



HEALTH STANDARDS: COMMODITY BASED APPROACH

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Globally there is an increasing production and trade in aquatic animal products. The volume of trade in aquatic animal products is significantly greater compared to trade of live aquatic animals. The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Products Derived from Aquatic Animals (AHG) developed criteria for the assessment of products eligible for inclusion in the two categories of products in the disease specific chapters of the OIE *OIE OIE Aquatic Code*: i) products that can be traded irrespective of country disease status and ii) products for retail trade for human consumption.

The criteria for assessing the safety of aquatic animal products, irrespective of country disease status, are based on the absence of the disease agent in the traded commodity or inactivation of the disease agent by processing. The second set of criteria developed to assess the safety of aquatic animal products for retail trade destined for human consumption are based on the expected volume of waste and absence of the pathogen in the waste tissue. The two sets of criteria include a number of assumptions that are assumed to be fulfilled prior to assessing products.

After the criteria were adopted by the World Assembly, the AHG performed assessments for products known to be traded internationally.

Although, the OIE definition for 'commodities' includes live animals of all life forms, assessments focused on non-viable products derived from aquatic animals: for human consumption, for aquatic animal feed and for other purposes (e.g. leather produced from fish skin). Assessments were performed based on available scientific information. Although the OIE defines trade in these defined products as 'safe', per se, there is still a need to address compliance with the OIE quality standards for aquatic animal health services, as set out in relevant provisions of the OIE *OIE Aquatic Code* including through the application of the OIE PVS Pathway for Good Governance.

Keywords: OIE *OIE Aquatic Code* – commodity – risk assessment – international trade