficient and competent staff during loading and unloading operations;
- e) ensuring that all necessary administrative arrangements and *animal health* precautions are made in advance to minimise the duration of the *journey* and manage the most common *animal welfare* and *animal health* risks;

- f) providing information to the *Competent Authority* regarding any emergency during the *journey*;
- g) ensuring that a contingency plan is in place for the *journey* with a clear indication of the roles of the different actors through the entire *journey* (e.g. watering or feeding).

3. Farm or other animal facility managers

The farm or other animal facility managers should be responsible for:

- a) communication with the *journey* organiser when applicable;
- b) assessing and advising on the health, welfare and fitness for transport of the animals, and segregation of animals into compatible groups in preparation for the *journey*;
- c) ensuring compliance with any required veterinary or other certification;
- d) the presence of an adequate number of competent *animal handlers* for the species being transported during the loading and/or unloading, including catchers for poultry and rabbits;
- e) ensuring that loading and unloading facilities are well maintained and appropriate for the species;
- f) ensuring that the appropriate equipment, emergency procedures, necessary veterinary care and veterinary assistance as appropriate for the species and the *journey*.

4. Animal handlers

Animal handlers should be responsible for:

- a) the welfare of the animals while in their care during transport;
- b) appropriate handling and care of the animals during the *journey*;
- c) taking prompt action to address any potential *animal welfare* or *animal health* issues;
- d) identifying animals that may unfit for transport and report concerns promptly.

5. Managers of intermediary facilities

Managers of intermediary facilities (facilities that temporarily house animals during a *journey* such as assembly centres, airport facilities, quarantine centre, border inspection posts, resting points, or markets) should be responsible for:

- a) providing suitable premises for *loading and unloading*;
- b) providing species-specific suitable facilities for accommodating the animals, which provide sufficient space, protection from adverse weather conditions, bedding when required, and proper ventilation;

- c) providing suitable and accessible water and *feed* when required;
- d) the health, welfare and fitness for transport of the animals, and segregation of animals into compatible groups in preparation for further transport;
- e) providing an adequate number of competent *animal handlers* to load, unload, drive and hold animals in a manner that causes minimum stress and injury;
- f) minimising opportunities for disease transmission;
- g) having in place a contingency plan and any necessary resources;
- h) providing veterinary care when required;
- i) providing competent staff to allow the emergency *killing* of animals when required;
- j) ensuring proper rest times and minimal delay during stops;
- k) ensuring sufficient space for all animals to lie down at the same time at resting points;
- l) ensuring the keeping of the applicable records as required.

6. Transporters

The responsibilities of transporters in ensuring the safe transport of animals include, but are not limited to:

- a) ensuring suitable and safe *means of transport* for the species and categories of animals being transported;
- b) ensuring *containers* are suitable;
- c) ensuring the health, welfare, and verifying the fitness for transport of the animals, and segregation of animals into compatible groups in preparation for the *journey*;
- d) ensuring trained staff to handle and transport animals properly;
- e) complying with local regulations regarding animal transport;
- f) ensuring the safe transport of the animals;
- g) monitoring the animals and the environment throughout the *journey*;
- h) addressing the specific needs of different types of animals during the *journey*;
- i) ensuring the availability of a contingency plan;

- j) ensuring the proper cleaning and disinfection of the *means of transport* and/or *containers* as required;
- k) complying with international regulations and standards regarding animal transport;

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: k) complying with international regulations and standards regarding animal transport; Rationale: This statement appears to emphasize that animal transport should be carried out in accordance with relevant regulations and standards. As drivers are required to comply with the frameworks applicable to the given context, explicitly distinguishing between “local” and “international” regulations seems unnecessary; a more encompassing formulation would enhance clarity.
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- l) keeping and communicating all records as required by Competent Authority.

7. Drivers

The responsibilities of drivers include:

- a) complying with local and international regulations and standards regarding animal transport;

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: a) complying with local and international regulations and standards regarding animal transport; Rationale: Same as above.
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- b) ensuring the fitness for transport of the animals;
- c) making decisions to protect the welfare of the animals according to the *journey* and contingency plan, including decision making on routes to avoid poor roads, escape bad weather such as storms at sea, or undertake rest stops or break stops as required.

8. Master of the vessel and pilot of the aircraft

- a) the Master or pilot should be responsible for making decisions to protect the welfare of the animals according to the contingency plan.
- b) making decisions to protect the welfare of the animals according to the *journey* and contingency plan, including decision making to escape bad weather such as storms at sea or air.

[...]

Journey duration and requirements for water, feed and rest

The welfare impact of animal transport is complex, involving multiple stressors, many of which increase together with *journey* duration [EFSA, 2022].

When determining the *journey* duration, the main consideration is how long the animals can be without feed, water and rest, without compromising their welfare.

Requirements for feed, water and rest depend on the species and animals' category (e.g. pregnant animals, unweaned animals, lactating animals, end of career animals and other categories (see Article 7.2.13) of animals, their physiological condition, environmental conditions, the distance to be travelled (length of the *journey*), and the ability to provide feed and water through the *journey*.

Longer *journeys* increase risks to *animal welfare*; therefore, all necessary arrangements should be made in advance to minimise *journey* duration and meet the animals' needs throughout the *journey*. *Journey* duration should be adapted to the needs of the species and categories of animals. Moreover, feed, water and rest should be provided at appropriate intervals according to the species and categories of animals and *journey* duration.

Provisions applicable to shorter *journeys* may differ from those of longer *journeys*, particularly regarding the need for feed, water and rest.

For longer *journeys*, rest stops may alleviate travel-related stress.

1) Animal welfare concerns

Potential welfare concerns associated with *journey* duration include:

- a) prolonged hunger and thirst;
- b) heat or cold stress;
- c) injuries and other transport-related diseases (e.g., respiratory disorders);
- d) reduced ability to rest due to *journey* duration;
- e) lack of adequate and accessible equipment to feed and water the animals;
- f) poor maintenance of feed and water equipment;
- g) insufficient number of *animal handlers* to provide feed and water;
- h) insufficient space to rest, drink and eat during the *journey*.

2) Animal-based measures

Animal-based measures that may be used to assess welfare during transport include:

- a) signs of thirst, dehydration and hunger;
- b) injuries;

- c) nasal and ocular discharge;
- d) dull and unresponsive *animals*;
- e) aggressive behaviour;
- f) morbidity and mortality;
- g) signs of fatigue and exhaustion;
- h) feed and water intake;
- i) access to feeder, drinkers and bedding;
- j) signs of heat or cold stress.

3) Recommendations

Journeys should be kept as short as possible and be adapted to the animal species' and categories' needs for feed, water and rest. Animals should be transported without delay and using the most direct route to the place of destination.

Journey duration should be estimated carefully and should include regular scheduled rest stops or breaks stops, as well as any transfer from the *means of transport*. Depending on the *journey* duration, animals should be unloaded, rested, fed and watered in appropriate facilities. Such rest stops should allow for checking the fitness for transport of the animals, checking and cleaning the *means of transport*, and supplying the animals with sufficient feed and water until the next stage of the *journey*.

Taking into account the species, age and condition of the transported animals, they should be provided with:

- a) feed of an appropriate type and quantity to prevent hunger;
- b) prolonged fasting should be avoided;

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: a) feed of an appropriate type and quantity to prevent hunger <u>or prolonged fasting</u>; b) prolonged fasting should be avoided; Rationale: As a hazard factor and measures, this point is already included in item a), and therefore it is not appropriate to list them as a separate item. Furthermore, although this section is intended to specify provisions that should be provided to animals, item b) instead describes management practices that should be avoided. We propose amended text to improve its appropriateness.
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- a) rest that is appropriate for their species, age and condition in order to prevent them from experiencing exhaustion.

Animals should be monitored throughout the *journey* for signs of hunger, thirst and exhaustion. Water should not be withdrawn until immediately prior to loading and should be offered at intervals appropriate to the species and category of the animals and their needs. In periods of high heat, while it should be sufficient, water should be provided carefully and gradually to avoid water intoxication (hyponatremia due to overhydration).

When water is required during the *journey*, vehicles should have water tanks with an adequate capacity for the number of animals transported and the duration of the *journeys*.

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: When water is required during the <i>journey</i>, such as transporting through arid regions, vehicles should have water tanks with an adequate capacity for the number of animals transported and the duration of the <i>journeys</i>. Rationale: It is requested that this recommendation applies to situations where animals are transported through arid regions in which access to water is likely to be limited. Considering that the fourth recommendation also envisages the provision of water at rest stops, the requirement that water during the journey be provided by water tanks installed on vehicles does not seem indispensable in all cases.
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4) Species-specific recommendations or means of transport-specific recommendations

- a) Day-old chicks should arrive at the destination within 72 hours after hatching.
- b) Monogastric animals should be fed and watered more frequently than ruminants due to their digestive physiology.
- c) When feed is withdrawn before transport for food safety purposes for poultry and pigs, it should be for the shortest time possible.
- d) Feed and water should not be withdrawn prior to longer-distance transport of cattle, sheep, goats, camels and horses.
- e) Lactating animals will have a higher water requirement and should be watered more frequently.
- f) Unweaned animals should be transported with the dam, or if they are travelling alone, they should be fed with milk replacer frequently, depending on the species and age.
- g) Pigs, poultry, dairy cows, sheep and goats normally lie down during transport; thus, they should be provided with enough space to allow all animals to lie down without lying on top of each other.

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: g) Pigs, poultry, dairy cows, sheep and goats normally lie down during transport; thus, they should be provided with enough space to allow all animals to lie down without lying on top of each other. <u>g) The space required on a vehicle or in a container depends upon whether or not the animals need to lie down (for example, cattle, sheep, pigs, camels and poultry), or to stand (horses). Animals which will need to lie down often stand when first loaded or when the vehicle is driven with too much lateral movement or sudden braking.</u> <u>h) When animals lie down, they should all be able to adopt a normal lying posture, without being on top of one another, and allowing necessary thermoregulation.</u> <u>i) When animals are standing, they should have sufficient space to adopt a balanced position as appropriate to the climate and species transported.</u> Rationale: For example, when considering land transport, livestock are transported under a wide range of road conditions and traffic rules across different countries, and transport may not necessarily be completed while animals remain in a lying position at all times. As provided for in Article 7.3.5, paragraph 6(c)–(e) of the current Land Transport Regulations, the text should be reverted to wording that reflects the condition of the animals.
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- h) During the *journey*, camelids should be restrained in a manner that allows natural movement and does not forced them in a sitting position to prevent discomfort, injury and exhaustion.

