
CHAPTER 3.X.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[...]

Article 3.X.4.

General Principles

Beyond the recommendations of Chapters 3.1. and Chapter 3.2., *Veterinary Authorities* and other *Competent Authorities*, *Veterinary Services* and relevant stakeholders, should follow these principles in the implementation of emergency management:

1. General organisation and framework

The *Veterinary Authority* should provide leadership, advocacy and expertise in the preparedness and response for animal disease emergencies, and for any animal health and *animal welfare* aspects of other emergencies. Legislation on emergency management, consistent with Chapter 3.4., should clearly define lead and supporting agencies, rules for emergency declaration and related extraordinary powers and resourcing to enable effective emergency management actions

Veterinary Services should be integrated within national emergency management plans, resourcing and frameworks, and engage in multisectoral coordination across public and private sectors.

The *Veterinary Authority* should prepare for emergencies where they may be expected to provide a supporting role in a response led by another governmental authority, such as managing the *animal welfare* impacts of major fires, floods, storms or other natural or human made disasters.

Formal networks and partnerships, such as between government agencies, the police or defence, industry, civil society and international organisations should be developed to enhance coordination and collective capacity. Formal agreements, such as memoranda of understanding (MoUs), can support this coordination by defining roles and responsibilities, establishing communication protocols, and promoting joint action prior to, during and after an emergency.

Essential functions of both public and private sectors should be maintained as much as possible for ongoing delivery during emergencies, notably to minimise disruptions. Efforts should be made to engage the private sector in emergency preparedness and response activities during peace time, prior to and during emergencies.

2. Data and information management

Decision-making should be supported by robust data systems, integrating relevant data from animal health, public health, environment and other sectors. *Early warning systems*, supported for animal health by *surveillance* in accordance with Chapter 1.4., and risk indicators are crucial to trigger and adjust emergency responses. *Establishment* and *animal identification* and traceability databases should be maintained, up-to date and accessible for all actions in emergency management, particularly for the tracing of *animal* locations and movements. Information may be required from other *Competent Authorities* such as data on *wildlife populations* and ecosystems.

3. Effective communication

In order to ensure clear, consistent and timely communication and awareness during and after emergencies, to correctly inform stakeholders, to counter misinformation and disinformation and to promote transparency while maintaining public trust, *Veterinary Authorities* should establish internal and external communication protocols following the principles of Chapter 3.5 on communication.

Japan	<p>Category: Addition</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>In order to ensure clear, consistent and timely communication and awareness during and after emergencies, to correctly inform stakeholders, to counter misinformation and disinformation and to promote transparency while maintaining public trust, <i>Veterinary Authorities</i> should establish internal and external communication protocols following the principles of Chapter 3.5 on communication. The external communication protocols should address communication with Veterinary Authorities of the other countries likely to be affected.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Prompt communication with Veterinary Authorities of the other countries likely to be affected is vital to enable them to take necessary actions.</p>
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4. Human, physical and financial resources

Competent Authorities should ensure that trained personnel are available for all components of emergency management. This includes maintaining core staff with defined roles in case of emergency, employing subject matter experts as well as establishing mechanisms for swift mobilisation and surge capacity of personnel, including private sector support e.g. private *veterinarians* or *veterinary paraprofessionals*. The physical and mental wellbeing of emergency management personnel should be prioritised through health, safety and psychosocial support measures, and adequate staff rotations. Consideration should be given to arrangements to mobilise international personnel in emergencies that require additional surge capacity, and the role of relevant International Organisations in this respect.

Veterinary Services should have the capability to access extraordinary financial resources and the necessary physical resources to respond to emergencies. This includes having adequate equipment, such as roadblocks, personal protective equipment or disinfectants pre-purchased, and contingency funding arrangements in place to support operational costs as well as mechanisms for compensation or recovery, as appropriate.

5. Continuous improvement and learning

Emergency management components should be regularly monitored, tested, evaluated and updated through training, simulation exercises and learning from real events. Lessons should be identified through after-action reviews.

Competent Authorities should also learn from approaches in other sectors both at the national and international levels.

