OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Regulatory framework for international trade
OIE standards and guidelines on compartmentalisation
Practical experience with the application of compartmentalisation in animal trade
Conclusions
REGULATORY TRADE FRAMEWORK

The OIE standards for animal health and zoonoses, and animal production food safety, serve as references for WTO Members in under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

International standard setting organizations
The « Three Sisters »
The SPS Agreement contains a series of principles that help to facilitate international trade in the context of the protection of human, animal and plant life and health:

e.g. harmonisation, risk analysis, regionalisation, equivalence.

Compartmentalisation and zoning — based on the use of health measures (biosecurity) to establish a disease free population — conform with SPS principles. Their use helps to facilitate safe trade and to avoid unjustified trade barriers.
In 2004, faced with growing concern about the spread of H5N1 avian influenza, the OIE started to develop the concept of compartmentalisation as a measure that could be used for:

- Disease prevention and control
- To facilitate the exportation of animal products from countries that could not eradicate diseases from the national territory in the short term.

The concept is equally applicable to terrestrial and aquatic animals and has been progressed in parallel by the OIE.
The entry of wild birds potentially carrying AI viruses is a constant threat and the achievement of national freedom from notifiable AI in accordance with OIE standards is a challenge.

Declaration of freedom from notifiable AI in a poultry compartment is a more feasible (but not easy) option for safe export of poultry products.

> still requires epidemiological surveillance at national and compartmental level, in accordance with OIE recommendations.
DEFINITION OF COMPARTMENT

‘means an animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.’ [terrestrial animals]

‘means one or more aquaculture establishments under a common biosecurity management system containing an aquatic animal population with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or diseases for which required surveillance and control measures are applied and basic biosecurity conditions are met for the purpose of international trade. Such compartments must be clearly documented by the Competent Authority(ies).’ [aquatic animals]
Zoning is a related procedure – in both cases the aim is to define a disease free sub-population. A compartment is defined mainly by management and husbandry methods providing biosecurity while a zone is defined mainly in terms of geographical and physical factors. > but in practice multiple aspects usually come into play in the definition of compartments and zones.
The primary standards are in the Terrestrial Code and the **Aquatic Code**: 
Ch. 4.3 / 4.1 (Zoning and Compartmentalisation)  
Ch. 4.4 / 4.2 (Application of compartmentalisation) 

The role of the private sector and of the Competent Authority are specified 
> importance of the Public-Private partnership. 

The definition of a disease free sub-population is consistent with SPS principles: e.g. risk analysis, harmonisation with international standards, regionalisation and equivalence.
The following general chapters are relevant:

Ch. 1.4 Aquatic Animal health surveillance
Ch. 3.1 and 3.2 Quality and evaluation of VS
Ch. 3.1 Quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services
Ch. 4.1 and 4.2 Animal identification and traceability.

Guidelines and Checklists (Terrestrial animals)

General principles (2012).
Specific chapters recommend methods for disease control and establishment of free country/zone/compartment. The Manuals recommend methods for disease diagnosis. These recommendations must be implemented to satisfy the OIE and trading partners regarding the claimed disease free status of animals in a compartment.
RECOGNITION OF COMPARTMENTS (1)

Based on agreement between the Veterinary Authorities or Competent Authorities, in the case of aquatic animals, of trading partners.

May establish conditions specifically providing for the continuation of trade following a change in the health status of the exporting country (or zone) in which the compartment is located.

Importing countries should establish a legal framework authorising the VA / CA to apply and to recognise compartmentalisation for the purposes of international trade.
RECOGNITION OF COMPARTMENTS (2)

In addition to the credibility of the VS (or other CA for aquatic animals) the credibility of a compartment depends on the effective implementation of a Public-Private Partnership. The operation of the compartment should be documented; including as a basis for consultation with trading partners and with the OIE. Documentation should cover SOPs, quality control, role and responsibility of industry and government authority, surveillance for infection, and contingency planning, as a minimum.
**COMPARTMENTALISATION IN THE OIE CODES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease of terrestrial animals</th>
<th>Compartmentalisation?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pigs: CSF and ASF</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry: Newcastle disease, AI</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses: Equine influenza</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruminants: FMD, BSE, CBPP, EBL, TB</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and goats: Scrapie, peste des petits ruminants</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer: TB</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compartmentalisation is included in all the disease specific chapters in the Aquatic Code.
# Experience with Compartments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Disease &amp; production system</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>ASF; swine meat &amp; genetic</td>
<td>2000; No longer exporting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>AI &amp; ND; broiler chicken, ducks</td>
<td>2008; recognition under discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>AI &amp; ND; poultry genetic</td>
<td>May 2012; recognised and exporting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>2012; FMD, CSF, ASF, AD; swine meat &amp; genetic</td>
<td>Approved 2012; Plant closed mid 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>9 diseases: P. Vannamei shrimp</td>
<td>Feb 2013; recognised and exporting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>HPND; poultry genetic</td>
<td>March 2013; recognised and exporting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>FMD; bone-in lamb production (FMD free country)</td>
<td>May 2014; recognition under discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>AI &amp; ND; broiler chickens</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>AI &amp; ND; poultry genetic</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>ISA; farmed salmon</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMPARTMENTS AND TRADE (1)