Article 7.2.12.

Fitness for transport

Correct assessment of the fitness for transport of animals before departure is essential to ensuring their welfare during *transport*. Animals that are not fit for transport should not be loaded.

During a *journey*, *animals* may be exposed to conditions that may compromise their welfare. Selecting *animals* that are in suitable condition for the transport is therefore critical to minimise these risks.

1) Animal Welfare Concerns

Failures in the assessment of the fitness for transport of animals can arise as a result of:

- a) failure to identify animals that are unfit prior to departure;
- b) failure to adjust travel conditions to meet the species' or category's needs, or to account for prevailing weather conditions;
- c) failure to recognise animals that have become unfit during transport.

2) Animal-Based Measures

Indicators that could be used to assess the fitness for transport of animals before *loading* and during the *journey* may include:

- a) severe injuries and lameness;
- b) severe bleeding;
- c) coughing, nasal and ocular discharge;
- d) diarrhoea;
- e) poor body condition;
- f) aggressive behaviour;
- g) vocalisation indicative of *distress*;
- h) non-ambulatory animals;
- i) signs of heat or cold stress (e.g., panting, sweating, excessive salivation, huddling, or shivering);
- j) prolapse;
- k) presence of pregnant animals in the final 20% of their gestation period at the time of arrival at the final destination for transport by water.

3) Recommendations

Before loading, each animal should be inspected by a veterinarian or *animal handler* or driver to assess its fitness for transport. Animals should be assessed using the measures mentioned in point 2).

Animals that are unfit to travel include, but may not be limited to:

- a) those animals that would be the final 10% of their gestation period for transport by land, or in their final 20% of their gestation period for transport by water;

Japan	Category: Clarification Rationale: The criterion of “the final 10% of the gestation period” for land transport is consistent with existing international standards. However, with regard to the specification of “the final 20%” for transport by water, the rationale and intent—particularly in comparison with land transport—are not clearly articulated in the text. If this threshold reflects a management decision based on risks specific to water transport, it would be advisable to provide additional explanation of the underlying reasoning and supporting considerations.
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- b) animals that are unable to stand unaided and bear weight on each leg;
- c) animals that cannot be moved without causing them additional suffering;
- d) animals with severe prolapse;
- e) newborns with an unhealed navel;
- f) females travelling without their offspring which have given birth within the previous 48 hours;
- g) animals that are hobbled to aid in the treatment of an injury;
- h) those injured during handling in preparation for crating;
- i) those that are sick, injured, weak, disabled, or fatigued;
- j) those that are emaciated.

If an *animal* is deemed unfit to travel or becomes unfit during transport, the person in charge (e.g. *veterinarian*, *animal handler*, driver) should take immediate measures to avoid unnecessary suffering. These may include treatment on the spot, transport to a veterinary facility for treatment or killing the animal according to Chapter 7.6. Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter.

Animals that are vulnerable leading to a reduced ability to cope with demands of transport, and those that are at particular risk of suffering poor welfare during transport and that may require special conditions (e.g., modified such as in the design of facilities or *means of transport*, or additional *journey* requirements such as additional bedding, extra space, or segregation or increased monitoring) and additional attention during transport may include:

- a) obese animals;
- b) unweaned or young animals;
- c) excitable or aggressive animals;
- d) animals with little prior contact with humans;
- e) females in heavy lactation;
- f) females transported with their nursing offspring;
- g) animals with minor lameness affecting their balance;
- h) animals with a history of exposure to stressors or diseases, infections or infestations prior to transport;

- i) animals with unhealed wounds from recent surgical procedures (e.g., dehorning).

4) Species or means of transport-specific recommendations

- a) Domestic birds showing poor feather cover should not be transported.
- b) During cool and cold weather, wet birds should not be transported because they are not able to maintain their body temperature.
- c) Stressed pigs should only be transported once they have completely recovered.
- d) Pregnant animals that would be in the final 20% of their gestation period at the planned time of unloading at the place of destination should not be transported by water.

[...]

Article 7.2.14.

Handling

Handling includes, but is not limited to, capture, restraint, movement, inspection, and other related procedures such as identification, weighing, or sampling. Handling may be manual, mechanical (e.g., performed using automated equipment or systems), or the combination of both.

This Article should be read in conjunction with relevant Articles of Chapter 7.5 Animal welfare during slaughter.

1) Animal welfare concerns

Inappropriate handling may expose animals to welfare risks, including fear, *pain*, injury, exhaustion and *distress*. Factors that may contribute to compromised welfare during handling include:

- a) use of inexperienced or untrained *animal handlers*;
- b) sudden intrusion into the animals' flight zone or incorrect positioning of *animal handlers* in relation to their visual field (e.g., approaching from directly behind or in front of the point of balance);
- c) inappropriate use of physical force, goads, and other handling aids;
- d) excessive shouting or noise;
- e) inappropriate handling or restraint;
- f) poor design or maintenance of handling facilities;
- g) poor design of *means of transport* that prevents adequate monitoring and handling;

- h) insufficient number of *animal handlers*;
- i) animals with limited prior exposure to human contact;
- j) lack of, or inappropriate, monitoring of handling during the *journey*.

2) Animal-based and other measures

Animal-based measures that may be used to assess welfare during handling include:

- a) animals baulking, running, slipping or falling;
- b) frequency of aggressive behaviour towards *animal handlers* (e.g. rearing, kicking, or biting);
- c) frequency of avoidance behaviour, including refusal to move forward or moving away from the *animal handler*;
- d) mounting, piling, or overlaying of animals;
- e) vocalisation indicative of *distress*;
- f) signs of respiratory distress;
- g) bruised carcasses and compromised meat quality parameters;
- h) injuries to animals or *animal handlers*;

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: g) bruised carcasses and compromised meat quality parameters; h) injuries to animals or animal handlers; Rationale: Among the measures categorized as “animal-based measures,” there are indicators such as carcass bruising, meat quality parameters assessed post slaughter, and injuries to animal handlers, which do not directly reflect the condition of live animals. From a conceptual standpoint, these may be better positioned under a separate category, such as “other measures.”
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- i) mortality.

Other measures include:

- a) inadequate facilities;
- b) inappropriate *animal handler* behaviour, including the misuse of handling equipment;

- c) evidence of insufficient *animal handler* training or competence;
- d) absence of records relating to equipment servicing or maintenance;
- e) excessive time taken for loading or unloading.

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: f) bruised carcasses and compromised meat quality parameters; g) injuries to animal handlers; Rationale: Same as above.
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3) Recommendations

- a) *Animal handlers* should be properly trained in non-coercive methods and tools to move animals. They should not use violent means to move animals, or hurry animals and should avoid shouting, kicking, or use other means likely to cause *distress*, fear, or *pain*.
- b) *Animal handlers* should not stand between an animal and where they want to move to, as this may cause the animal to balk. *Animal handlers* should make use of the flight distance and the animal's point of balance, located at the shoulder, positioning themselves behind it to encourage forward movement and in front of it to encourage backward movement.
- c) Animals should be handled calmly, as they are more easily led or driven than if they are excited, and should be moved in small groups, as this decreases fear and makes use of their natural tendency to follow other animals.
- d) Mechanical handling aids should be used so as to encourage and direct movement of the animals without causing *distress*, fear, or *pain*. Preferred mechanical aids include panels, flags, plastic paddles, flappers (a length of cane with a short strap of leather or canvas attached), plastic bags, and rattles.
- e) Electric goads should not be used or should be used only as a last resort to move animals provided that the animal is able to move forward freely (e.g. no obstacles or other animals) and is not injured. Their use should be limited to low-voltage goads applied to the hindquarters of adult pigs and large ruminants only, and never to sensitive areas (eyes, mouth, ears, ano-genital region, udders, or belly). Electric goads should not be used on equids, camelids, ratites, sheep and goats, pregnant animals, calves, or piglets. Shocks should not be used repeatedly even if the animal fails to respond and should not last longer than one second.

- f) The use of well-trained dogs and leader sheep to help with the movement of cattle and sheep is acceptable but should be minimised.
- g) Animals should not be forced to move faster than their normal walking pace to minimise injury from crowding, slipping, or falling.
- h) Animals should not be grasped, lifted or restrained in a manner that causes *pain*, suffering and injury (e.g. bruising, fractures, dislocations).
- i) Ramps or lifts should be used when the vehicle and the unloading dock are not of the same height. Ramps and lifts should be positioned so that the animals can be handled safely, their gradient should not be so steep as to prevent animals from moving, and solid side barriers should be in place. There should be no gap between the vehicle and unloading dock.
- j) The design of the facilities should promote the natural movements of animals and, as far as possible, minimise human interaction.
- k) Handling and restraining systems should be appropriate for the species being transported.
- l) Assembly, loading, and unloading facilities, including ramps, should be fit for the species being transported.
- m) The design of the *means of transport* should allow monitoring of the animals during transport.
- n) During flights, *animal handlers* or grooms should have access to monitor the animals in the cargo hold.
- o) During *journeys by water*, *animal handlers* should have access to animals to inspect and take care of them.

4) Species-specific recommendations

- a) Horses, Dromedary and Bactrian camels [Le Meur et al. 2024] should be previously trained for loading, transport and unloading using positive reinforcement training or habituation.
- b) Sheep should never be lifted by the wool.
- c) Sheep, llamas, alpacas, guanacos, and vicuña should be moved in a manner that is in keeping with their gregarious tendencies. Animals may become agitated if singled out for attention and will strive to rejoin the others.
- d) Pigs should be moved calmly, using boards or paddles, maintaining appropriate group sizes, and minimising noise and sudden movements.

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- e) Birds should not be picked up by their head, neck, one wing, or tail feathers. Catching should be carried out by skilled *animal handlers*, and every attempt should be made to minimise stress and fear reactions and injury. Birds should be in an upright position after being placed in the *container*, and the *container* should be handled, moved, and securely positioned on vehicles in a manner that minimises injuries and stress to the birds.
 - f) Rabbits should be removed from the husbandry cages individually by holding and lifting by the neck (scruff) by one hand, with support of the body with the other hand [European Commission 2017].

Loading and unloading

Loading and unloading are stressful for animals during transport, as they are moved through unfamiliar environments and subjected to increased handling. Proper handling and well-designed facilities are key to minimising risks during these stages.

This Article should also be read in conjunction with relevant Articles of Chapter 7.5 Animal welfare during slaughter.

