



What is a sanitary measure?

What does it mean in practice?

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WOAH Standards - Facilitating Safe International
Trade - Session B



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1. Definition: What is a sanitary measure?
2. In practice: How to define and develop sanitary measures?
3. In practice: How to adapt the measure(s) to the situation(s)?



WHAT IS a sanitary measure (for WOAH Standards)?



‘sanitary measure’ means a measure, such as those described in various chapters of the Terrestrial Code, designed to **protect** animal or human health or life within the whole territory or a zone of a Member Country from **risks** arising from the entry, establishment or spread of a hazard.

It relies on the knowledge of the animals to be protected, and of the risks to protect them from.

The link between data/knowledge/sources etc. and the measure(s) is absolutely essential

A sanitary measure is intended
to protect from risks.

Sanitary measures are the heart
of the risk management
process.

Chapter 3.2. Quality of Veterinary Services

Article 3.2.12.

International trade

sanitary measures are developed and implemented **in accordance with Chapter 2.1.** and other relevant chapters of the Terrestrial Code



HOW to define and develop sanitary measures?



comparing the risk estimated in the risk assessment with the reduction in risk expected from the proposed risk management measures

identifying, evaluating the efficacy and feasibility of, and selecting measures to reduce the risk associated with an importation

NB: sanitary measures are not the official veterinary control

Chapter 2.1. Import risk analysis, Article 2.1.5.(1):
Risk management is the process of deciding upon and implementing measures to address the risks identified in the risk assessment, whilst at the same time ensuring that negative effects on trade are minimised. The objective is to manage risk appropriately to ensure that a balance is achieved between a country's desire to minimise the likelihood or frequency of disease incursions and their consequences and its desire to import commodities and fulfil its obligations under international trade agreements.

Chapter 2.1. Import risk analysis

Article 2.1.5.(2):

The **international standards of WOA** are the preferred **choice of sanitary measures** for risk management. The application of these sanitary measures should be in accordance with the intentions in the standards.

Article 2.1.6.:

Risk management components

1) Risk evaluation - the process of **comparing the risk estimated** in the risk assessment with the **reduction in risk expected** from the proposed risk management measures.

SECTION 4

CHAPTER 4.1.

To effectively prevent **introduction and transmission** of animal diseases while minimising potential negative impacts of sanitary measures, Veterinary Services should consider developing measures **based on the recommendations in this section**, taking into account various factors including their impact on trade, animal welfare, public health and environment. In parallel with disease-specific sanitary measures, Veterinary Services should consider relevant commodity-based sanitary measures.



HOW to implement and adapt measure(s) to the situation(s)?



following through with the risk management decision and ensuring that the risk management measures are in place

ongoing process by which the risk management measures are continuously audited to ensure that they are achieving the results intended

Inform, communicate (internally, trading partners, WTO, WOH))

Chapter 2.1. Import risk analysis, Article 2.1.6.:

Risk management components

1)...

2) Option evaluation - the process of identifying, evaluating the efficacy and feasibility of, and **selecting measures to reduce the risk associated with an importation**. The efficacy is the degree to which an option reduces the likelihood or magnitude of adverse health and economic consequences. **Evaluating the efficacy of the options selected is an iterative process** that involves their incorporation into the risk assessment and then comparing the resulting level of risk with that considered acceptable. The evaluation for feasibility normally focuses on technical, operational and economic factors affecting the implementation of the risk management options.

Chapter 2.1. Import risk analysis, Article 2.1.6.:

Risk management components

1)...

2)...

3) Implementation - the process of **following through** with the risk management decision and ensuring that the risk management **measures are in place**.

4) **Monitoring and review** - the ongoing process by which the risk management measures are continuously audited to ensure that they are achieving **the results intended**.



“Population of origin” and “Animal health status”,
why is this important?

How to use them in practice?

