

## GLOSSARY

[...]

### Norwegian comment

Norway thanks WOAAH for its work. We have one comment to the revised glossary as indicated below.

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#### EUTHANASIA

means the killing of an animal ~~act of inducing death~~ **for welfare purposes** using a method that causes a rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress ~~to animal~~.

### Norwegian comment

Norway asks WOAAH to consider modifying the definition of euthanasia as follows:

“means the killing of an animal for welfare purposes using a method that causes an rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress.”

#### Justification

Not all killing methods used for euthanising an animal, cause a rapid loss of consciousness. For example, in chapter 7.6 *Killing of animals for disease control purposes* one of the methods permitted is a mixture of carbon dioxide/air. Article 7.6.12 states under 2(c) disadvantages (iii): “*No immediate loss of consciousness*”. Furthermore, the table in Article 7.6.5 highlights in the column on “*Animal welfare concerns*” that this method has a “*slow induction of unconsciousness*”. This is also supported by scientific evidence, cf. EFSA opinion *Killing for other purposes than slaughter: poultry*, adopted 26 September 2019.

We also refer to the Code Commissions support of the ad hoc group’s<sup>1</sup> reasoning for proposing to delete the words “rapid” or “immediate” in the definition of stunning:

“*The ad hoc Group agreed with the proposal to delete the word “rapid”, as it does not bring any added value to this definition. It agreed with the rationale provided as it is not relevant for all stunning methods and in particular for controlled atmosphere method and also the speed in the loss of consciousness is not of importance if the stunning method is not efficient enough and causes pain and suffering.*”

Also, in the case of the definition of euthanasia there is no added value in retaining “rapid”. For consistency’s sake it should also be deleted.

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<sup>1</sup> December-November 2021

DRAFT CHAPTER 7.5.

**ANIMAL WELFARE DURING SLAUGHTER**

[...]

**Norwegian comments**

**Norway thanks WOAAH for its work. We still have a few comments to this revised chapter as indicated below.**

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Article 7.5.5.

Criteria (or m Measures)

The welfare of animals at *slaughter* should be assessed using ~~outcome~~ animal-based measures. Although consideration should be given to the resources provided as well as the design and management of the system, animal-based criteria measures are preferential. However, key stunning parameters need to should be considered selected taking into account alongside animal-based measures.

**Norwegian comment:**

**We ask WOAAH to consider the following amendment of the final sentence in the paragraph above:**

**“However, key stunning parameters should always be monitored ~~selected taking into account alongside animal-based measures~~”**

**Justification:**

**We do not agree with the changes that have been made. Key stunning parameters should always be monitored and not only in relation to those animal-based measures used. For several stunning methods the key stunning parameters are especially crucial e.g. in cases where animals cannot fully be individually checked, such as animal being stunned in containers with modified atmosphere stunning. They are also crucial in cases where physical reactions are absent, in particular to prevent electro-immobilization during electrical stunning.**

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Article 7.5.16.

General principles for Stunning of free-moving animals and animals in containers

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**3) Recommendations:**

Animals should always be stunned as soon as they are restrained.

**Norwegian comment:**

**We ask WOAAH to consider the following amendment of the above sentence:**

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**“Animals should always be stunned as soon as they are restrained except when multiple animals are placed in the restrainer simultaneously. In such cases, all of the animals shall be stunned as quickly as possible.”**

**Justification:**

**We agree in principle that the stunning should be immediate once the animal is restrained. However, equipment exists today that permits the restraining of 3-6 (or more) animals at once. It is not practically possible to achieve an immediate stun of all these animals. A few minutes may elapse before all the animals in a V belt-restrainer have been stunned.**

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CHAPTER 5.4.

**MEASURES AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE IN THE  
EXPORTATION OF COMMODITIES**

**Norwegian comment**

**As also live animals are exported, we propose to include animal welfare in the scope of this chapter, as indicated below.**

Article 5.4.1.