1) Animal welfare concerns

Animals may be exposed to several *hazards* to *animal welfare* during loading and unloading, including but not limited to:

- a) inadequate loading and unloading facilities, ramps or operations;
- b) improper planning of loading and unloading operations;
- c) improper handling of the animals;
- d) exposure to extreme weather conditions;
- e) inadequate ventilation and lighting;
- f) delays or rushing at loading and unloading;
- g) inadequate supply of water, feed and bedding;

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: g) inadequate supply of water, feed and bedding that may compromise the safe transport of animals; Rationale: The management of water, feed, and bedding is more commonly addressed as part of pre transport preparation, management during transport, or post unloading care, rather than as hazards intrinsic to the loading and unloading process itself. As such, it is difficult to understand the intent behind including this item as a hazard associated specifically with loading and unloading. If the intention is to address risks to footing conditions, such as wet flooring, further explanation would be in needed.
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- h) repeated loading and unloading on the same *journey*.

2) Animal-based and other measures

Animal-based measures that may be used to assess welfare during loading and unloading include:

- a) baulking, mounting, piling, or overlaying of animals;
- b) vocalisations indicative of *distress*;
- c) signs of respiratory distress;
- d) bruised carcasses and compromised meat quality parameters;
- e) injuries to animals or *animal handlers*;

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: d) bruised carcasses and compromised meat quality parameters; e) injuries to animals or animal handlers; Rationale: Among the measures categorized as “animal-based measures,” there are indicators such as carcass bruising, meat quality parameters assessed post slaughter, and injuries to animal handlers, which do not directly reflect the condition of live animals. From a conceptual standpoint, these may be better positioned under a separate category, such as “other measures.”
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- f) morbidity and mortality.

Other measures include:

- a) poor design and maintenance of loading and unloading facilities;
- b) inappropriate gradient of ramps inside and outside of the *means of transport*;
- c) excessive use of handling aids;
- d) excessive time taken for loading or unloading

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: <u>e) bruised carcasses and compromised meat quality parameters;</u> <u>f) injuries to animals or animal handlers;</u> Rationale: Same as above.
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3) Recommendations

- a) Animals should be moved using handling techniques that take into account their species-specific behaviour.

- b) Loading and unloading operations should be carefully planned in advance, to minimise delays, rushing and unnecessary handling.
 - c) Animals should be loaded and unloaded promptly. This is facilitated by scheduling the arrival and departure of the animals to ensure that there are sufficient personnel and adequate space in loading and unloading facilities and *means of transport*.
 - d) Loading and unloading should be supervised or conducted by sufficient numbers of competent *animal handlers*. The animals should be loaded and unloaded quietly and without unnecessary noise, harassment, or force.
 - e) Animals that are likely to cause injury or *distress* to other animals should be kept separate prior to and during loading into transport *containers*. This includes animals known to be aggressive, with horns, antlers, or tusks.
 - f) During extreme weather conditions, consideration should be given to rescheduling the loading or unloading of animals.
 - g) The facilities for loading and unloading, including the collecting area, races and loading ramps, should be designed and constructed to account for the needs and abilities of the animals with regard to dimensions, slopes, surfaces, turns, absence of sharp projections, flooring, etc.
 - h) Loading and unloading facilities should be illuminated to allow the animals to be observed by *animal handlers*.
 - i) Loading and unloading facilities should have non-slip flooring to facilitate safe movement of animals.
 - j) Recommendations for ventilation during loading, unloading, and the *journey* are provided in Article 7.2.20.
 - k) Animals should only be loaded if they comply with the sanitary and customs requirements of the transit and importing countries.
 - l) Animals should only be loaded in *means of transport* that are clean, disinfected, and fit for purpose.
- 4) Species-specific recommendations or means of transport-specific recommendations
- a) Horses, Dromedary and Bactrian camels should be previously trained for loading and transport and unloading using positive reinforcement training or habituation. [Dai et al, 2029, 2020, 2025; Masebo et al. In revision].

- b) Horses should not be tied with loose head restraints, ensuring that their heads do not remain in an elevated or restricted position, as this increases the risk of respiratory disorders. [Takahashi et al, 2025, Padalino et al., 2018].
- c) Vessels should carry suitable equipment for loading and unloading. It is advisable to have a backup ramp on board of the vessel in case of failure if the main ramp breaks down. The vessel ramps used for loading and unloading should be compatible with the handling, loading and unloading equipment or facilities at the seaports.

Article 7.2.16.

Environmental conditions

Environmental management is required to ensure that animals are not exposed to conditions that represent a risk for their welfare during transport. The environment within the *means of transport* can be affected by multiple factors, including ambient temperature and humidity, solar radiation, precipitation and storms or other extreme weather events, design of the *means of transport*, stocking density, bedding material, and airflow. Transporters should ensure that each animal in the load has adequate protection from adverse environmental conditions during transport, loading, unloading, and at rest stops.

1) Animal welfare concerns

Animals may be exposed to *animal welfare hazards* due to exposure to extreme weather conditions and inadequate environmental management, including:

- a) fluctuations or extremes in temperature, humidity or ammonia levels within the *means of transport*;
- b) exposure to wind chill on a moving *means of transport*;
- c) exposure to the elements resulting in wet animals;
- d) the absence of forced ventilation or climate control in a stationary *means of transport*;
- e) exposure to high wind, wave motion or air turbulence;
- f) exposure to volatile materials, such as vehicle fumes, carbon dioxide, and ammonia;

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: f) exposure to volatile materials, such as vehicle fumes, carbon dioxide, and ammonia; Rationale: Animals are continuously exposed to carbon dioxide at its normal concentration in the air, and its presence alone should not be regarded as a hazard. Because carbon dioxide is colorless and odorless, making it difficult to detect, it is challenging to respond to its presence.
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- g) exposure to dust and airborne debris;

h) inappropriate or non-functional fans, openings, or other means of ventilation.

2) Animal-based and other measures

Animal-based measures that may be used to assess the impact of environmental conditions include:

- a) signs of heat stress such as panting, open-mouth breathing, sweating, excessive salivation, or skin discoloration (e.g. in pigs);
- b) signs of cold stress such as shivering, hunching, cold extremities, huddling or piling;
- c) frostbite;
- d) instability or recumbency of animals, such as from bad roads, storms at sea or air turbulence;
- e) injured, non-ambulatory, or fatigued animals;
- f) morbidity and mortality.

Other measures relevant to environmental management include:

- a) availability and adequacy of environmental protection, including from extreme weather;
- b) air quality within the *means of transport* including ammonia levels;
- c) air temperature, relative humidity and ammonia level;
- d) presence and functioning of appropriate ventilation equipment;
- e) space allowance;
- f) temperatures within the *means of transport*;
- g) loading and unloading area free of ice.

3) Recommendations

- a) Transporters should consider the external temperatures and the weather conditions, as well as the available protections and load characteristics, before undertaking a *journey* and plan the *journey* accordingly.
- b) Transporters should monitor changing weather conditions and internal temperature during the *journey* and adjust the weather protection equipment or environmental controls as required.

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- c) The *means of transport* should have methods of environmental protection or control that are suitable for the whole *journey*, as vehicles may pass through different climate zones and weather conditions during one *journey*.
- d) During extreme temperatures, transporters should minimise the time that the vehicle remains stationary.
- e) The *means of transport* should be equipped with systems to monitor internal temperature and humidity during the *journey*, particularly in the highest-risk areas within the *means of transport*.
- f) Upon arrival, and before unloading at the destination, appropriate environmental conditions should be maintained through the use of ventilation, shade, shelters, and covers.
- g) Transporters should know the weather protection requirements of the species they are transporting, as well as their species-specific ideal temperature range, and plan the *journey* and *journey* conditions accordingly.
- h) The rest stops facilities should have methods of environmental protection or control that are suitable for the different climate zones and weather conditions during one *journey*.
- i) To prevent suffering due to excessive heat and humidity, transporters should consider:
- loading at night, and transporting during cooler periods of day or at night;
 - driving animals around to provide passive ventilation to the animals if waiting to unload;
 - during breaks, parking vehicles at right angles to the wind to allow airflow amongst animals, opening and closing ventilation apertures, and possibly parking under shade;
 - installing fans to provide active ventilation to animals;
 - providing the animals access water to drink;
 - using sprinklers or misters where appropriate (if humidity is low);
 - increasing the space allowance to improve better thermoregulation;
 - removing manure deposits when possible.
- j) For longer *journeys*, the *means of transport* may be equipped with forced ventilation and other systems to monitor and regulate the microclimatic conditions within the load.
- k) To prevent suffering due to extreme cold weather, transporters should consider:

- utilising weather protection equipment on transport vehicles (e.g. winter boards, bedding, tarps), and adjusting ventilation openings;
- prioritising the sides and rear of the vehicle and trailer when adding environmental protection and in vehicle design, as this is where cold air and precipitation will be worse;
- avoiding loading during the coldest part of the day;
- providing additional room to allow animals to move away from the sides of the vehicle;
- avoiding overcrowding, as animals can easily become too warm, causing them to sweat, which will lead to condensation and wet animals;
- parking vehicles at an angle to protect the animals from the prevailing winds and precipitation.

4) Species-specific recommendations or means of transport-specific recommendations

- a) Pigs are especially vulnerable to heat and cold stress and may require misters/sprinklers for cooling in low humidity. For pigs transported by road, the use of bedding should be limited in warm or hot weather.

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: a) Pigs are especially vulnerable to heat and cold stress and may require misters/sprinklers for cooling in low humidity. For pigs transported by road, the use of bedding should be limited in warm or hot weather. Rationale: Clarifying the distinction between the transport mode and the associated environmental risks, and explicitly articulating the rationale for adjusting bedding use according to temperature conditions, would enhance the clarity and coherence of this statement.
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- b) The following animals are known to be vulnerable to cold stress, and depending on the design of the conveyance, may require additional winter protection to reduce exposure to the cold: pigs, shorn sheep, dairy cows, calves and birds.
- c) Birds should be kept dry during the loading process, especially in colder weather. Wet birds should not be transported in colder conditions and additional protection should be provided if birds become wet during loading or transport.
- d) In the open decks of livestock vessels and roll-on–roll-off vessels, the animals should be protected from adverse weather.
- e) Animals transported in crates (poultry, rabbits) are more susceptible to heat and cold stress and require extra considerations and monitoring during transport.

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- f) Routes should be selected or adjusted to consider avoidance of adverse weather or other events such as fires or floods for land *journeys*, or storms for sea and air *journeys*.

[...]

Article 7.2.18.

Condition of the means of transport

The design and maintenance of the *means of transport* should ensure the safety and good welfare of the animals.