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1. Definition: What is a 'population'? What 'of origin' means?
2. Definition: What is an 'animal health status'? Why is this important?
3. In practice: How to use these concepts for international trade requirements and international veterinary certification?



What is a 'population'?

What 'of origin' means?



'population'
means a group of units sharing a common defined characteristic.

'unit'
means an individually identifiable element used to describe, for example, the members of a population or the elements selected when sampling; examples of units include individual animals, herds, flocks and apiaries.

'subpopulation'
means a distinct part of a population identifiable in accordance with specific common animal health characteristics.

SPS AGREEMENT

Members shall ensure that their sanitary or phytosanitary measures are adapted to the sanitary or phytosanitary characteristics of the area — whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries — **from which the product originated** and to which the product is destined.



What is an ‘animal health status’? Why is this important?



‘animal health status’ means the status of a country, zone or compartment with respect to an animal disease in accordance with the criteria listed in the relevant disease-specific chapter or Chapter 1.4. of the Terrestrial Code.

IN PRACTICE

As explained in Chapter 4.4. and others, ‘animal health status’ is applied to animal populations and subpopulations (and that can include the herds).

SPS AGREEMENT

...

Members shall take into account, inter alia, the level of prevalence of specific diseases or pests, the existence of eradication or control programmes

...

Members shall, in particular, recognize the concepts of pest- or **disease-free areas** and areas of low pest or disease prevalence.



How to use these concepts for international trade?



Consider commodity to import

Consider animal hosts

Consider listed diseases

Consider animal health statuses at origin (country, zone, compartment, herd) of the populations of animal hosts of the diseases

Check the relevant requirements in the WOAH Codes

Adapt to risk analysis, situation, particularities of implementation, level of trust, etc.

CHAPTER 4.1.

although the general principles covering the measures described in this section are applicable to multiple diseases, **Veterinary Services should adapt** them to their circumstances, because **characteristics of the pathogenic agents and the situations in which they occur differ** between diseases and between countries. To this end, recommendations in this section should be read in conjunction with listed disease-specific recommendations,

CHAPTER 4.4.

ZONING AND COMPARTMENTALISATION

... there may be benefits to a Member Country in establishing and maintaining a **subpopulation** with a specific **health status** within its territory for the purposes of **international trade** or disease prevention or control. Subpopulations may be separated by natural or artificial geographical barriers or by the application of appropriate biosecurity management.

Observatory monitors the application of WOAHA Standards

A survey was conducted on zoning, the results are available

Zoning is massively used (more than half of the Members)

Zoning has a positive impact (for over 80% of the Members)

Challenges appear:

- Staffing of Vet Services
- Enforcement of biosecurity
- Laboratory diagnostic
- Animal traceability and movement control**
- Political support