Purpose and scope

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

**Norwegian comment**

**We ask WOAHA to consider including the following sentence to the paragraph:**

**“In the case of live animals, the chapter also addresses certain animal welfare aspects.”**

**Justification:**

**Live animals are exported, and it is important to take the animals’ welfare requirements into account. Otherwise, animals may arrive in a poor condition and be more susceptible to disease. For this reason, animal welfare should be included in the purpose and scope of this chapter.**

**It is also necessary as the chapter already contains provisions relating to animal welfare and the current scope does not reflect this fact.**

This chapter provides *exporting countries* with recommendations on measures and procedures, roles and responsibilities of the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities*, and business operators, in addition to responsibilities that are described in Article 5.1.3. This chapter provides guidance to ensure the quality and performance of official controls for exportation.

This chapter applies to all *commodities*; some recommendations are specifically addressed to certain of those *commodities*.

Article 5.4.2.

General considerations

The *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* should ensure that *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 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

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meet the requirements of the *importing country*. Its legal mandate, as described in Article 3.4.5. and 3.4.13., should include export control activities at any step and to request from the exporter any necessary information. Where appropriate, the *Veterinary Authority* may delegate certain tasks in accordance with point 2 of Article 3.4.5. Adequate human, technical and financial resources should be available in the *exporting country* to allow those 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 3.2.2.

The *Veterinary Authority* should cooperate closely with customs authority and other authorities of the *exporting country* dealing with exports to ensure that official controls are performed effectively, to protect the status of the *commodities* without creating unjustified barriers to trade. This cooperation should also cover actions to prevent and combat fraud.

The *Veterinary Authority* should have procedures for certification of the *animal health status* of the *country, zone, compartment, or herd* as well as of the disease situation in *establishments* and other premises and communicate with the 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 certified *animal health status* of the *country, zone, compartment, herds or animals*, is based on appropriate *surveillance* and reporting in accordance with Chapter 1.4.

The *Veterinary Authority* 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. During official controls, operators should assist and cooperate with the *Veterinary Authority* and make available all information concerning the consignment.

The *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* should ensure that appropriate identification of *commodities* is in place to support traceability for the consignment to comply with 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 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 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 the appropriate and necessary preventive measures to ensure that the status of the *commodities* is not jeopardised before and during transport. The *exporting country* should suspend the export of a *commodity* when there is reason to believe that it may present a risk for animal and public health or that 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*, any change or situation that may affect its capacity to fulfil the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate*.

The *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* should also inform without delay the *Veterinary Authority* of *importing country*, and where necessary the *transit country*, in the event that a particular issue affects the status of a *commodity* which has already left the *exporting country*.

The *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* should carry out collaborative activities with other *Competent Authorities*, customs, other authorities and operators, and with *Veterinary Authorities* in other countries, to control the risk posed by the illegal cross-border movement of *commodities*, i.e. the international movement of *commodities* done in a way to expressly and intentionally avoid official controls.

#### Article 5.4.3.

General principles applicable to procedures for exportation

##### 1. Preparation for exportation

Exporters should announce the export to the *Veterinary Authority* sufficiently in advance as to meet to conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate* and the administrative requirements of the *exporting, transit and importing countries*.

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Exporters should provide to the *Veterinary Authority* as required details of the consignment. The *Veterinary Authority* should outline to the exporter the procedures, standards and timeframe for preparation of the consignment, and the documentary evidence required to demonstrate compliance with these requirements. Where relevant, the *Veterinary Authority* should identify eligible bodies or officers for performance and certification of procedures specified in the agreed *international veterinary certificate*.

The exporter and the *Veterinary Authority* should coordinate the implementation, and its documentation, of the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate*. Implementation of these conditions and its documentation should be in accordance with the procedures and standards communicated by the *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* and will form the basis upon which the *Official Veterinarian* will issue the *international veterinary certificate* for the consignment.

