

CHAPTER 5.5.

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH MEASURES APPLICABLE BEFORE AND AT DEPARTURE

Article 5.5.1.

1. Each country should only authorise the exportation from its *territory* of live *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* that are correctly identified, and inspected according to the procedures outlined in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.
2. In certain cases, the above-mentioned *aquatic animals* could, according to the wish of the *importing country*, be subjected to certain biological tests or to prophylactic parasitological procedures within limits of a defined period of time before their departure.
3. Observation of the above-mentioned *aquatic animals* before leaving the country may be carried out in the establishment where they were reared or at the *frontier post*. When they have been found to be clinically healthy and free from *diseases listed by the OIE* or any other specified infectious *disease* by a member of the *personnel of the Competent Authority* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* during the period of observation, the *aquatic animals* should be transported to the place of shipment in specially constructed *containers*, previously cleansed and disinfected, without delay and without coming into contact with other susceptible *aquatic animals*, unless these *aquatic animals* have health guarantees similar to those of the transported *aquatic animals*.
4. The *transportation* of *aquatic animals* for breeding or rearing or slaughter shall be carried out directly from the establishment of origin to the place of shipment or to the processing establishment in conformity with the conditions agreed between the *importing* and *exporting countries*.

Article 5.5.2.

Each country should only undertake the exportation of live *aquatic animals* or *eggs* or *gametes* destined for a country or *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* officially declared free from one or more of the *diseases listed by the OIE*, when the *exporting country* or *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* of origin is itself officially declared free of the same *disease(s)*. If the live *aquatic animals* originate in an infected *aquaculture establishment* or *infected zone*, with respect to the *disease(s)* in question, the *exporting country* should not export the *aquatic animals* if they have been exposed to *infection* by direct or indirect contact of a kind likely to cause transmission of the *disease agent(s)*, without the prior agreement of the *importing country*.

Article 5.5.3.

Each country exporting *aquatic animals* at any stage of development or *aquatic animal products* should inform the country of destination and when necessary the *transit countries* if, after exportation, *diagnosis* of a *disease listed by the OIE* occurs in the establishment of origin, or in *aquatic animals* that were in the *aquaculture establishment* or natural water body at the same time as the exported animals, within a period of time that indicates that the exported consignment may have been infected.

Article 5.5.4.

Before the departure of the *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products*, a member of the *personnel of the Competent Authority* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* should provide an *international aquatic animal health certificate* conforming with the models approved by the OIE (as shown in Chapter 5.10. of the *Aquatic Code*) and worded in the languages agreed upon between the *exporting country* and the *importing country* and, when necessary, with the *transit countries*.

Article 5.5.5.

1. Before the departure of a consignment of *aquatic animals* on an international journey, the *Competent Authority* of the port, airport or district in which the *frontier post* is situated may, if it is considered necessary, have a health examination carried out on the consignment. The time and place of the examination shall be fixed taking into account customs and other formalities and in such a way as not to impede or unreasonably delay departure.
2. The *Competent Authority* referred to in point 1 above shall take necessary measures to:
 - a) prevent the shipment of *aquatic animals* showing clinical signs of any *disease listed by the OIE*;
 - b) avoid entry into the *container* of possible vectors or *disease agents*.