1) Animal welfare concerns

Animals may be exposed to several *hazards* to *animal welfare* as a result of improper conditions of the *means of transport*, including but not limited to:

- a) improper design and maintenance of the *means of transport*, e.g. the presence of gaps, corrugated patterns and steps;
- b) inadequate structure of the *means of transport* (e.g., sharp protrusions, sharp angles, open sides, short sides);
- c) slippery and rough floor surfaces;
- d) insufficient deck height;
- e) inadequate penning and partitions between compartments;
- f) poor vehicle suspension;
- g) lack or insufficient bedding material;
- h) inadequate lighting;
- i) poorly designed drinking devices, too few drinking devices, or devices designed for other species or age categories;
- j) lack of proper ventilation and heating systems.

2) Animal-based measures

- a) injuries or bruising

- b) signs of heat stress (e.g. panting, open-mouth breathing, sweating, excessive salivation, or skin discoloration (pigs));
- c) signs of cold stress (e.g. huddling, shivering, hunched posture, cold extremities);
- d) animals slipping and falling;
- e) posture changes;
- f) signs of fatigue or exhaustion e.g. inability to walk or move, unsteadiness, swaying, resting the head on partitions or other animals;
- g) latency to stand up after a falling event;
- h) respiration rate;
- i) nasal and ocular discharge.

3) Recommendations

The design of the *means of transport* should be appropriate for the species, size, category and weight of the animals to be transported and should be designed, constructed, maintained and used in such a way to:

- a) avoid injury and suffering of the animals;
- b) ensure the safety of animals, prevent animals escaping or falling out, and be able to withstand the stress of movements;
- c) provide protection from adverse weather conditions;
- d) provide sufficient lighting to allow inspection and care of the animals during transport, with additional lighting where necessary during the loading and unloading of the animals at night;
- e) provide access to the animals for inspection and cared for during the *journey*;
- f) ensure good mechanical and structural condition;
- g) avoid injury to drivers and *animal handlers* while carrying out their responsibilities.
- h) vehicles should be designed so that the faeces or urine from animals on upper levels do not soil animals on lower levels, nor their feed and water. This condition is not applicable for poultry.

4) Species-specific recommendations or means of transport-specific recommendations

Species -specific

Ruminants, pigs and equidae:

- On vehicles with lifting platforms and upper floors, these structures should have safety barriers to prevent animals from falling or escaping while being loaded or unloaded.
- Horses should not be transported in multi-deck vehicles.

Poultry and rabbits:

- Solid, safe, undamaged and clean *containers* should be used. Whenever *containers* get damaged, they should be repaired or replaced.
- The floor of *containers* should prevent birds from slipping and faeces from building up.

Japan	Category: Clarification Rationale: As the countermeasures implied by this description are unclear, the methodology should be explicitly specified.
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- During the *journey*, *containers* should be properly secured to prevent movement, falling down and disturbance of birds and rabbits.
- Side covers should be used in case of cold weather to protect all the animals and especially for birds at the back of the vehicle, which are more exposed to cold.
- For day-old chicks, the vehicles should have temperature and, if available, humidity sensors.

Transport-specific recommendations

Transport by land:

- Vehicles should be visibly marked to indicate the presence of live animals, including specific marking for wild or dangerous animals.
- Vehicles should be equipped with movable partitions that allow the creation of separate compartments whenever needed. Partitions should be strong enough to withstand the weight of the animals, prevent injury, and prevent negative interactions between neighbouring animals.
- Partitions should be designed for quick and straightforward operation and should be placed in a way to avoid animals getting trapped or to impair ventilation.
- Vehicles should have appropriate suspension systems, to reduce vibration and the stress of the animals.

- Poor driving or piloting should be avoided.
- Poor quality of roads being traversed should be considering minimising *animal welfare* consequences.

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: <u>- Where alternative routes are available, p</u>Poor quality of roads being traversed should be considering minimising <i>animal welfare</i> consequences. Rationale: Measures to address poor road conditions depend on the availability of alternative routes, except for the suspension systems and driving practices mentioned above; therefore, it is not realistic to require such measures in situations where no alternative routes exist.
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- When appropriate, suitable and dry bedding should be added to vehicle floors to assist absorption of urine and faeces, minimise slipping by animals, promote animal comfort and resting, and protect animals from adverse weather conditions.
- Vehicles should allow easy and effective cleaning and disinfection in order to minimise the likelihood of the spread of infectious disease during transport and maintain optimal conditions within the means of transport.
- The buildup of faeces and urine should be prevented during a *journey*.

Transport by water:

Livestock vessels

- All the pens or compartments where animals are transported should be clearly identified.
- A vessel floor plan with the available surfaces for the animals in each pen should be present on board.
- Strength for pen rails and decks should be appropriate to the transported animals.
- The side walls of the pens should be designed to prevent animal escape, without compromising their access to feeders and drinkers.
- Vessels should have effective ventilation to meet variations in climate and the thermoregulatory needs of the animal species being transported, even when the vessel is stationary.
- The decks of the vessels should be equipped with a forced ventilation system with sufficient capacity for adequate air exchange.

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: - The decks of the vessels should be capable of providing adequate ventilation.be equipped with a forced ventilation system with sufficient capacity for adequate air exchange. Rationale: Depending on the deck design (open, semi open, or fully enclosed), natural ventilation may serve as the primary means of air exchange. It is difficult to support this provision, which uniformly requires the installation of forced ventilation systems.
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- The ventilation system should guarantee a minimum of air flow in each pen. Airflow should be monitored in multiple locations.
- There should be additional fans as well as parts to fix existing fans in the event of a breakdown.
- On each deck there should be equipment to measure temperature, humidity and gases such as ammonia in the high-risk areas.
- Vessels should be equipped with water tanks and water production systems that have the capacity to store or produce the amount of water needed for the species, type and number of animals, as well as the maximum *journey* duration, plus at least 3 days' spare supply of water.

Japan	Category: Clarification Rationale: We request that the scientific or technical rationale for the three day threshold be provided.
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- Animals should have easy access to an adequate and sufficient number of drinkers to provide a continuous freshwater supply to each pen. Alternative pumping equipment should be available to ensure water supply in the event of failure of the primary pumping system.
- Vessels should carry from the time of departure sufficient feed to cover the minimum daily feed for the intended *journey* plus at least three days' spare supply of feed.

Japan	Category: Clarification Rationale: We request that the scientific or technical rationale for the three day threshold be provided.
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- Suitable bedding, such as straw or sawdust, should be added in an appropriate quantity to the vessel floors to assist absorption of urine and faeces, minimise slipping, injuries, abrasions, lameness and faecal coating, as well as protect animals from adverse weather conditions.

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- The bedding material should be monitored routinely (at least daily) to ensure consistency and depth is appropriate to mitigate risks to the health or welfare of the livestock.
 - Feed and bedding should be stowed in a way to ensure protection from fire hazards and seawater and not impair the ventilation.
 - The drainage system should be of appropriate capacity to drain fluids from pens and decks under all conditions. Drainpipes and channels should collect the fluids in wells or tanks from where sewage can be discharged by means of pumps or ejectors. Alternative pumping equipment should be available to ensure drainage in the event of failure of the primary pumping system.
 - On the animal pens, sufficient passageway and ramp lighting should be provided to allow the animals to see the feeders and drinkers, *animal handlers* to inspect and take care of the animals, and the proper movement of the animals.
 - Emergency lighting should be available in case of a failure of the main electrical installation, and sufficient portable lighting should be provided to allow the attendant adequate inspection and care of the animals.
 - A firefighting system should be appropriately installed in all livestock areas, and fire equipment within the livestock areas should comply with the most recent International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) standards regarding fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction.
 - The ventilation, lighting, fresh water supply and production and drainage systems used for livestock should be equipped with a monitoring, control and alarm system in the wheelhouse.
 - A primary source of power should be sufficient to supply continuous power for the ventilation, lighting, freshwater production and supply, and drainage system. A secondary source of power should be sufficient to replace the primary source of power for a continuous period of three days.
 - The ramp used for loading and unloading animals on the vessel should have sidewalks to allow the easy handling of the animals and protect people during the loading operations.
 - Special attention should be given to the effect of the sea tides on the ramp inclination in order not to impair the movement of the animals and the ramp safety.
 - The vessel should have enough hospital pens in each deck to separate animals that need special attention or treatment.
 - The vessel should have on board *veterinary medicinal products* and veterinary equipment to treat the animals and an appropriate means of killing the animals in case of need in accordance with Chapter 7.6,

that is sufficient and suitable for the species and number of livestock carried. Any equipment that is not in good working condition should be repaired or replaced before departure.

- *Veterinary medicinal products* and veterinary equipment should be stored and used according to any applicable veterinary directions and/or manufacturers' recommendations.

Roll On-Roll Off vessels

- When vehicles are carried on board ferries, facilities for adequately securing them should be present.
- On enclosed decks, the vessel should be equipped with an appropriate forced ventilation system, an alarm system, and an adequate secondary source of power in case of failure.

Transport by air

- Live animals should not be loaded with any other cargo that adversely affects the health and welfare of the animals (e.g. causing them *pain*, suffering and harm).
- Live animals should not be loaded or transported in the immediate vicinity of heated or frozen *containers*. They should be loaded separately from other animals or cargo that have different temperature requirements.
- *Containers* with animals should be placed on the aircraft in such a way as not to compromise ventilation.
- In cargo holds where animals are transported, it should be ensured that the environmental conditions are appropriate for the species and type of animals being transported.

Containers

- *Containers* in which animals are transported should be visibly marked, indicating the presence of live animals and with a sign indicating the top of the *container* (Regulation 1/2005).
- During transport and handling, *containers* should be kept in an upright position.
- *Containers* should be secured so as to prevent displacement due to the movement of the *means of transport*.

Article 7.2.19.

Intermediate facilities

Journeys often involve stops in intermediate facilities such as assembly centres, resting points, markets, auctions, airport and seaport facilities, quarantine, or border posts. Breaks during *journeys* allow animals to recover from the stress and associated welfare consequences of transit.