The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that the facilities and operational procedures required for isolation of animals comply with the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate*, including registration, approval, and inspection, in accordance with Chapters 4.6., 4.7. and 5.7. or other relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Testing of *commodities* required to fulfil the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate* should be in accordance with Article 3.2.10. and with the *Terrestrial Manual*. The *Veterinary Authority* should define and communicate to the exporter the procedures for sample collection, identification and submission, the list of *approved laboratories* and the *approved* diagnostic tests.

The *Veterinary Authority* should define and communicate to the exporter the procedures for *vaccination* and treatment if required to fulfil the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate*. The exporter should arrange for *vaccination* or treatment of animals, noting timeframes relevant to the scheduled date of exportation. *Vaccination* and treatment of animals should use *veterinary medicinal products* registered in the *exporting country*, in line with the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate*.

The *Veterinary Authority* should define and communicate to the exporter the standards and procedures for *disinfection* and disinsection of *vehicles/vessels* and *containers* in accordance with Chapter 4.14., if required to fulfil the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate*.

The exporter should also be able to provide to the *Veterinary Authority* a transport plan from the *point of exit* in the *exporting country* to the point of *unloading* in the *importing country*. In the case of animals, it should be in accordance with Chapters 7.2., 7.3. or 7.4. as relevant.

## 2. Procedures of exportation

### a) Verification and certification

The exporter should cooperate with the *Veterinary Authority* to demonstrate that the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate* have been met and that the consignment is eligible for certification and export. The exporter should provide all documentary evidence of compliance with the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate* as required by the *Veterinary Authority*, including import permit where appropriate. There should be clear traceability and linkage, at every stage of preparation of animals and *animal product*, to the final consignment presented for export, as relevant to fulfil the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate*.

The *Official Veterinarian* should review the preparation of the export consignment to confirm that animals and *animal products* have been clearly identified at every stage of their preparation, that the consignment complies with the conditions of the agreed *international veterinary certificate* and is in accordance with Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The *Official Veterinarian* should also review all transport arrangements for the consignment to ensure they support maintenance of the *commodity's* status and *animal welfare*.

Once satisfied that preparation and transport arrangements are appropriate and that the consignment is eligible for certification and export, the *Official Veterinarian* should issue the *international veterinary certificate*.

### b) Domestic transportation of commodities

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The *Veterinary Authority* should collaborate with other relevant authorities and stakeholders to ensure that management of the consignment pre-export and during transport is consistent with agreed processes and standards.

The exporter should ensure that the assembly, *loading* and crating of animals or other *commodities* is appropriate to preserving the status and *animal welfare* of the consignment from the *place of shipment*, including adequate *disinfection* and disinsection of the *vehicle/vessel* and *container*.

The *Veterinary Authority* in the *exporting country* may require health and welfare inspection of consignments of animals at the *point of exit*, which includes the possibility to deny permission to export if concerns are identified.

#### 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 exporter should ensure that *vehicles/vessels* used for transportation of animals throughout the whole 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* should contain only animals of the same status.

*Containers* should be either new or cleaned 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 agreed *international veterinary certificate* and the requirements of the *exporting country*. It should be ensured that, from the time of this visual inspection until the time of leaving the *exporting country*, the animals in the consignment are not in contact with other animals of a different 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* concerns are identified.

##### 2. Germinal products

Consignments of *germinal products* should be packed, dispatched, and transported in a way that preserves the viability 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, 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, 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, embryos be sealed and marked, according to the agreed *international veterinary certificate* and the requirements of the *exporting country*.

##### 3. Animal products

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*Containers* used for transporting *animal products* should be suitable for the type of product, protect the *animal products* from contamination, and fulfil the conditions of 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 subjected to a visual examination and documentary check, according to the agreed *international veterinary certificate* and the requirements of the *exporting country*.

#### Article 5.4.5.

##### Emergency plan

The *Veterinary Authority* should develop a plan to address the occurrence within the *exporting country* after the *commodities* have been exported, of a *listed disease* or a disease referred to in the *importing country* requirements, which may have impacted the status of the exported *commodities*. The *Veterinary Authority* should be guided by *importing country* requirements in implementing the plan.