6. Accountability

Competent Authorities should maintain records of decisions, actions and resource use to ensure transparency, support emergency-related inquiries and to demonstrate responsibility to stakeholders, financial government agencies, and donors.

[...]

Article 3.X.6.

Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is the ability of the *Competent Authorities* and relevant stakeholders to anticipate, plan for and implement the best and fastest possible response to emergencies, in order to minimise their scale and impact. It is a continuous cycle of planning, equipping, training, and exercising and should be supported by political commitment, dedicated funding and resourcing as well as inter-institutional coordination mechanisms. Preparedness should be scalable to address a range of hazards. In addition to the relevant recommendations in Chapter 4.19., the following should be considered when applying an all-hazards approach to preparedness for emergencies:

1. Legal framework

Legislation should be developed in accordance with Chapter 3.4, and as part of preparedness efforts, it should:

- a) Define roles and responsibilities of *Competent Authorities* in emergencies, including for emergency declarations, planning and decision making, and of other relevant sectors and stakeholders for implementation and support;
- b) Provide powers to implement necessary and proportionate emergency measures, including declaring the state of emergency, as well as procuring and allocating resources and ensuring compliance through enforcing required measures;
- c) Contain provisions to account for temporary fast-tracking of decision making, policies or procedures during emergencies such as for quarantine, killing, enhanced *surveillance* and testing, emergency registration of vaccine and expedited procurement of resources;
- d) Support intersectoral collaboration such as through MoUs;
- e) Provide legal protection (including safety and protection from potential aggression) for individuals and organisations involved in emergency management;
- f) Ensure funding for emergency management, covering both operational cost and compensation, while facilitating rapid access and use. Compensation of stakeholders for losses can promote both early warning and compliance.

2. Planning

- a) Preparedness planning should be based on *risk analysis* of different scenarios and apply to all components of emergency management. It should:
 - i) Be supported by legislation and operational frameworks;
 - ii) Include the development of written emergency preparedness plans and emergency response plans (also known as 'contingency plans') that address a range of potential hazards, define animal health or *animal welfare* emergencies and describe what should be done prior to and during an emergency. The plans should be supported by detailed standard operating procedures;
 - iii) Ensure that emergency response plans define an IMS, establishing a clear chain of command, at all administrative levels, including decision making persons, communication flows and accountability. All stakeholders should have their roles and responsibilities defined and understood. This should include detailed guidance on interoperability, accountability, and coordination;
 - iv) Recognise the role of the private sector in preparedness and continuity of business;
 - v) Be regularly reviewed and updated, incorporating lessons identified through real events and simulation exercises;
 - vi) Identify the technical expertise necessary to support decision-making during emergencies;
 - vii) Ensure that laboratories are able to scale up when required during an emergency;
 - viii) Describe the deactivation process of emergency response including the scaling down of logistics and decommissioning of facilities, equipment and personnel.
- b) Preparedness planning should also include development of a recovery plan that is integrated into national emergency management arrangements. A recovery plan should:
 - i) Clearly define the objectives and timeline for recovery efforts;

- ii) Establish the chain of command, roles and responsibilities and identify key partners for the delivery of recovery activities;
- iii) Promote intersectoral communication and coordination throughout the implementation of recovery activities;
- iv) Describe funding mechanisms and the prioritisation and coordination of recovery resources;
- v) Define arrangements for community support as appropriate;
- vi) Incorporate risk mitigation strategies, if relevant, including cautious restocking with *surveillance* and prevention measures.

3. Equipping

Preparedness requires that the *Competent Authority* ensures the availability of appropriate equipment and supplies to implement emergency response plans. Equipping should:

- a) Be based on resource mapping and risk prioritisation for different scenarios;
- b) Include pre-established procurement, contracting and logistics systems adaptable to emergency conditions;
- c) Leverage both public and private capacities and have pre-existing arrangements in place.