1) Animal welfare concerns

Animals may be exposed to several welfare *hazards* while at intermediate facilities, including:

- a) loading and unloading operations;
- b) inappropriate animal handling;
- c) use of unfamiliar and inappropriate water and feeding devices;
- d) insufficient resting intervals and duration;
- e) poorly designed or maintained facilities;
- f) poor biosecurity and exposure to pathogenic agents;
- g) exposure to extreme weather;
- h) delays in loading and unloading;
- i) prolonged interval between milking for lactating animals;
- j) variation in microclimatic conditions;
- k) exposure to noxious gases and excessive noise (e.g. facilities at airports);
- l) availability of equipment to euthanize animals;

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: l) un availability of equipment to euthanize animals; Rationale: Given the intent of this provision, it would be clearer to frame the hazard in terms of the absence or unavailability of appropriate euthanasia equipment when required, rather than in terms of its availability per se.
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- m) mixing of unfamiliar groups and different categories of animals;
- n) exposure to a novel environment.

2) Animal-based and other measures

Animal-based measures:

- a) injuries;

- b) vocalisations indicative of *distress*;
- c) mortality;
- d) animals slipping or falling;
- e) overcrowding;
- f) signs of heat or cold stress.

Other measures:

- a) poor condition of the facilities (e.g. presence of sharp or protruding objects, areas where animals can get trapped, non-slip flooring, unloading/loading ramps);
- b) access to euthanasia equipment;
- c) use of inappropriate handling techniques such as use of goads, yelling, hitting, and striking animals;
- d) access to sufficient amount of potable water for all animals;
- e) access to sufficient and appropriate feed for all animals;
- f) environmental protection (shelter, shade, wind protection, bedding, mud);
- g) evidence of training of the personnel handling animals.

3) Recommendations

- a) Facilities should be able to schedule the arrival and departures for efficient unloading and loading of animals and to ensure there is enough room for accommodating all animals arriving at the facilities.
- b) The loading and unloading of animals should be kept to a minimum and implemented in accordance with Article 7.2.15.
- c) Facilities should be designed for the species and category of animals that will use them.
- d) Facilities should provide feeding, watering and, when relevant, milking devices that correspond to the needs of the animals that will utilize the facilities.
- e) Staff should be competent and trained to handle animals in accordance with Article 7.2.14.
- f) Facilities should ensure protection from adverse weather conditions in accordance with Article 7.2.16.

- g) Facilities should allow for separation of animals from different consignments and categories and ones that are incompatible by nature.
 - h) All facilities should be maintained and repaired as needed to prevent injury and entrapment.
 - i) The facility should have access to equipment or methods suitable for euthanising all types of animals.
 - j) Facilities should provide have access to safe feed and water in accordance with Article 7.2.11.
 - k) Facilities should allow for easy cleaning and disinfection and have access to the equipment required to clean them.
 - l) Facilities should have a biosecurity plan in place to mitigate the risk of the spread of disease.
- 4) Species-specific recommendations for intermediate facilities:

The intermediate facilities should allow for feeding of unweaned animals with milk or milk replacer at regular intervals.

[...]

CHAPTER 7.6.

ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE TIME OF KILLING FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN SLAUGHTER

Japan	Category: General Rationale: Japan expresses its respect to all those involved for their efforts in the development of this chapter. With a view to further refining and broader dissemination, Japan submits the following comments for consideration.
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[...]

Article 7.6.3.

General principles ~~for the operations regarding the killing of animals~~

The decision as to whether to kill animals due to compromised welfare should not be delayed if there is any risk to the welfare of those animals. The recommendations in this Chapter are based on the premise that a decision to kill the animals has been made and they address the need to ensure ensure that consider the animal welfare concerns are managed prior to and during the killing process and until of the animals are dead of the animals until they are dead.

During decision making and prior to *killing* the animals, appropriate husbandry, especially supply of feed and water and thermal comfort, should be maintained until the animals are killed. Medical care should be provided if needed in situations where there is an unavoidable delay before killing if needed.

Advanced planning for various scenarios, including adverse events and large scale killing, should clearly identify operational procedures and responsibilities.

For large scale killing, specific planning and preparedness should be in place.

The decision as to whether to kill animals should not be delayed if their welfare is compromised. The decision maker should be clearly identified beforehand to ensure there is no delay in decision making is not delayed.

All personnel involved in the killing of animals should have the relevant skills and competencies, acquired through training or experience.

As necessary, operational procedures The selected method and associated operational procedures should be evidence-based adapted to the species and specific circumstances in the affected locations or on the

premises and they should address, apart from animal welfare, resources requirements the cost, the effectiveness, and the speed of implementation of the method, operators' safety and mental health, biosecurity and environmental aspects relevant to the species.

~~During decision making and prior to killing the animals, normal husbandry, especially supply of feed and water, should be maintained until the animals are killed.~~

Animals might be killed on site or moved to a dedicated place for killing. The handling and movement of animals should be minimised and carried out in accordance with the recommendations described below.

When restraint is required ~~Animal restraint~~ it should be sufficient to facilitate effective killing, and in accordance with animal welfare and operator safety requirements. ~~When restraint is required, and~~ killing should follow without minimal delay. The type and size of restraint deployed should be appropriate for the age, size and species of animal to be killed. When herding or corralling is applied, a low-stress method using appropriate apparatus to facilitate the safe and effective killing of animals should be used.

Wherever possible the witnessing of killing animals and dead animals by other animals should be avoided.

Killing methods used should result in immediate death or loss of consciousness lasting until death. When loss of consciousness is not immediate, induction of unconsciousness ~~should involve as little aversion as possible~~ and should not cause avoidable distress, fear and pain. A backup procedure method should be available and used to kill the animal immediately if the first method does not result in death or unconsciousness within the expected time frame.

~~Young animals should be killed before older animals on which they are dependent to reduce potential distress.~~

Planning should take into account the order in which animals are killed. Where possible higher risk or vulnerable animals should be killed as a matter of priority, which may include:

- groups with symptomatic animals showing signs of disease.
- animals suffering the highest levels of pain or injury.
- animals that are unable to obtain access feed or water.
- animals that have compromised housing or are without shelter.
- young [REF] or unweaned animals that should be killed before older animals on which they are dependent.
- potentially dangerous or aggressive animals, such as bulls, sows with litters, or boars.
- animals in the late stage of pregnancy or in parturition, and

- animals in-utero may should need to be humanely killed following the killing of the dam if the amniotic sac is ruptured and foetal viability is apparent.

Japan	Category: Editorial Proposed amended text: Planning should take into account the order in which animals are killed. Where possible <u>higher risk or</u> vulnerable animals should be killed as a matter of priority, which may include: • <u>groups with symptomatic animals showing signs of disease,</u> • <u>animals suffering the highest levels of pain or injury,</u> • <u>animals that are unable to obtain access feed or water,</u> • <u>animals that have compromised housing or are without shelter,</u> • <u>young [REF] or unweaned animals that should be killed before older animals on which they are dependent,</u> • <u>potentially dangerous or aggressive animals, such as bulls, sows with litters, or boars,</u> • <u>animals in the late stage of pregnancy or in parturition, and</u> • <u>animals in utero may should need to be humanely killed following the killing of the dam if the amniotic sac is ruptured and foetal viability is apparent.</u> <u>Young or unweaned animals that should be killed before older animals on which they are dependent.</u> <u>Animals in-utero should be killed following the killing of the dam if the amniotic sac is ruptured and foetal viability is apparent.</u> Rationale: The animals concerned are not necessarily grouped; for example, Article 7.6.6(c) simply refers to “animals showing signs of disease.” This sentence is not suitably positioned within an example list of vulnerable animals requiring priority killing, and would be better addressed as a general principle applicable to killing procedures.
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~~For disease control purposes and for biosecurity considerations, infected animals should be killed first, followed by in-contact animals, and then remaining animals.~~

There should be continuous monitoring of the operational procedures and corrective actions to ensure they are consistently effective regarding animal welfare, operator safety and mental health ~~and~~, biosecurity and environmental aspects.

When large scale or disease control, ~~the killing operational operations~~ procedures are concluded, there should be a debriefing session or written report describing the practices adopted and their effect on animal welfare, operator safety and welfare wellbeing, biosecurity and environment, ~~responsible personnel~~ including any recommendations for improvement.

[...]

Article 7.6.9.

Handling of animals

Handling is the process of preparation of the animals for killing, and may include moving them to the killing point. Handling and moving can be stressful to animals, especially when they are isolated out of their primary home area or from their group. [Gavinelli et al. ,2014].

1. Animal welfare concerns

Exposure to novel environments circumstances (e.g. noise, lighting, flooring, smell) may cause fear and reluctance to move, ~~or turning back~~. ~~Poorly designed facilities and~~ inappropriate handling (e.g. inappropriate use of electrical al goads, kicking, hitting with a stick), catching, herding and restraining animals, will cause *distress*, fear and *pain*.

2. Animal-based and other measures:

- a) animals slipping, falling and piling up;
- b) animals turning around or moving backwards, attempting to escape or reluctant to move;
- c) animals vocalising;
- d) animals that collide with facility structures;
- e) animals with broken or otherwise injured limbs;
- f) animals that are unable to move by themselves due to reasons other than broken or injured limbs;
- g) use of force by personnel;
- h) inappropriate use of electrical goads driving handling aids.

3. Recommendations

The Ddesign of the facilities should promote the natural movements of animals, and, as far as possible, minimise human animal interaction.

Floor should be clean, dry and not slippery.

Raceways should be well lit so that animals can see where they are going.

The design of raceways should minimise distractions that may cause animals to stop, baulk or turn back (e.g. shadows, changes in flooring, moving objects, loud or sudden noises).

Animals that are injured, sick or unable to rise require immediate action and, when necessary, emergency *killing* should be performed without moving them and without delay. Animals should not be dragged, nor should they be lifted or handled in a way that might cause further *pain* and suffering or exacerbate injuries.

Personnel should be calm and patient, assisting animals to move using a soft voice and slow movements.

Animals should be moved in groups as this decreases fear and makes use of their natural tendency to follow other animals.

Handling aids such as panels or flags should be used in a manner to encourage and direct movement of the animals without causing *distress*, fear or *pain*.

Electric goads should not be used, except in extremely rare circumstances where the safety of human handlers or other animals is at risk and there is no other option routinely, but only when other measures have been ineffective, or the animal has no injury or other condition and there is room for the animal to move forward.

Only low-voltage goads should be applied to the hindquarters of adult pigs and large ruminants, and never to sensitive areas such as the eyes, mouth, ears, ano-genital region, udders or belly. Such instruments should not be used on equids, camelids, ratites, sheep and goats, pregnant animals or on calves or piglets. Shocks should not be used repeatedly if the animal fails to respond and should not last longer than one second.

The manual lifting of animals should be avoided; if it is necessary, animals should not be grasped or lifted in a manner which causes *pain* or suffering and physical damage (e.g. bruising, fractures, dislocations).