The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that the exporter develops a plan to address emergencies which may impact the status of the *commodities* being exported, failure of transport arrangements, or rejection of the consignment by the *transit or importing country*. The emergency plan may be generic or specific to each consignment and should focus on preserving the status of the consignment and *animal welfare* in accordance with Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4.

The emergency plan should identify responsibility for development and communication of alternative transport arrangements when necessary. The relevant *Competent Authority* in the *transit and importing countries* should be consulted regarding revised transport arrangements to assess the implications for the status of the *commodities*. The *Veterinary Authority* in the *exporting country* should be consulted on alternative transport arrangements for consignments of *animals* to ensure that *animal welfare* is preserved.

The emergency plan should include procedures for managing exported consignments that fail to reach the designated *transit or importing countries* or are rejected by them.

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## CHAPTER 5.6.

MEASURES AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE IN THE  
IMPORTATION OF COMMODITIES**Norwegian comments**

**As also lives animals are imported, we propose to include animal welfare in the scope of this chapter. We also have other comments as indicated below.**

## Article 5.6.1.

## Purpose and scope

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

**Norwegian comment**

**We ask WOAH to consider including the following sentence in the above paragraph:**

**“In the case of imports of live animals, this chapter also addresses specific animal welfare requirements.”**

**Justification:**

**Live animals are imported to countries, and it is important to take the animals’ welfare requirements into account. Otherwise, animals may arrive in a poor condition and be more susceptible to disease. For this reason, animal welfare should be included in the purpose and scope of this chapter.**

**It is also necessary as the chapter already contains a few provisions relating to animal welfare and the current scope does not reflect this fact.**

This chapter provides *importing countries* with recommendations on measures and procedures, roles and responsibilities of the *Veterinary Authority* and other *Competent Authorities*, and business operators, in addition to responsibilities that are described in Article 5.1.2. This chapter provides guidance to ensure the quality and performance of official controls for importation.

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 5.6.2.

## General considerations

The *Veterinary Authority* of the *importing country* should ensure that *importing country* requirements, including *international veterinary certificates*, and up-to-date information relevant to the import procedures, including a list of the *border inspection posts* designated for the import and transit of those *commodities* are made available.

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The *Veterinary Authority* of the *importing country* should be responsible for the performance of official controls in accordance with *veterinary legislation* to ensure that imported *commodities* can be safely imported. Its legal mandate, as described in Articles 3.4.5. and 3.4.13., should include import control activities at any step and to request from the importer any necessary information. Where appropriate, the *Veterinary Authority* may delegate certain tasks in accordance with point 2 of Article 3.4.5. Adequate human, technical and financial resources should be available in the *importing country* to perform official inspection in accordance with the quality principles described in Article 3.2.2.

An *importing country* may require adequate advance notice or approval regarding the date of entry into its territory of *commodities*, stating the type of *commodity*, species, quantity, means of transport and the *border inspection post* to be used.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* when relevant, should perform official inspection in accordance with Article 3.2.12. regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency to ensure compliance with the *importing country* requirements. By way of derogation, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* may exempt from the inspection, *safe commodities* or *commodities* posing a negligible risk and for which inspection is not considered necessary.

*Biosecurity* should be applied to prevent transmission of pathogenic agents from *commodities* throughout the import process.

An *importing country* may prohibit the introduction into its territory of *commodities* not complying with the *importing country* requirements.

Importers should be aware of the *importing country* requirements and import procedure before the importation and announce, in advance, to the *Competent Authorities* the arrival of consignments at the *border inspection post*, in accordance with *importing country* requirements. Importers should ensure that *commodities* are presented for official inspection at the *border inspection post*, together with the original official certificates or documents, or digital equivalents, which are required to accompany the consignments.

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

The *Veterinary Authority* of the *importing country* should carry out collaborative activities with other *Competent Authorities*, customs, other authorities and operators, and with *Veterinary Authorities* in other countries, to control the risk posed by the illegal cross-border movement of *commodities*, i.e. international movement of *commodities* done in a way to expressly and intentionally avoid official controls.