Japan	<p>Category: Addition</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p><u>d) Establishing network with Laboratories playing a role in controlling, approving and registering veterinary medicinal products, including vaccines, especially for emergency vaccination.</u></p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Japan proposes to move this sentence from Article 3.X.7 (Detection) to this article because this sentence is better placed in Article 3.X.6 (Preparedness).</p>
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4. Training and exercising

A comprehensive training and exercise programme should be in place to ensure personnel have the competencies and capabilities required to respond effectively to emergencies as well as to identify gaps in emergency management efforts. This should include:

- a) Regular, multidisciplinary training involving relevant sectors and stakeholders;
- b) Simulation exercises conducted at appropriate intervals and levels, addressing key priority hazards and crucial aspects of emergency management. Besides emergency response activities, all mechanisms of coordination within or between authorities and sectors, including for *early warning systems*, should be tested in simulation exercises;
- c) Exercises may also involve other Member Countries, regional and international partners;
- d) Evaluation of exercises through after-action reviews and the identification of lessons to inform future preparedness efforts.

Article 3.X.7.

Detection

Detection in the framework of emergency management is the process of the timely identification and analysis of the occurrence of events that might trigger an emergency, requiring action by the *Competent Authorities* and other relevant authorities and stakeholders.

Members should put in place *early warning systems*, as described in Chapter 1.4. and adapted to all types of events and based on early detection, to enable timely decision-making and implementation of control measures to mitigate the impact of the event. *Early warning systems*, should include *surveillance*, intelligence and rapid exchange of information, in order to determine if emergency response is required, based on pre-existing criteria. Detection activities, such as animal health *surveillance* as described in Chapter 1.4., should be a continuous process that maintains a sufficient state of readiness.

The development and maintenance of *early warning systems* are vital for emergency management. The earlier an event is detected and reported to the *Competent Authorities* (and in case of *listed diseases* by the *Veterinary Authorities* in accordance with Chapter 1.1.), the sooner and more effective appropriate actions can be taken, reducing the overall impacts of the event.

Early warning systems should be organised within a whole-of-government approach.

Raising awareness and maintaining a strong reporting chain linking field-level operations to the *Veterinary Authority* and other relevant *Competent Authorities* is critical. *Veterinary Services* should provide continuous education and outreach to enhance recognition of events that could trigger an emergency.

Diagnostic laboratories are a key element of early detection and *early warning systems*. They should have a scalable testing capacity and be able to operate as a network to collectively increase testing capacity by sharing competences and workload. Agreements and protocols for sending samples to another country should be established beforehand (in accordance with Chapter 5.8.).

Some laboratories should also play a role in controlling, approving and registering *veterinary medicinal products*, including vaccines, especially for emergency *vaccination*.

Japan	<p>Category: Deletion</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>Some laboratories should also play a role in controlling, approving and registering veterinary medicinal products, including vaccines, especially for emergency vaccination.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>This sentence is better placed in Article 3.X.6 (Preparedness) because this article refers to detection.</p>
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For events that may be detected by a *Competent Authority* other than the *Veterinary Authority*, such as extreme weather events or infrastructure failures, there should be a pre-agreed mechanism for the timely exchange of information.

[...]

CHAPTER 5.4.

MEASURES AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE IN TO THE EXPORTATION OF COMMODITIES

Article 5.4.1.

Purpose and scope

This chapter provides general principles for measures and procedures that are applicable ~~in to~~ the exportation of *commodities* to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents through *international trade of commodities*, without creating unjustified trade restrictions, covering from facilities of origin (such as an establishment, slaughterhouse/abattoir, semen collection centre) to the point of exit.

Japan	<p>Category: Deletion</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>This chapter provides general principles for measures and procedures that are applicable in to the exportation of <i>commodities</i> to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents through <i>international trade of commodities</i>, without creating unjustified <u>trade</u> restrictions, covering from facilities of origin (such as <u>an</u> establishment, slaughterhouse/abattoir, semen collection centre) to the point of exit.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>According to the <i>Glossary</i>, <i>international trade</i> means importation, exportation and transit of <u>commodities</u>.</p>
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For the purposes of this chapter, 'operator' means any natural or legal entity or person responsible for export of commodities subject to the provisions of this chapter.

For the purposes of this chapter, 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Competent Authorities' refer to the 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Competent Authorities' of the exporting country unless otherwise specified.

