



Organisation Mondiale de Santé Animale / World Organisation for Animal Health / Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

Rights and obligations of OIE member countries on external trade

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World Animal Health Organisation - OIE

Trade Negotiations

Trade is the voluntary exchange of **goods**, services, or both



External trade is the exchange of goods and services across national borders often associated with **Trade Barriers**. If a government(s) remove trade barriers, a condition of free trade exists e.g SADC FTA.

Fair trade must be regulated and in the case of External trade it is the responsibility **WTO** thru **SPS and TBT Agreements**

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The 3 "Sisters"

International Standard-setting organisations (ISSOs)



Codex = Codex Alimentarius Commission (FAO/WHO)
OIE = World Organisation for Animal Health
IPPC = International Plant Protection Convention (FAO)



OIE International Standards

Terrestrial Animal Health Code – mammals, birds and bees (Terrestrial Code)

available on the OIE website (www.oie.int)

Aquatic Animal Health Code – fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians (Aquatic Code)

Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial manual)

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)



Obligations of importing countries

- 1 Consider exporting country's sanitary status only in relation to the animals or animal products to be traded.
- 2 The right to choose the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) for animal, plant and human health.

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Obligations of importing countries

3. Should impose measures only for diseases or pathogens that are listed by the OIE,
4. Publish a list of border zoosanitary check points for imported animals and or animal products.

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Obligations of exporting countries

1 Provide the necessary sanitary information required

- Animal health situation and the national animal health information systems;
- Occurrence of notifiable diseases;
- Ability to apply measures to control and prevent the relevant OIE-listed diseases;
- Quality and the governance of the National Animal Health Services and the authority which they exercise their legal mandates; and
- Provision of technical information, particularly on tests and vaccines applied in all or part of the country

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Obligations of exporting countries

2 Veterinary health certificates

Supply information on:-

- Date and port of entry into the importing country;
 - Animal species and numbers involved;
 - Quantities in case of products; and
 - Means of transport
-
- Official SOPs for certification by registered veterinarians

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Governance and credibility of animal health services

The OIE PVS Tool is used to evaluate the quality and governance of NVS, to assess their compliance to OIE international standards

Efforts are underway to establish a similar Tool for the evaluation of National Aquatic Animal Health Services based on the same principles.

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Other concepts

Zoning, compartmentalization and equivalence mechanisms as provided for in the OIE Codes can facilitate decision making on safe trade

OIE provides guidance on how to conduct import – export risk analysis in Section 2 of the Code, details of which are contained in the 2 volumes of the OIE *Handbook on Risk Analysis for Animals and Animal Products*.

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OIE Dispute mediation

The OIE's mediation procedure provides OIE member countries a **voluntary** procedure for seeking to resolve their differences using an approach that is based on OIE's standards.

The aim is not to find fault; but rather, to find an agreed compromise that will allow trade to be established (or re-established)

It is more cost effective than the official WTO dispute settlement mechanism but any solution reached is not legally binding unless agreed upon from the beginning of the process.

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CONCLUSION

- OIE member countries are assured of a guaranteed safe trade by adopting OIE standards as the basis for sanitary measures.
- Concepts such as equivalence, zoning and compartmentalization, according to OIE standards are useful and should be applied.
- OIE member countries are advised to consider using the OIE informal mediation mechanism if need arises.

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**Thank you for
your attention**

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