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: The manual lifting of animals should be avoided; if it is necessary, animals should not be grasped or lifted in a manner which causes <i>pain</i> or suffering and physical damage (e.g. bruising, fractures, dislocations). Rationale: Considering animal welfare, there are situations in which animals may need to be manually lifted during preparation for killing. For instance, the current Code for poultry requires catching to be performed by skilled personnel so as to minimise stress, fear, and injury. It would therefore be preferable for this paragraph to address the avoidance of inappropriate handling in general, whether animals are handled manually or otherwise.
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Animals should not be forced to move at a speed greater than their normal walking pace to minimise injury through slipping or falling.

[...]

Japan	Category: General Rationale: Operator safety should be included in this article as other articles such as Article 7.6.12 and 7.6.14 state it.
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Firearms

The method is suitable for all species covered by this chapter.

Firearms that fire free projectiles such as a shotgun, rifle, or handgun can provide a quick and effective primary killing method ~~for killing~~ when used properly. They require minimal or no restraint of the animals and can be used to kill from a distance by properly trained and competent ~~marksmen or markswomen~~ markspersons.

A firearm can be used from long range and may be aimed to penetrate the skull or soft tissue at the top of the neck of the animals (high neck shot) ~~and to cause irreversible concussion and resulting in immediate~~ death. ~~and should only be used by properly trained and competent marksmen~~. The firearm may also be aimed to penetrate the thoracic cavity and heart causing respiratory and heart failure and death. Firearms should only be used by properly trained, and where applicable, licensed competent markspersons.

1. Animal welfare concerns

This method has the potential for non-lethal wounding of the target animal and lethal or non-lethal wounding of non-target animals. This may occur because of inappropriate cartridge, calibre or type of bullet or incorrect shooting position.

2. Animal-based and other measures

Animal-based measures of an effective shot include [HSA, 2016b]:

- a) immediate collapse;
- b) apnoea;
- c) carcass appearance (tonic or relaxed);
- ~~d) duration of convulsions~~
- d) absence of eye movement;
- e) fixed and dilated pupils; glazed expression
- f) absence of corneal reflex.

Other measures:

a) percentage of missed shots.

3. Recommendations

The method is suitable for all species covered by this chapter

Firearms and ammunition should be selected based on the species and the distance to shoot the animals, and the skill and familiarity level of the operator. The correct cartridge, calibre and type of bullet for the different species age and size should be used. Firearms should be properly maintained.

Firearms are suitable for killing agitated animals in open spaces.

Firearms should not be used if trying to preserve brain tissue in the area targeted for diagnosis of diseases or when leakage of body fluids may present a biosecurity risk.

Training is essential for ensuring effective killing with firearms. This training must should include approaches that ensure skilled marksmanship markspersonship; an understanding of safety principles, animal anatomy, animal behaviour; animal handling; use of appropriate combinations of firearms and bullets for the intended purpose; and appropriate judgment under field conditions.

At short range, the marksman or markswoman marksperson should ensure that the animal is not moving and in the correct position to enable accurate targeting and the range should be as short as possible (5–50 cm for a shotgun) but the barrel should not be in contact with the head or other part of the animals.

Animals that are not killed by the initial shot, should be re-shot or killed by a backup method immediately.

The method is suitable for all species covered by this chapter.

4. Species-specific recommendations

None identified.

Article 7.6.12.

Penetrating captive bolt

The method is suitable for equids, camelids, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, ratites, rabbits and captive wild animals.

The aim of this method is to produce a state of unconsciousness and cause severe damage to the brain by the impact and penetration of a captive bolt using a mechanical device. The captive bolt should be positioned on the skull to penetrate the cortex and mid-brain of the animal. The force of impact and the physical damage caused by the passage of the bolt should result in immediate unconsciousness. Physical damage to the brain caused by penetration of the bolt may result in death; however, a secondary intervention killing method such

as pithing, bleeding or lethal injection may be required and if so should be performed as soon as possible after the shot to ensure the death of the animal.

A penetrating captive bolt is fired from a gun device powered by either compressed air or a blank cartridge, designed to fire a retractable metal bolt into the animal's cranium. The bolt should be recessed into the body of the pistol to get the proper velocity required to penetrate the skull of the animal.

1. Animal welfare concerns

An incorrect shooting position caused by poor restraint or incorrect captive bolt parameters (not hitting the skull with sufficient force) may leave the animal conscious, will mis-stun the animal, leaving it conscious and leading to serious wounds and consequently distress, fear and pain.

Regaining of consciousness before death due to delay in applying the secondary intervention killing method.

2. Animal-based and other measures

Japan	Category: Editorial Proposed amended text: 2. Animal-based <u>and other</u> measures Rationale: As no examples of "other measures" are provided, this wording could be removed from the heading.
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Animal-based measures of an effective shot include:

- a) immediate collapse;
- b) apnoea;
- c) tonic seizures;
- d) absence of eye movement;
- e) absence of corneal reflex;
- f) absence of palpebral reflex;
- g) absence of righting reflex;
- h) loss of muscle tone.

3. Recommendations

~~The method is suitable for equids, camelids, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, ratites, rabbits and captive wild animals.~~

For cartridge powered and compressed air ~~guns~~ devices, the bolt velocity cartridge power load and the length of the bolt should be appropriate to the species and type of animal, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Captive bolt ~~guns~~ devices should be frequently cleaned and maintained in good working condition. Regular check-up (e.g. daily during ongoing use) of the bolt velocity is recommended for effective stunning, operator safety, and improved animal welfare.

More than one ~~gun~~ device may be necessary to avoid overheating with repeated use, and a back-up ~~gun~~ device should be available in the event of an ineffective shot.

Animals should be restrained and the operator should ensure that the head of the animal is accessible. The method is difficult to apply in agitated animals.

Proper positioning of the captive bolt equipment is required as incorrect positioning causes inefficient stunning leading to pain and distress in animals.

Animal-based measures should be monitored continuously after application until *death* to ensure the absence of brain stem reflexes.

Suitable training and experience of operators in the application of captive bolt pistol, ergonomics and workload conditions should be considered for reducing fatigue in operators.

Penetrating captive bolt should not be used if preservation of brain tissue for diagnosis of diseases is needed or when leakage of body fluids may present a biosecurity risk.

The secondary killing method intervention should be performed without delay immediately after the shot to ensure the death of the animal.

~~The method is suitable for equids, camelids, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, ratites, rabbits and captive wild animals.~~

4. Species-specific recommendations

The size of the skulls and the thickness of the skull bones should be taken into account when selecting parameters such as bolt diameter, bolt length and cartridge power in penetrative captive bolt stunning. It is essential to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for regarding the most appropriate cartridges for different animals. If where there is doubt, a more powerful charge should be used.

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: The size of the skulls and the thickness of the skull bones should be taken into account when selecting parameters such as bolt diameter, bolt length and cartridge power in penetrative captive bolt stunning. <u>It is essential to follow the manufacturer's recommendations should be followed for regarding the most appropriate cartridges for different animals. If where there is doubt, a more powerful charge should be used.</u> Rationale: As a general principle, the manufacturer's guidance "should" be followed. While increasing power would be remedial option, where there is uncertainty, it is desirable to resolve the issue through dialogue with the manufacturer, in order to protect both operators and animals from unexpected equipment behaviour.
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Heavily horned animals should be stunned with penetrative captive bolt in the occipital position using a heavy-duty ~~contact fired~~ captive bolt gun directed forward at the nose.

In new world camelids and hornless sheep and goats, the device should be placed at the crown position (highest point on the head) aiming downward to the base of the jaw [AVMA, 2020].

In turkeys the placement of the device should be directly on the midline of the skull and at the highest/widest point of the head with the captive bolt aimed directly down toward the brain.

In chickens (and poultry with comb development) the placement should be directly behind the comb and on the midline of the skull with the captive bolt aimed directly down.

In ratites a device with a short penetrating bolt and the smallest charge appropriate for poultry or rabbits should be applied to the top of the head at the midpoint of an imaginary line between the outer "ear" openings.

[...]

Article 7.6.15.

Bleeding

This method can be applied in all species covered by this chapter.

Bleeding is a method of *killing* animals through the severance of the major blood vessels in the neck or chest that results in a rapid fall in blood pressure, leading to cerebral ischaemia and *death*. Due to welfare and biosecurity concerns, it is not a preferred method where other options are available.

1. Animal welfare concerns

The process of *bleeding* requires causes significant tissue trauma and this may will be painful if the animal has not been rendered unconscious prior to the procedure [Gibson et al. 2009]. Consciousness

may persist for periods of up to 20 or 60 seconds **or much longer in some instances** (depending on species) following blood vessel transection [Johnson et al. 2015]. Animals may experience fear, pain and *distress* during this period.

2. Animal-based and other measures

Animal-based and other measures that indicate loss of consciousness include all the following:

a) absence of muscle tone;

b) absence of corneal or palpebral reflex;

c) absence of rhythmic breathing.

Unconsciousness should be reassessed until death is confirmed. In addition, cessation of bleeding after a continuous and rapid blood flow can be used as an indicator of death.

3. Recommendations

~~This method can be applied in all species covered by this chapter.~~

Bleeding should only be used as a last resort in animals that are not already unconscious or can be rendered unconscious prior to severance of the blood vessels.

Japan	Category: Editorial Proposed amended text: Bleeding should only be used as a last resort in animals that are not already unconscious or can be rendered unconscious prior to severance of the blood vessels. Rationale: The same amendment has been made for decapitation (Article 7.6.18).
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4. Species-specific recommendations

None identified.

Article 7.6.16.

Lethal injection

This method is most suitable for killing small numbers of dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, equids, poultry, captive wildlife, but it can be used in all species.

Lethal injection is a **killing method procedure** that involves injecting one or more drugs into an animal to cause **rapid** death.

The animal is injected intravenously with a lethal dose of anaesthetic drugs and may also receive an initial injection of a sedative. In practice, barbiturates in combination with other drugs are commonly used. They induce a smooth transition from consciousness to unconsciousness and death by causing depression of the central nervous system and respiratory centres in the brain leading to cardiac arrest (Shearer, 2018).

The preferred route of administration is intravenous (HSA 18; AVMA, 2020), but in some cases it may be given via other routes according to the manufacturers' instructions (e.g. intramuscularly, intracardially or intraperitoneally).

1. Animal welfare concerns

If routes of administration are inappropriate, consciousness may not be lost rapidly before death, causing pain and fear and distress.

