



Animal Health Law

Aquatic animals

Animal Health Advisory Committee
20 May, 2019

Background

- Where do aquatic animals fit into the AHL?
- What approach have we taken vis-à-vis the current legislation?
- What issues have arisen during the process and what have we done about them?
- Next steps.....

Where do aquatic animals fit into the AHL?

Part I – General rules

Part II – Disease notification, reporting, surveillance, eradication programmes, disease freedom

Part III – Disease awareness, preparedness, control

Part IV, Title 1 – Registration , approval, traceability and movements (terrestrial)

Part IV, Title 2 – Registration , approval, traceability and movements (aquatic)

Part IV, Title 3 – Other animals and their products

Part V – Entry into EU

What general approach have we taken?

- **Directive 2006/88/EC** and several Commission Decisions and Regulations implementing that Directive have been applicable for **10 years**
- Have **learned a lot** about what has worked well and what has achieved the initial objectives of the legislation – and what has not
- **Keep the good points and improve the rest** to create better aquatic health legislation
- Commission Decision (EU) 2015/1554 has **applied since 2016** - keep intact other than to reformat and to align terminology with that of the AHL

Current state of play

PART I of the AHL

- **Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/1629** provides details of listed terrestrial and aquatic diseases
- **Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882** provides details of disease categorisation and listed species for terrestrial and aquatic diseases
- **New 'findings'** from the past 10 years have been taken into account in CIR 2018/1882
 - * added new susceptible/ vector species reported to EURLs
 - * de-listed species which have been proven not to cause mortality – most notably *Marteilia refringens* in mussels
- But changes are not exhaustive.....expect to **amend the aquatic species listed** in CIR 2018/1882 by mid- 2020
- Need to take into account the outcome from **3 OIE ad hoc working groups** and revise the listed species accordingly

Current state of play

PART II of the AHL

Surveillance, eradication and disease freedom for certain listed and emerging diseases

- Covers terrestrial and aquatic animals
- In general - not a straightforward task to package measures for diseases of fish, molluscs and crustacea alongside FMD, TB, rabies etc but now close to completion
- Significant areas of commonality have been achieved
- One specific chapter for eradication of aquatic diseases
- A specific annex dealing with technical measures for aquatic diseases

PART II of the AHL

What have we tried to improve?

- **Definition of dependent compartments**

- Directive 2006/88/EC vague on how to define dependent compartments
- DA under Part II sets out a list of epidemiological factors to be assessed by the CA when establishing a dependent compartment – each factor to be considered and risk mitigation must be put in place where necessary
- Intention is to make it easier for CAs to create dependent compartments

PART II of the AHL

What have we tried to improve

- **Simplified the process for declaring freedom** for zones and compartments which are <75% of the size of the MS and which do not have shared water catchments:
 - Provisional declaration of freedom
 - Published electronically by the MS for 60 days
 - Official declaration of freedom is made after 60 days if no concerns raised by the Commission or other MSs
 - More streamlined and faster than current system

PART II of the AHL

What have we tried to improve?

- **Maintenance of freedom in dependent compartments**
- Current legislation is quite onerous for some MSs with lots of dependent compartments free from VHS/IHN => have decreased the number of health visits and sampling necessary
- **CONCLUSION: Combination** of better defined dependent compartments, a streamlined declaration process and a less onerous system to maintain disease freedom will hopefully **increase the number of disease free compartments, zones and ultimately MSs in the EU**

PART II of the AHL

What have we tried to improve?

- **Remodelled the 'Category III' concept from Directive 2006/88**– establishments which are not known to be infected but which are not in an official programme to achieve freedom
 - DA under Part II allows for **voluntary surveillance programmes** to be implemented for category C diseases in establishments **which do not want to participate in an eradication programme but which do not wish to trade with infected establishments**
 - **Targeted surveillance** – improved confidence that these establishments are not infected

PART III of the AHL

What improvements have we made?

Disease awareness, preparedness and control

- Covers terrestrial and aquatic animals
- Current legislation does not lay down very specific rules for Exotic diseases
- DA under Part III sets out very specific rules for Cat A diseases:
 - case definitions
 - control measures
 - cleaning/ disinfection
 - fallowing
 - killing / slaughter at in the infected establishment
 - measures for other establishments in the restricted zone

PART IV.II of the AHL

What improvements have we made?

- One DA on registration, approval, record keeping in establishments- another on Intra-Community movements
- Cover aquatic animals only – separate Acts for terrestrial animals
- Introduced **new derogations** in relation to the requirement for certain establishments to be approved-
 - Aquaculture establishments where animals are kept for release into the wild *
 - Extensive ponds where animals are kept for direct human consumption or for release into the wild*
 - purification/ dispatch centres which are approved under 853/2004 and which take molluscs only from within their own epidemiological area

* *where the risk is assessed to be insignificant*

PART IV.II of the AHL

What improvements have we made?

- ❖ Provide for categories of establishments which **present a disease risk** and should be approved (in addition to those already specifically provided for in the AHL) e.g.
 - quarantine establishments
 - vessels/ other mobile premises where animals are treated or undergo other husbandry related procedures
 - certain establishments keeping aquaculture animals for ornamental purposes which create a disease risk
- ❖ System of risk based surveillance is applied in certain approved establishments and the frequency of visits depends on whether the establishment is high/medium/low risk

PART V of the AHL

Entry into the Union

- Covers terrestrial and aquatic animals
- Simplification from current aquatic rules – amalgamation of two Regulations into one
- Part I – general rules for terrestrials and aquatics
- Part V - deals specifically with Entry into the Union of aquatic animals

Next steps

Aquatic Animals

- 2 more Expert Groups on Part IV.II
- 06 June and 12 July
- Complete DAs on Part IV.II and on aquatic aspects of other DAs

THANK YOU !