

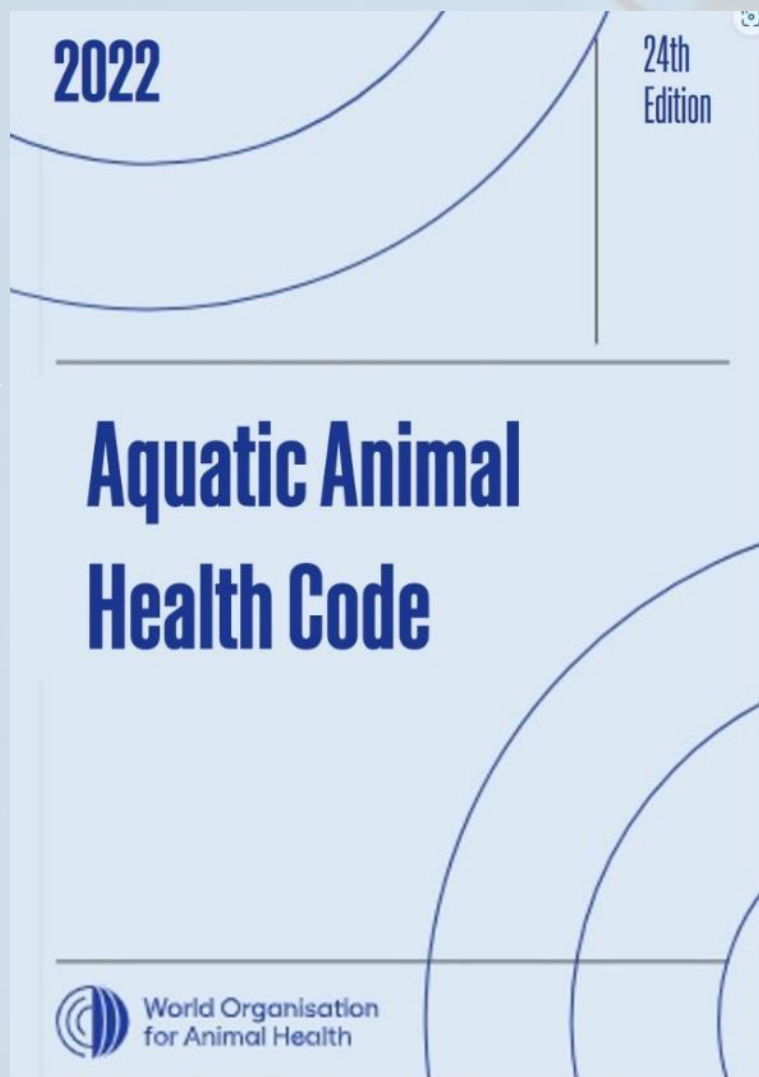
Self-Declaration of Freedom From Disease

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Self-Declaration of freedom from disease – WHY?

- 1. Trade facilitation** – can help a country gain or maintain favourable trade status by demonstrating their aquatic livestock or products are free from specific diseases. (Economic growth through international market success).
- 2. Disease control and prevention** – a country can indicate that active surveillance and control measures have been implemented successfully. It shows that the country has taken adequate steps to prevent the introduction, spread and impact of specific diseases ultimately protecting aquatic animal populations and public health.



CHAPTER 1.4.

AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

This chapter provides guidance on the *surveillance* approaches to be used by a *Competent Authority* to make and maintain a *self-declaration of freedom from disease* or to confirm the occurrence of a *listed disease* or an *emerging disease*.



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

NB: FIRST ADOPTED IN 2008; MOST RECENT UPDATE ADOPTED IN 2022.

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Introduction and Scope

- Supports a Competent Authority to meet and maintain the requirements for self-declaration of freedom from disease.
- **This chapter is not intended to provide detailed technical guidance on surveillance design or analysis.**

General requirements (1.4.5 – 1.4.8)

Pre-freedom declaration periods of surveillance/biosecurity (1.4.9, 1.4.10)

Pathway to freedom (1.4.3, 1.4.11 – 1.4.15)

Survey design and combination of sources (1.4.16, 1.4.17)

Diagnostic confirmation of listed disease (1.4.18)

Pathways for demonstrating freedom from disease

Pathway	Primary Evidence	Secondary Evidence	Level of application
1. Absence of susceptible species	Surveys, historical data, import records, environmental information	None	Country, Zone
2. Historical freedom	Passive surveillance (Early Detection System)	Targeted surveillance	Country, Zone
3. Targeted surveillance	Targeted surveillance	Passive surveillance	Country, Zone, Compartment
4. Returning to freedom	Targeted surveillance	Passive surveillance	Country, Zone, Compartment

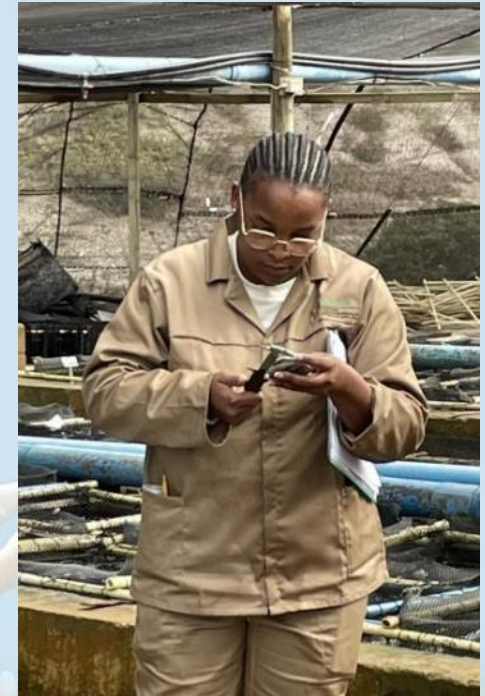
Biosecurity and surveillance system requirements