#### Article 5.6.3.

General principles applicable to procedures for import control

*Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should take control of the imported *commodities* to decide whether or not the consignment complies with the *importing country* requirements.

#### Norwegian comment

**We ask WOAH to consider adding the following sentence:**

**“Live animal consignments should have priority and controls should be performed without unnecessary delay and in accordance with Articles 7.2.3 and 7.3.3.”**

#### **Justification:**

**It is of major importance to keep animal welfare aspects in mind at border controls. Measures and resources should be in place to avoid unnecessary waiting times.**

Import control should be performed at an appropriate place which might include a *border inspection post*, a point of entry, quarantine centre, the place of destination, or premises of the operator responsible for the consignment. The consignment should remain under the control of the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* until formal clearance.

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1. In case of emergency, ships and aircrafts may be granted access to a port or airport which are not their intended destination. In those cases, they should be subjected to the animal health and welfare measures which the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* may consider necessary. Official inspection

Where official inspections of *commodities* are performed, they should always include a documentary check and, depending on the risk to human and animal health and *animal welfare*, should also include identity checks and physical checks. When the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* needs to have full access to the consignment for the purpose of identity checks or physical inspection, consignments should be partially or fully unloaded from the means of transport.

a) Documentary check

A documentary check should be performed on all consignments presented for official inspection to ensure that they meet the *importing country* requirements.

Documentary check should include examination of the *international veterinary certificate*, and possibly of laboratory reports or other documents, including those of a commercial nature, which are required to accompany the consignment.

When performing documentary check, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should inspect the required documents, in original or their digital equivalents as agreed between the *importing* and *exporting country*, to ensure that:

- i) the *international veterinary certificate* has been issued by the *Official Veterinarian* of the *exporting country*; complies with relevant principles set out in Article 5.2.3. and corresponds to the model established by the *importing country* for that *commodity* and intended use, based on Chapters 5.10. to 5.13.; and
- ii) the information contained in the checked documents complies with the *importing country* requirements.

b) Identity check

Identity check should be performed upon arrival of consignment at the point of inspection, as a visual inspection to verify that the content and the labelling of a consignment, including the identification of *commodities*, seals and means of transport, correspond to the information declared in the *international veterinary certificate* and accompanying documents.

The frequency of checks, the quantity of *commodities* to be inspected as well as the criteria for sampling should be determined by the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* based on *risk assessment*.

c) Physical inspection

Physical inspection should include clinical examination of an animal for evidence of transmissible diseases and *animal welfare* issues and physical checks of *animal products* and *germinal products* and, as appropriate, checks on packaging, the means of transport, labelling and temperature records, the sampling for analysis, testing or diagnosis and any other check required by the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* to verify compliance with the *importing country* requirements.

The frequency of inspection, the quantity of *commodities* to be inspected as well as the criteria for sampling should be determined by the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* based on *risk assessment*.

i) Animals

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should determine the number of animals to be clinically examined in accordance with the overall number of animals in the consignment and the declared purpose of animals, which may be increased if the physical checks carried out have not been satisfactory.

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For animals that are not required to be identified individually and animals considered to be dangerous, clinical examination should consist of observation of the state of health and behaviour of the entire group or of a representative number of animals.

If the clinical examination reveals an anomaly, a more thorough clinical examination may be carried out, including sampling and testing, where appropriate.

ii) Germinal products

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should carry out physical checks of the consignment to verify the compliance of the transport conditions with *importing country* requirements, including temperature records when relevant and the integrity of the packaging material and cryogenic tanks.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should determine the number of items to be checked, which may be increased if the checks carried out have not been satisfactory.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* may carry out physical checks to verify that the labelling complies with *importing country* requirements.

Physical inspection may include laboratory testing of the *germinal products*.