Legal base and transparency

Difficulties arise when there are legal impediments to the use of compartmentalisation (and zoning) at national level – and can frustrate the recognition of the compartments of trading partners’ for the purposes of trade.

The VS and Competent Authorities for aquatic animals (if other than VS) are responsible to establish legal authority and technical procedures for the implementation and official recognition of compartments.
Public-private partnership

The public sector is mainly responsible for the costs associated with zoning but the private sector is mainly responsible for the costs associated with compartmentalisation (and these may be considerable).

Cost and complexity of compartmentalisation, together with the uncertainty of achieving international recognition of a compartment, can act as a disincentive to the use of this concept.
Public-private partnership (contd.)

This type of investment is more feasible for businesses that have already made a serious investment in biosecurity, such as producers of high quality genetic material, and for industries that operate vertically integrated systems (where biosecurity is usually recognised implemented to safeguard elements of the overall system).
Public-private partnership contd.

To assure effective participation by the private sector in the implementation of compartments, the VS / CA should establish the legal authority to accredit private veterinarians, other professionals and diagnostic laboratories, consistent with OIE standards and recommendations.
OIE official recognition

The OIE grants official recognition of countries and zones for some terrestrial animal diseases. There is no mechanism for OIE recognition of country or zone freedom for diseases of aquatic animals. There is no mechanism for official recognition of compartments for terrestrial or animal diseases.
Self declaration of the disease free status of a country, zone or compartment

Does not apply to diseases (of terrestrial animals) for which the OIE grants official recognition.

The OIE may publish self-declarations on the internet page and/or in The Bulletin.

• To date, few aquatic animal examples.
Relevance of the PVS Pathway

The VA and CA for aquatic animals (if other than the VA) should take steps to strengthen compliance with the OIE standards on quality in the Codes by engaging in the PVS Pathway. Relevant Critical Competencies include:

- III-4 accreditation/authorisation/delegation;
- III-6 participation of industries and interested parties in joint programmes;
- IV-8 Compartmentsalisation.
In both Codes, Article 5.3.7 covers the ‘Sequence of steps to be taken in establishing a zone or compartment and having it recognised for international trade purposes.’

This can be supported by requesting that the OIE provide information on a Self declaration of disease freedom.
CONCLUSIONS (1)

The VA / CA can use compartmentalisation to facilitate the control and eradication of diseases and to establish or protect export markets for animal products.

Disease epidemiology is a key factor in deciding the circumstances where compartmentalisation is relevant / recommended.

It can be helpful in establishing a disease free domestic animal sub-population when dealing with diseases that have a reservoir in wild and feral animals (often the case for aquatic animals).
CONCLUSIONS (2)

The recognition of a compartment, as with all claims of disease freedom, depends on the credibility of the VS and / or Competent Authority for aquatic animals. In addition, compartmentalisation particularly depends on the effective implementation of a Public-private partnership.

In many countries the VS and/or CA for aquatic animal health need to be strengthened, especially in aspects relating to transparency and good governance.
CONCLUSIONS (3)

A decision to use compartmentalisation is primarily a decision of the private sector (in collaboration with the VA/CA).

It gives the private sector the opportunity to protect its investment (e.g. high quality genetic material, export markets) by safeguarding the disease free status of a defined animal sub-population – particularly relevant when the disease free status of a country cannot be guaranteed e.g. due to wildlife reservoir of infection.
CONCLUSIONS (4)

Documentation of the operation of a compartment serves as a basis for consultation:
• between a country and its trading partners;
• between a country and the OIE.

This consultation should preferably take place before an outbreak of the disease of interest.

Countries are encouraged to put information on their compartmentalisation programmes, including the legal base and technical requirements, in the public domain.
CONCLUSIONS (5)

The use of compartmentalisation should be promoted by the OIE and Member countries, especially for diseases that have wildlife reservoirs and for aquatic animals.

Engagement in the PVS Pathway supports the negotiation of export markets, based on country or zone freedom or compartmentalisation, consistent with the principles of the SPS Agreement and the OIE standards and technical guidelines.
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale
World Organisation for Animal Health
Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

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