This chapter provides *exporting countries* with recommendations on measures and procedures, and the roles and responsibilities of their Veterinary Authority or other relevant Competent Authorities, and of operators, business operators any natural or legal entity or person responsible for export of commodities subject to the provisions of this chapter (hereafter 'operator'), in addition to responsibilities that are described in Article 5.1.3. This chapter provides guidance to ensure the quality and ~~performance~~ implementation of official controls for exportation.

While this ~~This~~ chapter applies to all *commodities*; some recommendations are specifically addressed to certain ~~of these~~ *commodities*.

Article 5.4.2.

General considerations

The *Veterinary Authority of the exporting country* should ensure that make ensure operators are aware of the *importing country* requirements, if they are available to the Veterinary Authority in accordance with Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. In addition, the Veterinary Authority should make operators aware of the processes required to meet the conditions of the international veterinary certificate including the importing country requirements, including all information required for the agreed international veterinary certificate, in accordance with Article 5.1.1. and Chapter 5.3., are available to exporters.

The *Veterinary Authority of the exporting country* should be responsible for the implementation performance of official controls in coordination with other relevant *Competent Authorities* in accordance with *veterinary legislation* to ensure that exported *commodities* ~~can be traded safely and meet the requirements of the importing country requirements~~. ~~Its~~ Their legal mandate and responsibilities of the *Veterinary Authority* and other relevant *Competent Authorities*, ~~as described in Article 3.4.5. and 3.4.13.,~~ should include the export official controls activities at any step in the export process and the opportunity to request from the operator exporter any necessary information. Where appropriate, the *Veterinary Authority* and other relevant *Competent Authorities* may delegate certain tasks ~~in accordance with point 2 of Article 3.4.5.~~ Adequate human, technical, physical and financial resources should be available in the *exporting country* for the Veterinary Services ~~to allow these effectively implement~~ official controls ~~to be undertaken effectively~~ and to properly apply the certification obligations and procedures laid down in Chapters 5.1. and 5.2., in accordance with the quality principles ~~described in Article Chapter 3.2.2.~~

The *Veterinary Authority* should cooperate closely with all relevant authorities, including the customs authority and other law enforcement authorities of the *exporting country* dealing with exports to ensure that official controls are implemented~~performed~~ effectively; and to protect ~~to maintain the status compliance of the commodities with importing country requirements without creating unjustified barriers to trade~~. This cooperation should also cover actions to prevent and combat fraud or illegal pathways.

The *Veterinary Authority* should have procedures, as applicable, for certification of the *animal health status* of the herd/flock, compartment, zone, or country, zone, compartment, or herd/flock as well as of the disease situation in *establishments* and other premises and communicate with the operator exporter regarding any additional documentary evidence that may be required to support such certification.

The *Veterinary Authority in the exporting country* should ensure that the applicable certified *animal health status* of the herd/flock, compartment, zone, or country, zone, compartment, or herds/flock or animals, is based on appropriate *surveillance* and reporting in accordance with Chapter 1.4.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant Competent Authorities ~~in the exporting country~~ should have procedures for registration and approval of *establishments* of origin, where applicable, and other facilities used for production and handling of consignments, to comply with the ~~agreed international veterinary certificate~~. Operators should not hinder access by the *Veterinary Authority* to the *commodities*, the premises where they are located and the ~~means by which they are transported of transport~~. During official controls, operators should assist and cooperate with the *Veterinary Authority Services* and make available all relevant information concerning the consignment.

The Veterinary Authority should have procedures for the international veterinary certification of sanitary conditions of individual animals.

The *Veterinary Authority of the exporting country* should ensure that appropriate identification of *commodities* is in place to support traceability offer the consignment to comply with its~~the~~ ~~agreed international veterinary certificate~~. *Animal identification* should be in accordance with Chapter 4.2. and Chapter 4.3.

