Inland Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute (AAHRI)  
Inland Fisheries Research Development Bureau  
Department of Fisheries, Thailand

Aquatic Animal Quarantine System in Thailand

An awareness of aquatic animal diseases spread through an international trade has been increasing since the first edition of OIE on Aquatic Animal Health Code in 1995. OIE Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual have been accepted as international standards under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organisation. The OIE standards are to avoid the introduction of pathogens via international trade in animals, aquatic animals and their products, while at the same time preventing countries from setting up unjustified sanitary barriers. Thailand Department of Fisheries (DOF) has been implementing OIE standards for prevention of the pathogens through international trade of the ornamental fishes or live aquatic animals. Aquatic disease surveillance, monitoring and control systems are well organised and supervision under the Inland Aquatic Animal health Research Institute (AAHRI) and Costal Aquatic Animal health Research Institute (CAAHRI). Both AAHRI and CAAHRI are capable to diagnose all notifiable diseases listed in the OIE standard that allow The DOF has well equipped aquatic diseases equipment
Responsible for international trade of ornamental aquatic animals, the strategic plans for aquatic animal health management in Thailand have been developed. Presently, Thailand has over 25 import/export regulations announced through Emergency Decree, Royal Decree, Ministerial Regulation, Notification or Rule to control the movement of certain aquatic animals both from importation and exportation. The aquatic animal quarantine enforcement has been implementing under the laws, the Animal Epidemic Act B.E. 2499 (1956) and Fishery Act B.E. 2490 (1947). The Department of Fisheries has developed an importation of live aquatic animals under quarantine enforcement framework focusing on the high risk of susceptible animals that may carry exotic diseases or disease of eradication concerns. The quarantine measures include pre-arrival, arrival at the entry port and post-arrival of aquatic animals are well established.

**Import Regulations**

1. **Pre-arrival of the aquatic animal**
   The importer must have a certificated that the quarantine facilities have been inspected and passed the standard requirement from DOF.

2. **Animal shipment arrived at the port**
   Animals shipment must accompany with health certificate. Animals will be inspected and examined for OIE listed diseases and other pathogens.

3. **Post-arrival of the aquatic animals**
   Animals will be quarantined at the following places:
   a. At the quarantine area of the entry port;
   b. At the quarantine area of the importer premise, or
   c. At the place where the Head of the port assigned.

   During 2–3 week quarantine, DOF health inspector will visit and sampling the fish for disease diagnosis. Fish will be destroyed or sent back to the original country if the diseases found.
A process flowchart showing the steps involved in the importation of fish:

1. **Importer applies for farm inspection (Sanitary and Quarantine)**
   - Advice for farm sanitary
     - Not approved
     - Passed

2. **DOF inspects farm or import premises**
   - Quarantine permit
     - The importer requests for importation

3. **The importer notifies the Fish Quarantine Port 2 days in advance**
   - Fish are quarantined
     - Fish Health Inspector
     - Fish will be sampled for diagnosis
     - Test report

4. **If the diseases listed in OIE was found, the fish will be destroyed**
   - Passed
   - No diseases found. Fish will be allowed to move out from the quarantine zone
Export Regulations

1. Pre-exportation

Farms must be registered with the DOF. For live ornamental fish exportation, the farm must be registered with the Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP) standard and pass sanitary inspection for diseases that listed under the OIE.

2. Request for exportation

The exporting companies shall demonstrate that the exported fishes obtained from the approved farms. The fish species will be checked to comply with the Wildlife and Conservation Act. The DOF has been implementing the movement document for traceability of the originated production farm.

3. Steps to obtain Health Certificate

Aquatic animals must be quarantined and treated for external parasites before exportation. The exported aquatic animals will be examined before issuing the health certificate.
A request for farm registration
And sanitary inspection

DOF sends inspector to inspect the farm, to
Sampling and test for OIE listed diseases

Not approved

Passed

The exporter makes a request for exportation

DOF inspects all documents and fish species

Not approved

PASS; give Permission for exportation

The exporter make a request for Health Certificate

Fish must be quarantined for 14 days and
treated with chemical to remove all parasites

Fish will be sampled and sent to
DOF Laboratory for final health examination, if necessary

Advice for treatment

Not approved

PASS; no clinical signs and no pathogens found

Issue Health Certificate
Aquatic Animals for human consumption such as seabass fry, prawn and shrimp larvae, tilapia fry are subjected to apply the regulation similar to ornamental fish for sanitary inspection. Farm establishments are required to achieve Good Aquaculture Practice (GAP) standard of the DOF. The DOF inspectors will then first conduct farm standard inspection and then sanitary inspection. Farm establishments that comply with the GAP standard will be listed under the DOF approval farms. For disease surveillance and for prevention of drug and chemical contaminations in the aquatic animals and their products, the DOF officers from local Inland Fishery Research and Development Center and Coastal Fishery Research and Development Center will visit the approved farms periodically to observe and collect samples for disease diagnosis in the laboratories.

The GAP standard also apply to crocodile and soft-shelled turtle farms. The DOF does survey and monitor for human pathogen (*Salmonella* sp., *Vibrio cholerae* and *E. coli*) and additional chemical residues according to the imported countries requirements.

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