



World Organisation
for Animal Health



WOAH Standards Facilitating Safe International Trade Commodity: Poultry Meat

Nairobi, Kenya

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MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE
AND LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT



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Applicable standards –certification of commodities, SPS principles, and veterinary e-certification

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AGENDA

1. SPS Principles
2. Certification
3. Electronic
Certification



SPS Principles





Within the WTO framework, WOHAT is primarily relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)

This Agreement deals mainly with health (sanitary) and safety measures. WTO Member countries should:

- Use the standards of the designated standard-setting bodies or an import risk analysis as the basis for sanitary measures applied to imported products
- Not discriminate (without justification) between exporting countries
- Not discriminate (without justification) between goods produced domestically and imported 'like' goods
- Act in a transparent manner, providing for WTO Members to comment before introducing sanitary measures that affect trade.



WTO Member countries should also respect key principles of the SPS Agreement, as follows:

- Science and risk analysis are the basis for measures
- Different measures may provide equivalent health safeguards
- Pests and diseases may be regionalised:
 - > recognition of disease-free countries/zones/areas
 - > the concept of compartmentalisation
- Measures should be harmonised with WOAHA standards.



WTO SPS Agreement: Article 5.1.

Members shall ensure that SPS measures are based on:

- an assessment, as appropriate, of the risks to human, animal or plant life or health;
- taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by the relevant international organizations (the WOA, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and International Plant Protection Convention).
- [Handbook Qualitative Risk Analysis](#)





Obligations of importing countries:

1. To consider the health status of the exporting country
2. To determine an appropriate level of protection (ALOP)
3. Not to impose trade restrictions for diseases that exist in the importing country and are not the subject of official control measures
4. To publish relevant information on measures, border posts etc., including by notification to the WTO SPS Committee.





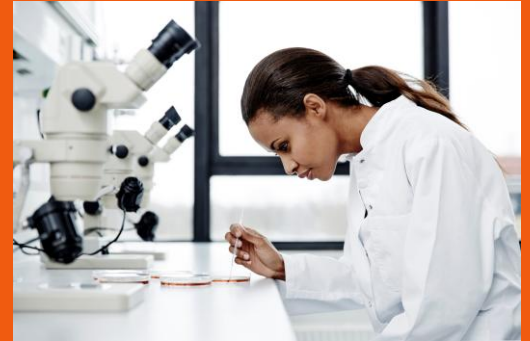
Obligations of exporting countries:

1. To report findings of listed diseases to the WOA and to provide health information to trading partners on request
2. To establish systems for inspection and certification by official veterinarians
3. The Veterinary Authority sets the framework for systems and supervises implementation.





Certification





TERRESTRIAL CODE

Section 5 – Trade Measures and Certification

- Do you need risk mitigation measure?
 - what is disease status of importing and exporting (C-Z-C)
 - what is the commodity?
 - what is recommended by the disease-specific chapter?
- If there is no standard or Member wants to exceed the standard, Member should perform a risk analysis to justify the risk mitigation measure (Section 2)



TERRESTRIAL CODE

Section 5 – Trade Measures and Certification

- ‘Listed disease’ criteria is meant to focus on disease of concern for international trade
- Members should not have risk mitigations for non-listed diseases unless they have domestic regulations for that disease OR they can document that they have a C-Z-C free of that disease and will suffer significant harm through importation of disease



Exporting Country Certification

- Official veterinarians should issue export certificates for terrestrial animals, for aquatic certificates, it is understood there may not always be an official veterinarian, but a certifying official authorized by the Competent Authority
- Competent Authority should assure proper training and oversight of endorsing officials.
- Criteria on certificate should be well defined and clearly understood by certifying official.
- Competent Authority should recognize the right of importing country authority to audit procedures periodically.

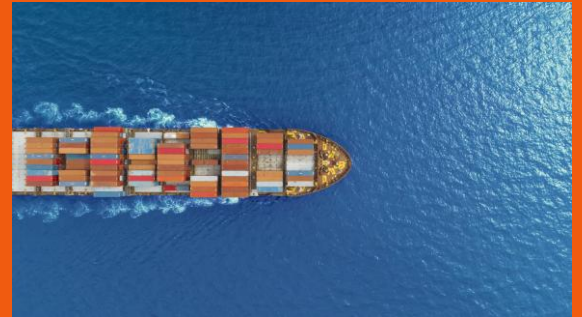


Importing Country Evaluation

- Importing country authority should notify exporting country of any irregularities in certification and provide opportunity for investigation and response.
- Except in cases of change in disease status of exporting country, importing country should not change import requirements without providing adequate notice (new requirements should be notified to WTO with opportunity for comment).
- Importing country authority should notify exporting country of patterns of irregularities with shipments. Rapid and transparent communication between trading partners allows for optimal trade facilitation.



Electronic Certification





Electronic Certification – Data Models

- In 2025, WOH announced the availability of a data model for WOH model health certificates found in *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*
- Ensures consistent electronic message exchange between trading partners while supporting bilaterally agreed specific information in accordance to globally recognised eCert UN/CEFACT data standard dictionary.
- Covers the UN/CEFACT eCert data standard and the World Customs Data Model.
- Can be used in Trade Single Window environment

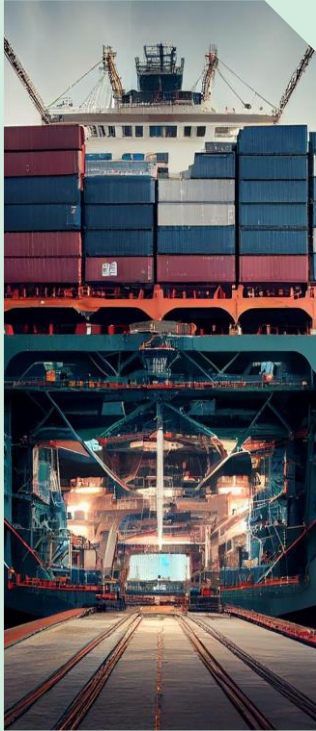


E-cert Data Models

Available at <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/safe-trade-and-movement-of-animals/electronic-veterinary-certification/>

Includes

- WOAH Electronic Data Model Guidance
- WOAH e-certification data models (Annex 1)
- WOAH visual reference e-certification model (Annex 2)



E-cert Guidance Document

- Identifies the scope of work and delivery
- Offers background to relevant international data standard used as foundation to develop WOH e-Cert data subset
- Confirms compatibility with e-cert guidelines / recommendations implemented so far by other standard setting organisations
- Recommends best practice approach to digitise official certificates
- Explains importance and benefits of operating electronic certificates issuance and exchange (export or import) in Trade Single Window environment

Thank You

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