If doses of administration are not correct/inadequate (sub-lethal), consciousness may not be lost rapidly and the animal may not die before death, causing pain, fear and distress.

Some combinations of drug type and route of administration may be painful and should only be used in unconscious animals.

Japan	Category: Deletion Proposed amended text: Some combinations of drug type and route of administration may be painful and should only be used in unconscious animals. Rationale: Since the wording uses “should,” this statement constitutes a “recommendations” rather than “animal welfare concerns”.
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During rapid injection, some drugs may cause pain, irritation and paralysis, which can cause the suppression of respiration while the animal is still conscious [EFSA, 2004].

Intracardiac administration can be extremely painful if penetration of the heart is not successful on the first attempt (EFSA, 2004).

Lethal injection for conscious animals requires restraint, which can cause distress.

Personnel lacking appropriate training and skills, or personnel suffering fatigue, or fractious animals unable to be properly restrained, may cause ineffective administration and be detrimental to animal welfare (Søren et al., 2020).

2. Animal-based and other measures

Each animal should be examined carefully to confirm loss of consciousness and death:

- a) ~~Loss of posture,~~
- b) ~~absence of rhythmic~~ breathing,
- c) ~~absence of~~ heart ~~beat auscultation,~~
- d) ~~absence of~~ corneal or palpebral reflex,
- e) ~~vocalization~~
- e) ~~fixed and dilated pupils~~
- f) ~~and eyes movements.~~
- g) ~~absence of brain stem reflexes.~~

3. Recommendations

~~This method can be applied in all species covered by this chapter.~~

The animal ~~should~~ may be sedated before the lethal injection to ~~minimize~~ minimise stress, if required.

~~Lethal injection should only be performed by a qualified veterinarian or under their direct supervision.~~

Personnel performing this method should be trained and knowledgeable in anaesthetic techniques and injectable techniques.

Personnel should be trained to use appropriate presentation handling and restraining of the animal techniques, and skilled intravenous administration to avoid extravasation of the drug and to use the correct dose according to the species and the animal live weight.

~~Personnel should be trained to use appropriate restraint in case it is necessary.~~

~~Intravenous administration is preferred, but intraperitoneal or intramuscular administration may be appropriate, especially if the agent is non-irritating.~~

~~The intracardiac route may be used in previously anesthetized or very small animals only.~~

~~Examine individual animals. Animals should be examined for signs of consciousness or life and a backup killing method apply applied a secondary killing method as a corrective measure, by giving a lethal injection of an anaesthetic drug if they are conscious or a lethal substance to kill them in case they are still alive but unconscious [AVMA, 2020].~~

The carcass of an animal that has been killed by lethal injection has to be disposed of properly and cannot be used for human or animal consumption or where there may be a risk of this occurring of human or animal consumption because of the residual toxicity harmfulness of the used drugs.

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: Some combinations of drug type and route of administration may be painful and should only be used in unconscious animals. Rationale: Same as above.
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4. Species-specific recommendations

None identified.

The method is suitable for killing individual or small numbers of dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, equids and poultry, but it can be used in all species.

In some species like cattle, restraint may be necessary prior to injection, if possible, to allow effective administration.

Venous access can be difficult in very small or young animals or animals with low blood pressure taking considerable veterinary skill and experience.

[...]

CHAPTER 8.8.

**INFECTION WITH FOOT AND
MOUTH DISEASE VIRUS**

[...]

Article 8.8.33bis.

Recommendations for importation of fetal bovine serum from countries or zones infected with FMDV

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that: ~~this product has been subjected to:~~

1) Dams showed no clinical signs of *infection* with FMDV at time of *slaughter* as demonstrated by ante- and post-mortem inspection in accordance with Chapter 6.3.;

~~2)~~ Product has been subjected to:

a) a test for detection of nucleic acid specific to FMDV with negative results, carried out on each batch of fetal bovine serum, followed by gamma irradiation at a dose of at least 30 kilo Gray (kGy); or

~~2)~~ b) an equivalent treatment that has been demonstrated to inactivate FMDV in fetal bovine serum..

Japan	Category: addition and deletion Proposed amended text: 2) <u>Product has been subjected to a test for detection of nucleic acid specific to FMDV with negative results, carried out on each batch of fetal bovine serum, followed by:</u> a) <u>a test for detection of nucleic acid specific to FMDV with negative results, carried out on each batch of fetal bovine serum, followed by</u> gamma irradiation at a dose of at least 30 kilo Gray (kGy); or 2) <u>b) an equivalent treatment that has been demonstrated to inactivate FMDV in fetal bovine serum..</u> Rationale: To ensure alignment between points a) and b).
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3) The necessary precautions were taken after collection and processing to avoid contact of fetal bovine serum with any potential source of FMDV.

[...]

CHAPTER 10.4.

INFECTION WITH HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUSES

Article 10.4.1.

General provisions

- 1) ~~This chapter deals with the listed disease, Poultry, other birds and a number of mammals, including humans, are susceptible to infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity.~~
- 2) For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*:
 - a) ~~Infection with H~~high pathogenicity avian influenza virus ~~means is defined as an infection of poultry (hereafter 'animal host') with by any influenza A virus that has been determined to be of as high pathogenicity in birds in accordance with the Terrestrial Manual.~~
 - b) ~~The following defines the An~~ occurrence of *infection* with a high pathogenicity avian influenza virus:
 - i) ~~high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has been isolated in a sample from an animal host and identified as such; is defined by the isolation and identification of the virus or~~
 - ii) ~~the detection of specific viral ribonucleic acid; with characteristics of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus in a one or more samples from an animal hostpoultry.~~

Japan	Category: editorial Proposed amended text: a) Infection with Hhigh pathogenicity avian influenza virus means is defined as an infection of poultry (hereafter 'animal host') with by any influenza A virus that has been determined to be of as high pathogenicity in birds in accordance with the Terrestrial Manual. b) The following defines the An occurrence of <i>infection</i> with a high pathogenicity avian influenza virus: i) high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has been isolated in a sample from poultryan animal host and identified as such; is defined by the isolation and identification of the virus or ii) the detection of specific viral ribonucleic acid; with characteristics of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus in a one or more samples from an animal hostpoultry. Rationale: Unless there is a specific reason to introduce the term “animal host” only in this definition of infection, Japan suggests consistently using the term “poultry” to avoid possible confusion in interpretation.
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c) The *incubation period* at the *flock-level* for high pathogenicity avian influenza is shall be 14 days.

- 3) For the purposes of this chapter, 'commercial poultry' means a *subpopulation of poultry* reared or kept in *establishments* that produce *commodities* intended for formal domestic or *international trade*.

Japan	Category: addition and deletion Proposed amended text: 3) <u>For the purposes of this chapter, 'commercial poultry' means a <i>subpopulation of poultry</i> reared or kept in <i>establishments identified by the Veterinary Authority</i> that produce <i>commodities</i> intended for formal domestic or <i>international trade</i>.</u> Rationale: To ensure consistency between the definition and the requirements in Article 10.4.3.bis. The relevant <i>subpopulation</i> should be clearly identifiable by the <i>Veterinary Authority</i>. Whether trade is formal or informal, the risk of spreading highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses should be addressed.
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- 4) Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines, including pathogenicity testing, are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

- 35) Although the objective of this chapter is to mitigate animal and public health risks posed by *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, other influenza A viruses of avian host origin (i.e. low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses) may have the potential to exert a negative impact on animal and public health. This chapter includes monitoring considerations for low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses because some, especially H5 and H7 subtypes, have the potential to mutate into high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses. A sudden and unexpected increase in virulence of low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in poultry is notifiable as an *emerging disease* in accordance with Article 1.1.4.

- 6) *Infection* of domestic and *captive wild* birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences, and *infection* of birds other than *poultry*, including *wild* birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity, are notifiable in accordance with Article 1.3.3. Such notifications do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone in *poultry* or commercial poultry, and a Member Country should not impose bans on the *international trade of poultry commodities* in response to such *notifications*.

4. ~~A notification of infection of birds other than *poultry*, including *wild* birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity, or of *infection* of domestic or *captive wild* birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses does not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone. A Member Country should not impose bans on the international trade of *poultry commodities* in response to such *notifications*, or to other information on the presence of any non-notifiable influenza A virus in birds.~~

5. ~~This chapter includes *monitoring* considerations for low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses because some, especially H5 and H7 subtypes, have the potential to mutate into high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses.~~

- 7) Information reported in accordance with Article 1.1.5. on the presence of non-notifiable influenza A virus in birds or on the presence of influenza A virus of high pathogenicity in mammals do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone, and a Member Country should not impose bans on the *international trade of poultry commodities* in response to such bans.

Japan	Category: editorial Proposed amended text: <u>7) Information reported in accordance with Article 1.1.5. on the presence of non-notifiable influenza A virus in birds or on the presence of influenza A virus of high pathogenicity in mammals do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone, and a Member Country should not impose bans on the international trade of poultry commodities in response to such notifications, bans.</u> Rationale: In alignment with point 6).
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68) The use of *vaccination* against avian influenza may be recommended under specific conditions. Any vaccine used should comply with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual*. *Vaccination* will not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of a free country or *zone* if *surveillance* supports the absence of *infection*, in accordance with Article 10.4.28., in particular point 2. *Vaccination* can be used as an effective complementary control tool when a *stamping-out policy* alone is not sufficient. Whether to vaccinate or not should be decided by the *Veterinary Authority* on the basis of the avian influenza situation as well as the ability of the *Veterinary Services* to implement the *vaccination* strategy, as described in Chapter 4.18.

~~7. Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines, including pathogenicity testing, are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.~~

[...]

Article 10.4.3.

Country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry

A country or *zone* may be considered free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry when:

- 1) *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses is a *notifiable disease* in the entire country;
- 2) an ongoing awareness programme is in place to encourage reporting of suspicions of high pathogenicity avian influenza;
- 3) absence of *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, based on *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4. and Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., has been demonstrated in the country or *zone* for the past 12 months;
- 4) an awareness programme is in place related to avian influenza viruses *risks* and the specific *biosecurity* and management measures to address them;
- 5) *commodities* are imported in accordance with Articles 10.4.7. to 10.4.22.

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: <u>6) Infection of domestic and captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences, and infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity, are notifiable.</u> Rationale: In alignment with Article 10.4.1, point 6).
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Surveillance should be adapted to parts of the country or existing *zones* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, population data and proximity to recent *outbreaks* or the use of *vaccination*.