If the physical checks reveal an anomaly, a more thorough inspection may be carried out.

iii) Animal products

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should carry out physical checks of the consignment to verify the compliance of the transport conditions with *importing country* requirements, including temperature records when relevant and the integrity of the packaging material.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* may carry out physical checks to verify that the labelling complies with *importing country* requirements.

Physical inspection may include sensory examination and laboratory testing of the *animal products*.

If the physical checks reveal an anomaly, a more thorough inspection may be carried out.

2. Sampling and testing

Sampling and testing of imported *commodities* with a view to checking compliance with the health requirements laid down in the *international veterinary certificate*, may be performed following a risk-based sampling plan or upon suspicion of non-compliance resulting from the documentary, identity or physical checks of *commodities*. Testing should be performed in an *approved laboratory*.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* may develop a risk-based sampling plan for imported consignments, that should specify the percentage of consignments to be sampled, taking into account the species concerned, the nature and declared purpose of the *commodities*, the number of incoming consignments and the results of previous sampling.

Where no immediate danger to animal health or public health is suspected from *commodities* sampled in accordance with a sampling plan, a consignment may be released before the results of laboratory tests are available.

3. Sanitary measures at import

To meet the *importing country* requirements, in addition to the *sanitary measures* implemented in the *exporting countries*, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of *importing country* may require *sanitary measures* to be implemented at importation before release of the *commodities*. Measures may include *disinfection* and disinsection of *vehicles/vessels* and *containers* used in the transportation and unloading of *commodities*, in accordance with Chapter 4.14.

In the case of animals, measures may include *vaccination*, treatment or isolation. In the case of other *commodities*, measures may include a holding period or the application of physical or chemical treatment.

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#### 4. Release of consignments

Based on the performed import control, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities of importing countries* should decide whether the consignment complies with the *importing country* requirements.

When the decision is made that the consignment complies with the *importing country* requirements, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should notify the importer and the information should be made available to the customs authorities.

Article 5.6.4.

#### Further action for non-compliant commodities

*Commodities* identified as non-compliant based on the performed import controls should not be released by the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* and should be isolated under appropriate conditions pending further decision by the *Competent Authority*.

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

- a) re-dispatching the *commodity* back to the *exporting country* or another country, with the agreement 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.

#### **Norwegian comment**

**We ask WOAH to consider adding the following sentence:**

**Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey should be in accordance with Articles 7.2.11 and 7.3.11.**

#### **Justification:**

**Animal welfare at borders, especially in the event of a refusal, needs to be ensured by the importing country in a manner consistent with Chapters 7.2. and 7.3 (specifically their Articles 7.2.11 and 7.3.11).**

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should notify any decision to refuse entry of a *commodity* to the customs authorities and are encouraged to communicate it to the *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country*.

Following decisions taken in relation to non-compliant *commodities*, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *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.

Article 5.6.5.

#### Emergency plan

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should develop a plan to address the occurrence, within the *exporting country* after the *commodities* have been exported or within the *transit country* after the

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*commodities* have transited, of a *listed disease* or a disease referred to in the *importing country* requirements which may have impacted the status of the exported *commodities*. The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* may also develop a plan to address the occurrence of a *listed disease*, or a disease referred to in the *importing country* requirements, within the *importing country* before the animals have been released.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should ensure that the importer develops a plan to address emergencies which may impact the status of the *commodities* being imported, and non-compliant *commodities* described in Article 5.6.4. The emergency plan may be generic, or specific to each consignment, and should focus on preventing the introduction to the *importing country* of a *listed disease* or a disease referred to in the *importing country* requirements, and *animal welfare* in accordance with Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. The emergency plan should identify responsibility and include procedures for actions taken for non-compliant commodities described in Article 5.6.4.

