

CHAPTER 4.3.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Article 4.3.1.

A number of *diseases* are regarded as posing a potential threat to *aquaculture* as well as to wild stocks of *aquatic animals* world-wide. The introduction of such *diseases* into countries recognised to be free from these *diseases* or into countries with an established control system and eradication programme for such *diseases*, may result in significant losses. In order to diminish such losses, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authorities* responsible for *aquatic animal* health may need to act quickly and should develop *contingency plan(s)* before such events occur.

Article 4.3.2.

Legal powers

Countries must establish the necessary legal provisions that are needed for the implementation of *contingency plan(s)*. Such legal powers must include provisions for establishing a list of *diseases* for which action is needed, definitions of how such *diseases* should be managed if detected, provisions for access to infected/suspected sites, and other legal provisions, as needed.

Article 4.3.3.

Crises centre(s)

Countries must establish specified crises centre(s) (*disease control centre[s]*) that shall have the responsibility for the co-ordination of all control measures to be carried out. Such centres could either be located centrally or locally, depending on the infrastructure in a given country. A list of the crises centre(s) that has(have) the necessary facilities to carry out *disease control* measures should be made widely available.

The *contingency plan(s)* should also state that the crises centre(s) has(have) the authority to act rapidly to bring a given *disease* situation under control by contacting the personnel, organisations, *aquaculture establishments*, etc., that are involved directly or indirectly in managing an *outbreak* of a *disease*.

Article 4.3.4.

Personnel

The *contingency plan(s)* should provide information on the staff required to undertake the control measures, their responsibilities, and instructions on the chain of command.

Article 4.3.5.

Instructions

Countries establishing *contingency plan(s)* should provide a detailed set of instructions on actions to be taken when a specified *aquatic animal disease* is suspected or confirmed. These could include:

1. diagnostic procedures in national reference laboratories;
2. confirmation of *diagnosis*, if necessary, at an OIE Reference Laboratory;
3. standing instructions to *aquatic animal* health personnel in the field;
4. instructions for handling/disposal of dead *aquatic animals* at an *aquaculture establishment*;
5. instructions for sanitary slaughtering;
6. instructions for *disease* control at the local level;
7. instructions for the establishment of *quarantine* areas and observation (*surveillance*) zones;
8. provisions for controlling movements of *aquatic animals* in established zones;
9. *disinfection* procedures;
10. *fallowing* procedures;
11. *surveillance* methods for establishing successful eradication;
12. re-stocking procedures;
13. compensation issues;
14. reporting procedures;
15. provisions for raising public awareness of *aquatic animal disease*.

Article 4.3.6.

Diagnostic laboratories

Countries establishing *contingency plan(s)* should establish national reference laboratories having the necessary facilities for diagnostic work on *aquatic animal diseases* that can be carried out rapidly. The national laboratory(ies) must also have established a set of instructions as regards rapid transportation of samples, and established protocols for quality assurance and diagnostic procedures to be used.

Article 4.3.7.

Training programmes

Countries establishing *contingency plan(s)* must establish necessary training programmes to ensure that skills in field, administrative and diagnostic procedures are maintained. Announced and unannounced field exercises for administrators and *aquatic animal* personnel should be carried out to maintain the state of readiness.