Article 10.4.3.bis

Country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in commercial poultry

A country or *zone* may be considered free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in commercial poultry when the country or *zone* meets the conditions in points 1., 2., 4. and 5. in Article 10.4.3., and for the past 12 months:

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: <u>A country or <i>zone</i> may be considered free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in commercial poultry when the country or <i>zone</i> meets the conditions in points 1., 2., 4. 5 and 65. in Article 10.4.3., and for the past 12 months:</u> Rationale: In alignment with Article 10.4.1, point 6).
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1) absence of *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, based on *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4. and Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., has been demonstrated in commercial poultry in the country or *zone*:

2) commercial poultry in the country or *zone* are effectively separated from other birds, including *poultry* other than commercial poultry, and *wild* birds, by *biosecurity*, effectively implemented and supervised:

Japan	Category: Change Proposed amended text: 2) <u>commercial poultry in the country or <i>zone</i> are effectively separated from birds other than commercial poultryother birds, including poultry other than commercial poultry, and wild birds, by <i>biosecurity</i>, effectively implemented and supervised;</u> Rationale: To ensure effective biosecurity, the scope of separation requirements should be expanded. Commercial poultry should be kept separated from domestic birds other than poultry, in addition to <i>poultry</i> other than commercial poultry and wild birds.
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3) the *Veterinary Authority* has current knowledge of the distribution of all commercial poultry *establishments*:

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: 3) <u>the <i>Veterinary Authority</i> has current knowledge of the distribution of all commercial poultry <i>establishments</i>, based on a registration or equivalent identification;</u> Rationale: To ensure that all commercial poultry establishments are systematically recorded and traceable by Veterinary Authority, which is essential for effective surveillance, rapid response to disease outbreaks, and the overall integrity of biosecurity measures.
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4) in cases of occurrences of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus in *poultry* other than commercial poultry:

a) the *Veterinary Authority* performs an epidemiological investigation that concludes there has been no direct or indirect contact with commercial poultry or that the likelihood of exposure to commercial poultry is considered negligible:

Japan	Category: Addition/Deletion Proposed amended text: a) the Veterinary Authority performs an epidemiological investigation that concludes there has been no direct or indirect contact with commercial poultry and-or that the likelihood of exposure to commercial poultry is considered negligible; Rationale: This would provide greater confidence that commercial poultry has remained effectively separated from HPAI occurrences in poultry other than commercial poultry in alignment with point 2).
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b) a *stamping-out policy* is applied to all occurrences of high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in *poultry* other than commercial poultry.

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: <u>5) in cases of occurrences of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus in domestic birds other than <i>poultry</i>, the <i>Veterinary Authority</i> performs an epidemiological investigation that concludes there has been no direct or indirect contact with commercial poultry and that the likelihood of exposure to commercial poultry is considered negligible;</u> Rationale: This would provide greater confidence that commercial poultry has remained effectively separated from HPAI occurrences in domestic birds other than poultry in alignment with point 2).
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[...]

Article 10.4.6.

Recovery of free status in poultry or commercial poultry

If *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has occurred in *poultry* in a previously free country or *zone*, the free status may be regained after a minimum period of 28 days (i.e. two *flock-level incubation periods*) after a *stamping-out policy* has been completed (i.e. after the *disinfection* of the last affected *establishment*), provided that *surveillance* in accordance with Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., in particular point 3 of Article 10.4.28., has also been carried out during that period and has demonstrated the absence of *infection*.

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: If <i>infection</i> with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has occurred in <i>poultry</i> or commercial poultry in a previously free country or <i>zone</i>, the free status may be regained after a minimum period of 28 days (i.e. two <i>flock-level incubation periods</i>) after a <i>stamping-out policy</i> has been completed (i.e. after the <i>disinfection</i> of the last affected <i>establishment</i>), provided that <i>surveillance</i> in accordance with Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., in particular point 3 of Article 10.4.28., has <u>also</u> been carried out during that period and has demonstrated the absence of <i>infection</i>. Rationale: To align with the title of this article.
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If a *stamping-out policy* is not implemented, Article 10.4.3. [or 10.4.3.bis](#) applies.

[...]

CHAPTER 11.9.

INFECTION WITH LUMPY SKIN DISEASE VIRUS

Article 11.9.1.

General provisions

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) virus (LSDV), belonging to the genus Capripoxvirus, may infect susceptible animals ~~are~~ ~~bovines (*Bos indicus* and *B. taurus*) and water buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*) and certain wild ruminants, which Wild ruminants~~ do not play a significant epidemiological role.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, lumpy skin disease (LSD) is defined as an *infection* of bovines, hereafter 'animal hosts' ~~and water buffaloes with lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV).~~

The following defines the occurrence of *infection* with LSDV:

- 1) LSDV has been isolated from a sample from ~~an animal host~~ ~~bovine or a water buffalo~~; or
- 2) antigen ~~specific to capripoxviruses~~ or nucleic acid specific to LSDV, excluding vaccine strains, has been identified in a sample from ~~a bovine or a water buffalo~~ ~~an animal host~~ showing clinical signs consistent with LSD, or epidemiologically linked to a suspected or confirmed case, or giving cause for suspicion of previous association ~~or with or exposure to contact with~~ LSDV; or
- 3) antibodies specific to LSDV ~~capripoxviruses~~, ~~which are not the consequence of vaccination~~, have been detected in a sample from ~~a bovine or a water buffalo~~ ~~an animal host~~ ~~buffalo~~ that either shows clinical signs consistent with LSD, or is epidemiologically linked to a suspected or confirmed case.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *incubation period* for LSD shall be 28 days.

Standards for ~~diagnosis and diagnostic tests~~, and vaccines, ~~as well as and~~ information on ~~the~~ epidemiology are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 11.9.2.

Safe commodities

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any LSD-related conditions regardless of the status of the animal population of the *exporting country*:

- 1) ~~pasteurised ultra-high temperature (UHT) milk, and milk products thereof;~~

Japan	Category: Addition Proposed amended text: 1) pasteurised milk, pasteurised ultra-high temperature (UHT) milk and milk subjected to any combination of control measures with equivalent performance, and milk products thereof; Rationale: According to the report February 2026 meeting of Code Commission, pasteurised and ultra-high temperature milk (and products thereof) to the list of safe commodities, since pasteurisation and UHT treatments have been demonstrated to inactivate any potential live LSDV in milk. Japan proposes to also include milk subjected to any combination of control measures with equivalent performance from the perspective of equivalence.
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- 42) skeletal muscle *meat* of animals slaughtered in an approved slaughterhouse/abattoir and subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections in accordance with Chapter 6.3., with favourable results;
- 3) heat-treated *meat products* in the hermetically sealed container with a F_0 value of 3 or above;
- 24) casings;
- 35) gelatine and collagen;
- 46) tallow;rendered fat;
- 57) processed hooves and horns;
- 68) extruded dry pet food;
- 79) protein meal.

Article 11.9.3.

Country or zone free from LSD

A country or a zone may be considered free from LSD when: infection with LSDV is notifiable in the entire country, importation of bovines and water buffaloes and their commodities is carried out in accordance with this chapter, and either:

- 1) LSD has been a *notifiable disease* in the entire country for at least the past two years;
- 2) appropriate *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures* to prevent the introduction of *infection* have been in place; in particular, the importations or movements of relevant *commodities* into the country or zone have been carried out in accordance with this chapter or other relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, including Chapter 2.1. 'Import risk analysis';
- 3) and either:
 - a) the country or zone is historically free as described in point 2b) of Article 1.4.6.; or
 - b)
 - i) for at least two years, in the country or zone, a *vaccination* programme aiming at eradication in the target *population* in accordance with Chapter 4.18. has been applied using vaccines in accordance with manufacturer's instructions;
 - ii) *vaccination* has been prohibited in the country or zone, and there has been no case for 18 months since the cessation of *vaccination* demonstrated using a clinical, virological and serological *surveillance* programme in accordance with Article 11.9.15.; or
 - iii) *vaccination* has been prohibited in the country or zone, and there has been no case for 30 months since the cessation of *vaccination* demonstrated using an active clinical *surveillance* programme in accordance with Article 11.9.15.

Japan	Category: addition and deletion Proposed amended text: <u>3) and either:</u> a) the country or <i>zone</i> is historically free as described in <u>point 2b) of</u> Article 1.4.6.; or b) <u>for at least two years, in the country or <i>zone</i>, a <i>vaccination</i> programme aiming at eradication in the target <i>population</i> in accordance with Chapter 4.18. has been applied using vaccines in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, and either:</u> <u>ii) <i>vaccination</i> has been prohibited in the country or <i>zone</i>, and there has been no case for 18 months since the cessation of <i>vaccination</i> demonstrated using a clinical, virological and serological <i>surveillance</i> programme in accordance with Article 11.9.15.; or</u> <u>iii) <i>vaccination</i> has been prohibited in the country or <i>zone</i>, and there has been no case for 30 months since the cessation of <i>vaccination</i> demonstrated using an active clinical <i>surveillance</i> programme in accordance with Article 11.9.15.</u> Rationale: The application of a vaccination programme aiming at eradication in the target population for at least two years, as described in point i) of 3) b), is considered a prerequisite for both of points ii) and iii) of 3) b).
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~~for at least three years, *vaccination* has been prohibited in the country or *zone* and a clinical *surveillance* programme in accordance with Article 11.9.15. has demonstrated no occurrence of infection with LSDV; or~~

~~e) for at least two years, *vaccination* has been prohibited in the country or *zone* and a clinical, virological and serological *surveillance* programme in accordance with Article 11.9.15. has demonstrated no occurrence of infection with LSDV.~~

In order to maintain its status, a country or *zone* free from LSD should:

1) comply with points 2) a) and b) above and *vaccination* continues to be prohibited;

2) conduct *surveillance* in accordance with Article 11.9.15.

Japan	Category: editorial Proposed amended text: <u>In order to maintain its status, a country or <i>zone</i> free from LSD should:</u> <u>1) comply with points 2) and 3) a) and b) above and <i>vaccination</i> continues to be prohibited;</u> <u>2) conduct <i>surveillance</i> in accordance with Article 11.9.15.</u> Rationale: Points 2) a) and b) do not appear in this article.
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A country or *zone* free from LSD that is adjacent to an infected country or *zone* should include a *zone* in which *surveillance* is conducted in accordance with Article 11.9.15.

~~A country or *zone* free from LSD will not lose its status as a result of introduction of seropositive or vaccinated bovines or water buffaloes or their *commodities*, provided they were introduced in accordance with this chapter.~~

[...]