Upon request from the *Veterinary Authority of the importing country* or from the *Veterinary Authority of a the transit country*, the *Veterinary Authority of the exporting country* should provide additional information on the process to ensure compliance with the conditions included in the ~~agreed international veterinary certificate~~, and undertake investigation and reporting, and give reasonable access for audit in case of repeated non-compliant consignments ~~jeopardising the safety of trade~~. The *Veterinary Authority of the exporting country* should take ensure that the appropriate and necessary preventive measures ~~to ensure that the status of the commodities remain compliant is not jeopardised before and during transport to the point of exit~~. The *exporting country* should suspend the export of a *commodity* when there is reason to believe that it may present a risk to for animal health or and public health ~~or that if~~ it does not comply with the ~~agreed international veterinary certificate~~.

The *Veterinary Authority of the exporting country* should promptly communicate to the *Veterinary Authority of the importing country*, and any transit country, any change of or situation, such as a change of the *animal health status*, that may affect its capacity to fulfil~~certify~~ the conditions of the ~~agreed international veterinary certificate~~.

The *Veterinary Authority of the exporting country* should also inform without delay the *Veterinary Authority of the importing country*; and, where necessary, the *transit country*; in the event that a particular issue such as

the occurrence of a *listed disease* or a disease referred to in the *importing country* requirements which may affects the compliance status of a *commodity* which has already left the *exporting country*. This information should be part of the relevant emergency response plan developed in accordance with Chapter 4.19.

Japan	<p>Category: Addition/Deletion</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>The Veterinary Authority of the exporting country should also inform without delay the Veterinary Authority of <u>the importing country</u>, and, where necessary, the <i>transit country</i>, <u>of any case in the event that a particular issue such as the occurrence of a <i>listed disease</i> or a disease referred to in the <i>importing country</i> requirements and other relevant issues which may affects the <u>compliance status</u> of a <i>commodity</i> which has already left the <i>exporting country</i>. This information should be part of the relevant emergency response plan developed in accordance with Chapter 4.19.</u></p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Information concerning compliance of a <i>commodity</i> is of vital importance and Japan proposes to use words “any case” in alignment with draft of Article 5.6.4.</p>
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In case of *animals*, operators should ensure that *animal welfare* is maintained throughout the export process in accordance with Section 7 as relevant.

The Veterinary Authority ~~of the exporting country~~ should carry out collaborative activities with other relevant Competent Authorities, customs, and other *law enforcement* authorities, and operators, and with Veterinary Authorities in other countries, to control the risk posed by the illegal or informal cross-border movement of commodities, e.g. i.e., the international movement of *commodities* done in a way that avoids official controls intentionally (illegal) or that may be unregulated but may present risks (informal), to expressly and intentionally avoid official controls.

[...]

Article 5.4.4.

Specific recommendations depending on commodities

1. Animals

~~In the case of animals, the Veterinary Authority should ensure that *animal welfare* is maintained throughout the whole process of exportation, in accordance with Chapters 7.1., 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. as relevant.~~

The ~~operator~~ exporter should ensure that ~~vehicles/vessels~~ means of transport used for transportation of *animals* throughout the ~~whole export process of exportation~~ undergo adequate *disinfection*, and that measures are implemented to prevent and control vermin such as rodents or arthropods. These measures should be applied before every *loading of animals*. ~~Vehicles/vessels~~ Means of transport should contain only *animals* meeting the same sanitary requirements of the same health status except where effectively adequately separated to prevent disease transmission.

Japan	<p>Category: Addition</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>The operatorexporter should ensure that vehicles/vessels<u>means of transport</u> used for transportation of <i>animals</i> throughout the whole export process of exportation undergo adequate <i>disinfection</i>, and that measures are implemented to prevent and control vermin such as rodents or arthropods. These measures should be applied before every <i>loading of animals</i>. Vehicles/vessels<u>Means of transport</u> should contain only <i>animals</i> <u>meeting the same sanitary requirements of the same health status except where effectively adequately separated to prevent disease transmission and their compliance with importing country requirements is maintained.</u></p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Japan appreciates the Code Commission's response to our previous comment. Although approval of the measure by the importing country is not always required, the compliance with <i>importing country</i> requirements is requisite as mentioned by the Report of the meeting of ad hoc Group in April 2024, "(...) the ad hoc Group, in line with the opinion of the Code Commission, agreed with a comment that more than one consignment of animals could be shipped at the same time on a vehicle/vessel, provided that the animals are adequately separated <u>and importing country requirements allow for this to occur.</u>"</p>
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Containers should be either new or cleansed and disinfected before every *loading of animals*, in accordance with Chapter 4.14., ~~or be for single use~~

The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that, before leaving the *exporting country*, consignments of *animals* ~~should be~~ subjected to a visual examination, at an appropriate place and time according to the ~~procedures of the exporting country and the agreed international veterinary certificate and the requirements of the exporting country.~~ It should be ensured that, from the time of this visual examination inspection until the time of leaving the *exporting country*, the *animals* in the consignment are not in contact with other *animals* of a different health status.

