***AD HOC* GROUP ON EMERGENCY DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND DISEASE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT**

**Paris, November 2021**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this *ad hoc* Group on Emergency disease preparedness and Disease outbreak management is to develop two new draft chapters for inclusion in Section 4 of the *Aquatic Code*.

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (the Aquatic Animals Commission) requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this work, which was approved by the OIE Director General.

**Background**

Section 4 Disease prevention and control, of the *Aquatic Code* is being progressively revised by the Aquatic Animals Commission. The latest amendment was the inclusion of a new Chapter 4.1. Biosecurity for aquaculture establishments, adopted in May 2021. The Commission agreed that the next priority was to develop new chapters on emergency disease preparedness and disease outbreak management, respectively.

The Commission had developed the draft article structure for these two chapters which was circulated for Member comments in the Commission’s [February 2021 report Part B](https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/05/a-aac-feb-2021-part-b-3.pdf). The Commission considered comments received and finalised the draft structure for both chapters.

**Actions to deliver**

1. The *ad hoc* Group should develop a new draft Chapter 4.X. Emergency disease preparedness, and a new draft Chapter 4.Y. Disease outbreak management. The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group commence work on Chapter 4.X. first, but also take into consideration the proposed structure for Chapter 4.Y.

2. The two new chapters should describe the key components required when planning for a disease response and outbreak management in the different types of aquaculture systems described in [Chapter 4.1. Biosecurity for aquculture establishments](https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/aquatic-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_biosecu_estab_aqua.htm): open, semi-open, semi-closed and closed systems.

3. Chapter 4.X. Emergency disease preparedness, should:

a. provide general principles for emergency disease preparedness;

b. address the difficulties associated with planning for outbreaks of aquatic animal diseases; and

c. describe how risk analysis is integrated in planning and can be used to support the development of contingency plans.

4. Chapter 4.Y. Diseases outbreak management, should:

a. provide general principals for managing disease outbreaks;

b. provide a focus on risk communication; and

c. address the difficulties associated with responding to outbreaks of aquatic animal diseases.

5. The draft chapters should be relevant for all OIE Members regardless of the geographic diversity of aquatic animal disease and species worldwide.

**Considerations**

When developing these two new chapters, the *ad hoc* Group should consider:

1. existing chapters in Section 4 of the *Aquatic Code* to ensure complementarity with the new chapters.

Note: Chapter 4.6. Contingency planning, will be deleted once these new chapters are adopted. Therefore, the new chapters should include any relevant text from these chapters. Cross references to existing chapters should be used to avoid duplication of texts in the *Aquatic Code*. Chapter 4.7. Fallowing in aquaculture, will be reviewed for deletion upon completion of the chapters.

2. the following chapters:

- Chapter 1.4. Aquatic Animal Disease Surveillance (*Aquatic Code*)

- Chapter 4.19. Official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases (*Terrestrial Code*)

3. the structure and content of the *Aquatic Code,* and the use of Glossary definitions;

4. any additional or relevant material provided by the Aquatic Animals Commission’s Secretariat in preparation of the meeting.

**Expectations**

*Ad hoc* Group members should:

* sign off the OIE Undertaking on Confidentiality of information before the meeting;
* complete the OIE Declaration of Interest Form before the meeting;
* read all working documents provided by the OIE prior to the meeting;
* contribute to discussions;
* contribute to drafting text; and
* understand that the *ad hoc* Group may be reconvened after the February 2022 meeting of the Commission to ensure continuity of the work.

**Deliverables**

The *ad hoc* Group should develop a workplan for the development of the two new draft chapters and an *ad hoc* Group report detailing the progress on the development of the new draft Chapter 4.X. Emergency disease preparedness.

**Reporting / timeline**

The *ad hoc* Group report should be completed at least four weeks before the Commission’s February 2022 meeting.

Annex 1

**Proposed article structure**

**CHAPTER 4.X.**

**EMERGENCY DISEASE PREPAREDNESS**

Article 4.X.1.– **Purpose**

Describe a comprehensive emergency management framework to guide emergency *disease* preparedness by the *Competent Authority*.

Article 4.X.2. – **Scope**

Article 4.X.3. –**Introduction**

Article 4.X.4. –**General** **principles**

Article 4.X.5. – **Risk analysis**

Article 4.X.6. – **Emergency preparedness: authority, capacity and infrastructure**

Article 4.X.7. – **Contingency plan**

Article 4.X.8. – **Information systems**

Article 4.X.9. – **Recovery plan**

**CHAPTER 4.Y**

**DISEASE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT**

Article 4.X.1. – **Purpose**

To provide recommendations to the *Competent Authorities* for the management of the emergency response to the occurrence of *disease outbreak*.

Article 4.X.2. – **Scope**

Article 4.X.3. – **General Principles**

Article 4.X.4. – **Alert and investigation phase**

Article 4.X.5. – **Operation Phase**

Article 4.X.6. – **Stand down phase**

Article 4.X.7. – **Communication**

Article 4.X.8. – **Recovery plan**