#### Article 5.6.6.

General recommendations applicable to vehicles/vessels and containers that transported infected animals

*Vehicles/vessels* and *containers* that transported *animals* found to be infected with a pathogenic agent of a *listed disease* or a disease referred to in the *importing country* requirements should be considered as contaminated, and the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should apply the following measures:

- a) treatment of the litter, forage and any other potentially contaminated material, by its removal from the *vehicle/vessels* and *containers* for immediate transportation to an establishment assigned in advance, where the animal health measures required by the *importing country* should be strictly applied;
- b) *disinfection* of all parts of the *vehicles/vessels* and *containers* which were used in the transport, feeding, watering, moving and *unloading* of the *animals*, as well as all baggage of travelling attendants, in accordance with Chapter 4.14.;
- c) *disinsection of vehicles/vessels* and *containers* in case of *vector* disease.

#### Article 5.6.7.

General principles applicable to disposal of international catering waste

International catering waste is a high-risk category of product and should therefore be subject to strict controls to minimise the risk of introduction of pathogenic agents.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should ensure that all international catering waste entering the country from the international means of transport is handled, collected and disposed of in a way to minimise the risk of introduction of pathogenic agents.

#### Article 5.6.8.

General recommendations on measures to address identified illegal movement of commodities at border inspection post

To control the *risks* posed by illegal cross-border movement at *border inspection posts*, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should coordinate and cooperate closely with the customs authority to ensure that the official inspection of *commodities* entering the country is performed in accordance with the rules of this chapter and national legislation.

For that purpose, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should ensure the timely exchange with the customs authority, including via electronic means, of information and decisions made relevant to the organisation and conduct of their respective activities for *commodities* entering the country. The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should collaborate with the customs authority to ensure immediate notification to the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* of circumstances where a declaration is submitted to the customs authority for a consignment of the categories of *commodities* subject to official inspection but with no evidence of an official inspection having been conducted.

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The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities*, in collaboration with custom authorities, should have practical arrangements in place to ensure the implementation of the measures described in Article 5.6.4. in case of detection of illegal cross-border movement of *commodities* at a *border inspection post*.

Article 5.6.9.

General recommendations on measures to address identified illegal movement of commodities outside border inspection posts

To control the *risks* posed by the illegal cross-border movement of *commodities* outside of *border inspection posts*, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* should:

- 1) coordinate with border authorities (police, customs, transport, immigration) to provide technical support for identification of illegal cross border movement of *commodities*;
  - 2) develop practical mechanisms to address illegal cross border movement of *commodities* and implementation thereof in close collaboration with border authorities.
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## CHAPTER 7.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
ANIMAL WELFARE**Norwegian comment**

**Norway thanks WOAAH for its work in updating this chapter in line with recent scientific developments. We have a comment to this revised chapter as indicated below.**

Article 7.1.1.

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An *animal* experiences good welfare if the *animal* is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, is not suffering severely or for a long time from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress, and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state.

**Norwegian comment**

**We ask that WOAAH considers maintaining the sentence as it was before:**

**“An animal experiences good welfare if the animal is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, is not suffering ~~severely or for a long time~~ from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress, and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state.”**

**Justification:**

**According to Chapter 7.8 article 7.8.1. suffering is defined as follows: “*Suffering means an unpleasant, undesired state of being that is the outcome of the impact on an animal of a variety of noxious stimuli and/or the absence of important positive stimuli. It is the opposite of good welfare.*” While the proposed change seems to indicate that moderate suffering is acceptable. This is not in our view in line with the definition cited. Also, the inclusion of the words “severely or for a long time, would require WOAAH to define what is considered long time or severe. Would one hour be acceptable or is it only minutes? We understand that it is not feasible to protect animals from every adverse effect, but we believe that the previous wording was clearer and more straight forward. Suffering in itself is not desired and does not need to be quantified in terms of severity and duration in the context of a good welfare experience. The proposed alteration risks to weaken the current text. We should avoid limiting the good welfare experience only to the lack of severe and long terms suffering.**

**This sentence also needs to be seen in conjunction with the sentence that has been added below: “*Good animal welfare is not only about avoiding negative experiences to animals, but also providing them with positive experiences.*” If moderate suffering is acceptable, we do not believe it is possible to provide animals with positive experiences.**

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