The *Veterinary Authority* ~~in the exporting country~~ may require welfare inspection of consignments of *animals* at the *point of exit*. Such inspections should be supported by *veterinary legislation*, which should also ascribe authority to deny permission to export if *animal welfare* requirements, in accordance with Section 7 concerns are not met identified.

2. Germinal products

Consignments of *germinal products* should be packed, dispatched, and transported in a way that preserves the viability and integrity of the products.

Consignments of *hatching eggs* should be dispatched from parental *flocks* that meet the conditions of the ~~agreed international veterinary certificate.~~ *Containers* should be either new or cleaned and disinfected before every use, in accordance with Chapter 4.14.

Cryogenic tanks for semen, oocytes ~~or~~, embryos should be dispatched from *semen collection centres* or *collection centres* that meet the conditions of the ~~agreed international veterinary certificate.~~ They should be single-use cryogenic tanks or be cleaned and disinfected before use in accordance with Chapter 4.14. and use new liquid nitrogen.

Consignments of semen, oocytes ~~or~~, embryos, should be identified in accordance with the relevant recommendations of Chapters 4.6. to 4.11.

The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that, before leaving the *exporting country*, consignments of *germinal products* ~~be~~ subjected to a visual examination and documentary check and cryogenic tanks for semen, oocytes ~~or~~, embryos ~~be~~ sealed and marked, according to the procedures of the exporting country and the agreed international veterinary certificate and the requirements of the exporting country.

3. Animal products

Containers used for transporting *animal products* should be suitable for the type of product, protect the *animal products* from damage or contamination, and fulfil the conditions of the procedures of the exporting country and the ~~agreed-international veterinary certificate and the requirements of the exporting country.~~

The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that adequate measures are taken to clean and, where necessary after cleaning, to disinfect before use, *containers* and *means of transportation* in accordance with Chapter 4.14., particularly when conveying or transporting unpacked materials.

The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that, before leaving the *exporting country*, consignments of *animal products* ~~should be~~ are subjected to a visual examination and documentary check, according to the procedures of the exporting country and the ~~agreed-international veterinary certificate and the requirements of the exporting country.~~

[...]

CHAPTER 5.6.

MEASURES AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE INTO THE IMPORTATION OF COMMODITIES

Article 5.6.1.

Purpose and scope

This chapter provides general principles for measures and procedures that are applicable to ~~in~~ the importation of *commodities* to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents through *international trade of commodities*, without creating unjustified trade restrictions, covering from ~~the time of arrival at the~~ point of entry border of ~~the~~ the *importing country* until clearance of *commodities*.

Japan	<p>Category: Deletion</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>This chapter provides general principles for measures and procedures that are applicable <u>to</u> in the importation of <i>commodities</i> to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents through <i>international trade of commodities</i>, without creating unjustified <u>trade</u> restrictions, covering from the time of arrival at the <u>point of entry border of</u> the the <i>importing country</i> until clearance of <i>commodities</i>.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>According to the <i>Glossary</i>, <i>international trade</i> means importation, exportation and transit <u>of commodities</u>.</p>
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For the purposes of this chapter, 'operator' means any natural or legal entity or person responsible for transit/import of *commodities* subject to the provisions of this chapter.

For the purposes of this chapter, 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Competent Authorities' refer to the 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Competent Authorities' of the *importing country* unless otherwise specified.