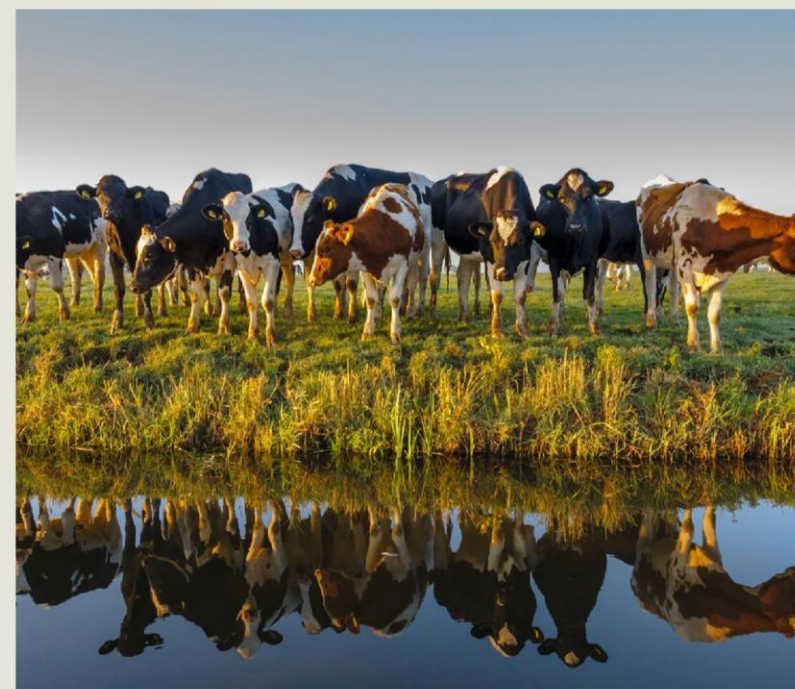
Acceptance by trading partners

- Can take more than 2 years... if ever
- Driven by transparency and trust in the certification system

Use, challenges and impact of zoning and compartmentalisation

Part 1*: Descriptive report on the use, challenges and impact of **zones** established in relation to avian influenza, African swine fever and foot and mouth disease in WOAHA Members from 2018 to 2022

* This descriptive analysis will be followed by a more detailed analysis in Part 2.



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Certification: importance and main principles

How to apply them in practice?

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CHAPTER 5.1.

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO CERTIFICATION

Because of differences between countries in their animal health situations, various options are offered by the Terrestrial Code. The animal health situation in the exporting country, in the transit country or countries and in the importing country should be considered before determining the requirements for trade. To maximise harmonisation of the sanitary aspects of international trade, Veterinary Authorities of Member Countries should base their import requirements on the standards of WOAHA.



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1. Certification: What does that mean, legally and technically?
2. Certification: main principles
3. In practice: How to apply those principles?



Certification: What does that mean, legally and technically?



‘international veterinary certificate’ means a certificate, issued in accordance with Chapter 5.2., describing the animal health and public health requirements that are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

Well...

Certification is a personal legal engagement of an official veterinarian, even if working in an administrative framework with superior hierarchy

CHAPTER 5.2.

Certification procedures

Article 5.2.2.

Certifying veterinarians should:

be **authorised** by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country to sign international veterinary certificates;

only certify matters that are within their own **knowledge** at the time of signing the certificate, or that have been separately attested by another competent party;

sign only at the appropriate time certificates that have been **completed fully and correctly**; where a certificate is signed on the basis of supporting documentation, the certifying veterinarian should have verified or be in possession of that documentation before signing;

have **no conflict of interest** in the commercial aspects of the animals or animal products being certified and be independent from the commercial parties.



Certification: main principles



Certification should be based on the highest possible ethical standards, the most important of which is that the professional integrity of the certifying veterinarian should be respected and safeguarded in accordance with Chapters 3.2. and 3.3.

It is essential to include in any requirements only those specific statements that can be accurately and honestly signed by a certifying veterinarian.

CHAPTER 5.2.

Certification procedures

Certificates should be drawn up in accordance with the following principles:

1. Certificates should be designed so as to minimize the potential for fraud
2. Certificates should be written using terms that are simple, unambiguous and as easy to understand as possible
3. If so required, certificates should be written in the language of the importing country. In such circumstances, they should also be written in a language understood by the certifying veterinarian
4. Certificates should require appropriate identification of animals and animal products
5. Where appropriate, when presented to the certifying veterinarian, certificates should be accompanied by notes of guidance indicating the extent of enquiries, tests or examinations expected to be carried out before the certificate is signed



In practice: How to
apply those principles?

By having adequately
trained staff and
rigorous procedures



SECTION 3. QUALITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES

- Chapter 3.2.** Quality of Veterinary Services
- Chapter 3.3.** Evaluation of Veterinary Services
- Chapter 3.4.** Veterinary legislation

SECTION 5. TRADE

Exporting country

- Implements disease prevention and control
- Sets up zoning rules and programmes
- Implements surveillance and demonstrate status
- Certifies exports



Importing country

- Assesses exporting country programmes and results
- Defines import conditions based on risks
- Controls imports

Thank you

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