

USA Comments -- Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

October 2006 Report

CHAPTER 1.5.1.

General Comment: The United States supports the changes proposed for this chapter. We are recommending some changes to the wording for clearer understanding. These few changes are shown in “red font” or as a strike-through. One comment is also made as indicated.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSPORT

Article 1.5.1.1.

General arrangements

1. These arrangements should be compulsory in all countries either by legislative or regulatory texts and methods of application should be described in a manual available to all concerned.
2. *Vehicles* (or *containers*) used for the *transport* of *aquatic animals* shall be designed, constructed and fitted in such a way as to withstand the weight of the *aquatic animals* and water and to ensure their safety and welfare during *transportation*. *Vehicles* shall be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before use according to the guidelines given in the *Aquatic Code*.
3. *Vehicles* (or *containers*) in which *aquatic animals* are confined during *transport* by sea or by air shall be secured to maintain optimal conditions for the *aquatic animals* during *transport*, and to allow easy access by the attendant.

Article 1.5.1.2.

Particular arrangements for containers

1. The construction of *containers* intended for *transportation* of *aquatic animals* shall be such that the release of water, etc., is prevented during *transport*.
2. In the case of the *transportation* of *aquatic animals*, provision shall be made to enable preliminary observation of the contents of *containers*.
3. *Containers* in transit in which there are *aquatic animal products* shall not be opened unless the *Competent Authorities* of the *transit country* consider it necessary. If this is the case, *containers* shall be subject to precautions taken to avoid any *risk* of contamination.
4. *Containers* shall be loaded only with one kind of product or, at least, with products not susceptible to contamination by one another.

5. It rests with each country to decide on the facilities it requires for the *transport* and importation of *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* in *containers*.

Article 1.5.1.3.

Particular arrangements for the transport of aquatic animals by air

1. The stocking densities for the *transport* of *aquatic animals* ~~in aircraft or containers~~ should be determined by taking the following into consideration **when transporting by air**:
 - a) the total ~~cubic metres~~ **volume** of available space **in containers** for each type of *aquatic animal*;
 - b) the oxygenation capacity of the equipment ~~attached to the aircraft and~~ **available to supply the containers** while on the ground and during all stages of the flight.

With regard to fish, molluscs and crustaceans, the space reserved for each *aquatic animal* species in ~~the aircraft or containers~~ that have been fitted for the separate *transportation* of several *aquatic animals* or for the *transportation* of groups of *aquatic animals* should comply with acceptable densities specified for the species in question.

2. The **OIE-approved** International Air Transport Association (IATA) Regulations for live animals ~~(which are approved by the OIE)~~ may be adopted if they do not conflict with national legislative arrangements. (Copies of these Regulations are obtainable from the International Air Transport Association, 800 Place Victoria, P.O. Box 113, Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1M1, Canada.)

Article 1.5.1.4.

Disinfection and other sanitary measures

1. *Disinfection* and all zoo-sanitary work should be carried out in order to:
 - a) avoid all unjustified inconvenience and to prevent damage or injury to the health of people and *aquatic animals*;
 - b) avoid damage to the structure of the *vehicle* or its appliances;
 - c) prevent, as far as possible, any damage to **live aquatic animals or aquatic animal products.** ~~fish eggs as well as mollusc and crustacean larvae.~~
2. On request, the *Competent Authority* shall issue the transporters with a certificate indicating the measures that have been applied to all *vehicles*, the parts of the *vehicle* that have been treated, the methods used and the reasons that led to the application of the measures.

In the case of aircraft, the certificate may be replaced, on request, by an entry in the General Declaration of the aircraft.

3. Likewise, the *Competent Authority* shall issue on request:

- a) a certificate showing the date of arrival and departure of the *aquatic animals*;
- b) a certificate to the shipper or exporter, the consignee and transporter or their representatives, indicating the measures applied.

Article 1.5.1.5.

Transportation water

Water to be used for transportation of aquatic animals should be appropriately treated after transport and/or before discharge in order to minimise the risk of transferring pathogens. The specific recommendations are provided in the Chapter on “Disinfection” of the Aquatic Code.

Article 1.5.1.56.

Treatment of transportation water

During *transportation* of *aquatic animals*, the transporter should not be permitted to evacuate and replace the water in the *transport* tanks except on specifically designated sites in the national *territory*. The waste and rinsing water should not be emptied into a drainage system that is directly connected to an aquatic environment where *aquatic animals* are present. The water from the tanks should therefore either be disinfected by a recognised process (for example, 50 mg iodine or chlorine/litre for one hour), or sprayed over land that does not **directly** drain into waters containing *aquatic animals*. Each country shall designate the sites in their national *territories* where these operations can be carried out.

Article 1.5.1.67.

Discharge of infected material

The *Competent Authority* shall take all practical measures to prevent the discharge of any infective material, **including transport water**, into internal or territorial waters.

Comment [mjd1]: Is this in addition to water? Water could fit this description, but not necessarily so.