This chapter provides *importing countries* with recommendations on measures and procedures, and the roles and responsibilities of their *Veterinary Authority* and other relevant *Competent Authorities*, and of operators, any natural or legal entity or person responsible for import of commodities subject to the provisions of this chapter business operators (hereafter 'operator'), in addition to responsibilities that are described in Article 5.1.2. This chapter provides guidance to ensure the quality and implementation/performance of official controls for importation. This chapter not only covers legal importation, but also provides general recommendations for illegal or informal entry of commodities.

~~The animal health status of the importing country or zone is not affected by the presence of disease or infection in imported animals in a quarantine centre or at a border inspection post.~~

[...]

Article 5.6.4.

Further action for non-compliant commodities

Commodities identified as non-compliant based on the implement/performed import ~~official~~ controls implemented should not be released by the *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* and

should be ~~isolated~~ detained under appropriate conditions including isolation for *animals*, pending further decision ~~by the Competent Authority~~.

Depending on the type of *commodity* and the *risk* the *commodity* represents to animal health, human health and animal health, and the environment, or ~~for due to animal welfare~~ reasons, the *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant Competent Authorities, should identify the options for the disposition of the *commodities* and notify the ~~operator~~ importer. Disposition of *commodities* may include:

- a) ~~re-dispatching~~ re-shipping the *commodity* back to the *exporting country* or another country, with the agreement, where appropriate, of the receiving *Competent Authority*;
- b) subjecting the *commodity* to treatment or to other risk mitigation measures necessary to allow importation;
- c) *killing* and disposal of *animals*, or destruction of other *commodities*.

Any action applied to consignments of *animals* should comply with ~~Chapters 7.1. and 7.6.~~ the relevant provisions of Section 7.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant Competent Authorities of the importing country should notify any decision and reasons to refuse entry of a *commodity* to the customs authorities and are encouraged to communicate it to the *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country*. Where appropriate, the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country should be given the opportunity to explain the situation in an attempt to have the consignment released.

Following decisions taken in relation to non-compliant *commodities*, the *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant Competent Authorities should supervise the effective disposition of the *commodities* and apply measures to prevent the introduction into the country of *commodities* which have been refused import, and the reuse of the *international veterinary certificate* that accompanied the consignment.

The Veterinary Authority or other relevant Competent Authority of the importing country should inform the exporting country of any case of a listed disease or disease referred to in the importing country requirements in a consignment of animals.

Japan	<p>Category: Clarification</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p><u>The Veterinary Authority or other relevant Competent Authority of the importing country should inform the exporting country of any case of a listed disease or disease referred to in the importing country requirements in a consignment of animals.</u></p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Japan appreciates the Code Commission's response to our previous comment. According to the response, this is not meant to cover all <i>listed diseases</i>, but only the diseases referred to in the importing country requirements. However, there was no change to the text. Should a case of a <i>listed disease</i> be provided only when the disease is referred to in the <i>importing country</i> requirements?</p>
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CHAPTER 5.7.

BORDER INSPECTION POSTS AND QUARANTINE CENTRES

Article 5.7.1.

Purpose and scope

This chapter provides recommendations on *border inspection posts* and *quarantine centres* to support effective implementation of measures and procedures applicable to the exportation, transit and importation of *commodities*, in order to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents through international trade of commodities without creating unjustified trade restrictions.

Japan	<p>Category: Deletion</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>This chapter provides recommendations on <i>border inspection posts</i> and <i>quarantine centres</i> to support effective implementation of measures and procedures applicable to the exportation, transit and importation of <i>commodities</i>, in order to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents <u>through international trade of commodities</u> without creating unjustified trade restrictions.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>According to the <i>Glossary</i>, <i>international trade</i> means importation, exportation and transit of <u>commodities</u>.</p>
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Quarantine centres may be used for isolation of *animals* either pre-exportation in accordance with disease-specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* or post-arrival. The *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* should ensure that the application of *biosecurity* at *quarantine centres* is appropriate to the type of isolation being undertaken, and effectively mitigates risks in accordance with disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* (pre-export isolation) or via *risk analysis* (post-arrival quarantine).

Border inspection posts are meant to keep *commodities* contained under adequate *biosecurity* until inspections are complete and decisions are taken on their destination.