- 1) the quality of *Aquatic Animal Health Services* can be substantiated.
- 2) *basic biosecurity conditions* (which include an *early detection system*) are in place;
- 3) there has been no vaccination of susceptible *aquatic animals* for the specific *disease* from the implementation of the *basic biosecurity conditions* prior to self-declaration;
- 4) the *Aquatic Animal Health Services* have sufficient capacity and expertise to investigate and report *disease* events to a *Competent Authority*;
- 5) a *Competent Authority* has access to appropriate diagnostic capability (from a laboratory with a quality management system)

Basic Biosecurity Conditions

The requirements for Basic Biosecurity Conditions include:

1. Measures to prevent the introduction of a pathogenic agent.
2. Early detection system (provides assurance that a change in disease status would be rapidly discovered).



Early Detection System

- 1) Observers have broad awareness of the characteristic signs of *listed diseases* and *emerging diseases*;
- 2) *veterinarians* and *aquatic animal health professionals* are trained in recognising and reporting suspicion of *listed disease* and *emerging disease* occurrence;
- 3) the *Aquatic Animal Health Services* have capacity to undertake rapid and effective *disease* investigation
- 4) the *Aquatic Animal Health Services* have access to sufficient diagnostic capability (from a laboratory with a quality management system) and the capacity and expertise to investigate *emerging diseases*
- 5) *veterinarians, aquatic animal health professionals* and others with an occupational role with *aquatic animals* have a legal obligation to report suspicion of the occurrence of *listed diseases* or *emerging diseases* to a *Competent Authority*.

Requirements for Passive Surveillance

- Requires that:
 - Clinical expression of the disease is likely
 - Observation of clinical signs will lead to investigation
 - Farmed aquatic animals must be under observation
- For wild aquatic animals
 - Observed so that disease would be reported **OR**
 - Wild populations epidemiologically linked to farmed populations so that if disease occurred in wild populations it would be spread and observed in farmed populations
- Sources of information
 - Reports by industry to Competent authority
 - Routine visits by AAHS
 - Lab submission data
 - Establishment records – mortality and medicine for example



Required Periods fo Basic Biosecurity Conditions

Basic biosecurity conditions should be in place for a sufficient duration, so that:

a. Specific pathogenic agent would not remain present in environment (Pathway 1 – Absence of susceptible species – **6 months**).

b. the disease would manifest clinically and be detected by early detection system (Pathway 2 – Historical freedom – **10 years**) (This period is the minimum required to achieve 95% likelihood of freedom if the annual likelihood of detection is approximately 30%.)

c. Infection levels would have reached the minimum prevalence estimate (i.e. the design prevalence) used in the survey design to calculate the sample sizes (Pathway 3 – Targeted Surveillance - **1 year**)

Required Periods for Targeted Surveillance

Disease dependent

Production cycle duration

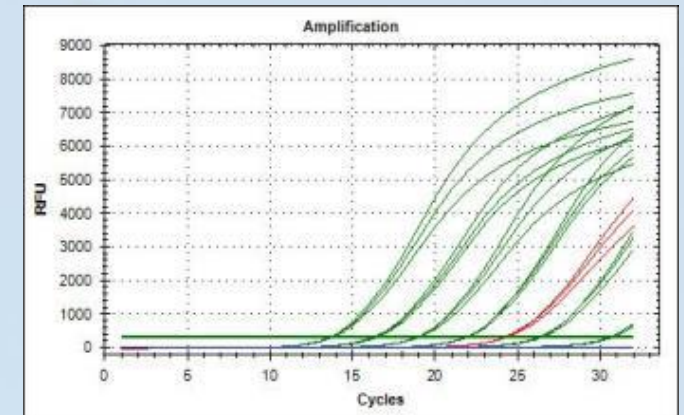
Life stages susceptible

Seasonality

Production systems and management practices that impact seasonality of infection

Default period for targeted surveillance is 2 years - 2 surveys per year split by at least 3 months

Compartments – minimum period is 1 year



Returning to Freedom

Provide information on the review and update basic biosecurity conditions and relevant sanitary measures implemented to strengthen basic biosecurity conditions

1. Infection zone and protection zone – following contact tracing the infection zone includes geographically clustered infected populations.
2. Requirements for surveillance – following depopulation, disinfection and following, surveillance program should commence in both infected and protection zone.
 - at least two negative surveys are conducted prior to reclaiming freedom.
 - Surveys should take place during optimum seasons, temperatures, and priority life stages to optimise *pathogenic agent* detection

Maintenance of Freedom

1. For a shared water bodies extending across the territory of other countries, free status can only be maintained if the requirements to maintain freedom are in place across all epidemiologically linked shared water bodies.
2. A country, zone or compartment declared free may maintain its free status without targeted surveillance provided that the requirements for passive surveillance are met for the entire country, zone or compartment.
3. If the conditions of point 2 are not met, ongoing targeted surveillance for the pathogenic agent, is required at a level determined by a Competent Authority, to generate an annual 95% confidence of detection, taking into account the likelihood of infection.



Thank You