Annex 20

CHAPTER 5.5.

**measures and procedures applicable to the transit of commodities**

Article 5.5.1.

**Purpose and scope**

This chapter provides general principles for measures and procedures that are applicable to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents, without creating unjustified restrictions, when *commodities* destined for another country are either making a stopover in, or transported through a *transit country*, covering from the *point of entry* to the *point of exit.*

For the purposes of this chapter, *‘*operator*’* means any natural or legal entity or person responsible for transit of *commodities* subject to the provisions of this chapter.

This chapter provides *transit countries* with recommendations on measures and procedures, and the roles and responsibilities of their *Veterinary Authority* and other relevant *Competent Authorities* and of operators  ~~any natural or legal entity or person responsible for transit of~~ *~~commodities~~* ~~subject to the provisions of this chapter (hereafter ‘operator’)~~. An international movement of *commodities* may be considered a ‘transit’ if *commodities* are transported from an *exporting country* through a *transit country* to an *importing country*.The transit period should not exceed the time necessary for transport and logistics, and *commodities* and all relevant conditions as stated in the certificate issued by the *exporting country* should remain unchanged; otherwise the operation should be interpreted as an importation and exportation.

This chapter provides guidance to ensure the quality and implementation of official controls for transit.

Article 5.5.2.

**General considerations**

The *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* of the *transit country* should ensure that *transit country* requirements and procedures, including a list of the *border inspection posts* designated for the transit of *commodities,* are made available to operators and to the *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country*.

A *transit country* may require adequate advance notice or approval regarding the date of entry into and exit from its territory of *commodities*, stating the type of *commodity*, species, quantity, *means of transport* and the *point of entry* or *border inspection post,* route, holding locations and *point of exit* to be used*.*

Operators should be aware of the *transit country* requirements and procedures before shipment, which may include announcing to the *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* of the *transit country* the arrival of consignments at the *point of entry*. Operators should ensure that *commodities* are presented for official controls, including the original official certificates or documents, or digital equivalents, in accordance with *transit country* requirements, and that requirements and procedures defined by the *Competent Authorities* of the *transit country* are met.

Operators should ensure that the *commodities* are separated from any other *commodities* in the *transit country* not meeting the same sanitary requirements, that all relevant conditions as stated in the certification issued by the *exporting country* remain unchanged, and that the *Veterinary Authorities* of the *transit country* and the *importing country* are informed of any unforeseen unloading of *commodities* in the *transit country* ~~is informed to the~~ *~~Veterinary Authorities~~* ~~of the~~ *~~transit country~~* ~~and the~~ *~~importing country~~*.

In the case of *animals*, operators should ensure that *animal welfare* is maintained throughout the transit process, in accordance with Section 7 as relevant.

Article 5.5.3.

**General principles applicable to procedures for official controls for transit**

The *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* should implement official inspection, with appropriate frequency, based on risk ~~and with appropriate frequency~~ to ensure compliance with the *transit country* requirements. By way of derogation, the *Veterinary Authority* may exempt from inspection *safe commodities* or *commodities* posing a negligible risk and for which inspection is not considered necessary.

A *transit country* may not accept the transit of *commodities* not complying with its requirements.

The *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* should ensure that conditions included in the *international veterinary certificate* at origin are maintained during official controls, stopover, storage and transport, that *biosecurity* is applied to prevent transmission of pathogenic agents throughout the transit processand that unnecessary delays are avoided. They should also ensure *animal welfare* is maintained during *transit* in accordance with Section 7. Original documentation intended for the *importing country* should remain with the consignment.

Article 5.5.4.

**Planning for the unexpected events**

The *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* should ensure that the operator develops and documents a plan to address unexpected events which may compromise the compliance of the transited *commodities* with the requirements of the *transit country* or the *importing country*. The plan may be generic, or specific to each consignment, and should focus on preventing the introduction to the *transit* or the *importing country* of a *listed disease* or a disease referred to in the *transit* or the *importing country* requirements*,* and on ensuring *animal welfare* recommendations in Section 7. The plan should identify responsibilities and include procedures for commodities not complying with the *transit* or the *importing country* requirements.

Article 5.5.5.

**General recommendations on measures to address identified informal or illegal movement of commodities at border inspection posts**

To control the *risks* posed by informal or illegal cross-border movement at *border inspection posts*, the *Veterinary Authority* or other relevant *Competent Authorities* should coordinate and cooperate with the customs or relevant law enforcement authority as described in Article 5.6.8.

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