Japan	<p>Category: Clarification</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>According to the draft of <i>Glossary</i>, <i>border inspection posts</i> means any <i>point of entry</i> for <i>commodities</i> and <u>associated facilities</u>, where official inspection is performed by <i>Veterinary Services</i>. We would like to ask for clarification whether facilities in which official inspection of <i>animals</i> transferred from a <i>point of entry</i> is performed by <i>Veterinary Services</i> are regarded as “associated facilities”.</p>
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[...]

CHAPTER 11.9.

INFECTION WITH LUMPY SKIN DISEASE VIRUS

[...]

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) 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;*

Japan	<p>Category: Deletion</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) skeletal muscle <u><i>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;</i></u> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>According to the <i>Glossary</i>, <i>slaughterhouse/abattoir</i> means premises, including facilities for moving or lairaging <i>animals</i>, used for the <i>slaughter</i> of <i>animals</i> to produce <i>animal</i> products and <u><i>approved</i></u> by the <i>Veterinary Services</i> or other <i>Competent Authority</i>.</p>
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- 2) *casings*;
- 3) gelatine and collagen;
- 4) tallow;
- 5) *processed* hooves and horns;
- 6) *extruded dry pet food*;

Japan	<p>Category: Clarification</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>According to report of the Code Commission's September 2025 meeting, extruded dry pet food was included in Article 14.9.2. given that the pressure and heat treatment would inactivate capripoxviruses. Temperature and time combinations in the production process may vary for each extruded dry pet food. Japan would like to ask for more detailed information on the rationale for the inclusion of extruded dry pet food in Article 14.9.2. (e.g., whether industrial processing activities are standardised and known to inactivate the lumpy skin disease virus).</p>
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- 7) *protein meal*.

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:

Japan	<p>Category: Deletion</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p><u>1) LSD has been a <i>notifiable disease</i> in the entire country:</u></p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>The first paragraph states that 'A country or a zone may be considered free from LSD when infection with LSDV is notifiable in the entire country, ...'.</p>
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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 Article 1.4.6.; or
- b) 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
- c) 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.

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.~~

[...]

Recommendations for importation of embryos of bovines from countries or zones not free infected with from LSDV

For embryos of bovines and water buffaloes

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

- 1) the donor females:
 - a) showed no clinical sign of LSD on the day of collection and the following 28 days;
 - b) were kept in an *establishment* where no case of LSD occurred during the 60 days prior to collection;

c) EITHER:

- i) were vaccinated regularly against LSD according to manufacturer's instructions, the first *vaccination* being administrated at least 60 days prior to the first collection; ~~and/or~~
- ii) ~~were demonstrated to have antibodies against LSDV at least 30 days after vaccination; OR~~
- iii) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibodies ~~specific to capripoxviruses~~ specific to LSDV, with ~~negative~~ results, on the day of collection and at least 21 days after collection;

Japan	<p>Category: Addition</p> <p>Proposed amended text:</p> <p>iii) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibodies <u>specific to</u> specific to capripoxviruses <u>LSDV</u>, with negative results, on the day of collection and at least 21 days after collection;</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>In alignment with Article 11.9.8</p>
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~~d) were subjected to agent detection by PCR with negative results on a blood sample on the day of collection;~~

- 2) the semen used for the production of the embryos complied with Articles 11.9.7. and 11.9.8., as relevant;
- 3) the embryos were collected, processed and stored in accordance with Chapters 4.8., 4.9. and 4.10.

Article 11.9.11.

Recommendations for the importation of milk and milk products

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *milk* or the *milk products*:

~~1) have been derived from animals in a country or zone free from LSD;~~

OR

~~2) were subjected to pasteurisation or any combination of control measures with equivalent performance as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products.~~

1) originated from animals kept in establishments that were not subjected to restrictions due to LSD;

2) were subjected to one of the following treatments:

a) pasteurisation;

b) pH maintained at less than 6 for more than one hour;

c) any combination of control measures with equivalent performance.

Japan	<p>Category: Clarification</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Japan would like to ask for clarification whether it is necessary to attest that both of conditions referred to in 1) and 2) in Article 11.9.11. are met.</p>
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[...]
