

Member experience on Implementing Border inspection and Animal quarantine

INDIA

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India-Organisational Structure for Veterinary Inspection at the Border Post

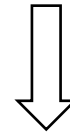
Competent Authority

**Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
(DAHD)**
M/o Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

**Central Board of Excise and
Customs, Min of Finance**

Inspection Agency



Animal Quarantine & Certification Services (AQCS)



Food Inspection Agency (FSSAI)



Port Customs Authority (PCA)



	Commodity	Document Check	Quarantine Isolation	Clinical Examination	Serological Test	Pathogen Detection (e.g. PCR)	Other Tests(e.g. visual, chemical)	Responsible Authority
	Livestock (e.g. cattle, pigs)	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	AQCS
	Companion animals (e.g. dogs, cats)	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	AQCS
	Products of animal origin (e.g. meat, eggs)	Yes / No	Yes / No	N/A	N/A	Yes / No	Yes / No	FSSAI,AQCS
	Animal generic materials (e.g. semen, embryo)	Yes / No	Yes / No	N/A	N/A	Yes / No	Yes / No	AQCS
	Aquatic (includes live ornamental and products)	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	AQCS,FSSAI
	Passenger luggage	Yes / No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes / No	Yes / No	PCA

Current Situation and Key Issues

- Please fill in the following information:

- Top 3 Animals with the highest import volume
 - Laboratory animals
 - Live ornamental fish
 - Pet(dog and cat)
- Top 3 Animal Products with the highest import volume
 - Marine Products
 - Dairy Products
 - Raw Hides & Skins
 - Poultry Products

- Commodity with significant change in import volume in recent years

There was no significant change. However, the Raw Hides and Skins imports increased over Dairy Products during the last year.

Good Practices in Border Inspection and Quarantine

- Successful approaches or innovations
 - AQCS is committed to trade facilitation and ease of doing business
 - Works on Single Day Decision Policy (SDDP)
 - Decisions are given in writing (online and/or offline for better transparency and clarity.
 - The DAHD (AQCS) has developed a risk analysis system for ease of doing business. 690 Custom Tariff Heads (CTHs) lines mapped for Risk Management
 - Tariff line-wise details, including testing requirements, applicability under rules & chapter-wise distribution, available on AQCS official website
 - Paperless process: DAHD(AQCS) only requires original official health Certificate issued by the country of origin. Other non-technical documents, license, permits are not required in originals and can be checked online under integrated declaration of Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT)
- Lessons learned from past experiences
 - Online Systems, advance NOCs, consignment checks, clear communication, public awareness & accurate record keeping
 - Helped evade ingress of many diseases and made the office more approachable by importers following the SOPs
- Replicable models for other countries/territories
 - Welfare of individual animals undergoing quarantine given utmost importance; Considering vaccination against common infectious diseases, veterinarians consulted on developing relevant protocols
 - International database integration

Challenges and risks identified

- Resource limitations
 - **Staffing and expertise:** The technical nature of quarantine work requires specialized veterinary expertise that can be difficult to maintain across all entry points
 - **Sniffer dogs and X-rays** with Customs authorities
 - **Infrastructure limitations:** Despite improvements, some quarantine stations face constraints in terms of equipment, and specialized facilities
 - **Emerging diseases:** New and emerging diseases require constant updating of Veterinarians in the AQCS risk assessments and quarantine protocols. More international workshop exposures required
 - **Trade facilitation pressure:** Balancing thorough quarantine procedures with the need for efficient trade processing creates operational tensions and requires more staffing
- Informal/illegal movement
 - There are certain transit routes through some states having international porous borders, which are points for mostly illegal crossover of livestock & poultry for trade
 - There are instances of wildlife trafficking. These can be potential sources of transboundary animal diseases.

Collaboration with other agencies (1/2)

- **Purpose of Collaboration**

- Collaborations vital for ensuring the smooth functioning of animal quarantine procedures, safeguarding animal health, and preventing spread of diseases
- AQCS collaborates with customs authorities and state veterinary departments to help implement quarantine regulations effectively
- Collaboration with research institutions helps in developing and implementing effective disease surveillance and diagnostic tools
- DAHD issued Integrated veterinary health certificate for import of milk and milk products into India on 31st March, 2023 (in collaboration with FSSAI).

- **Key Partners**

- **Customs & Immigration, Police, and other enforcement agencies**
- **State Disaster Management Authorities** on disaster response plans, including livestock management during floods
- **State Veterinary Departments, Airlines/Shipping Companies, Public Health Agencies**
- **Laboratories:** NIHSAD (National Institute of High Security Animal Disease), Bhopal for imported consignments; NRCE (National Research Centre on Equines), Hisar - (Horses); ICAR Fish Research Institutes (aquatic animal and products); CDDL (Central Disease Diagnosis Laboratory); IVRI (Indian Veterinary Research Institute), Bareilly; RDDs (Regional Disease Diagnosis Laboratory); Veterinary Colleges; State Laboratories & NABL/FSSAI Laboratories
- **NGOs:** Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), WWF India, and TRAFFIC etc.
- **WOAH:** for aligning with Standards

Collaboration with other agencies (2/2)

- **Examples of Joint Activities**

- Joint training programs for quarantine officers: AQCS in India collaborates with other institutions to train quarantine personnel.
- Activities between government agencies and NGOs to educate the public about diseases like rabies
- Joint training of scientists and specialists in animal health, quarantine methods and procedures, including risk analysis and methodologies- MOUs with various countries

- **Benefits**

- Cochin International Airport (CIAL) collaborated with AQCS - established a pet station, improving the "**Ease of Living**" for pet travelers
- **Preventing disease outbreaks:** early detection and control of infectious diseases, preventing spread across borders.
- **Facilitating safe trade:** Harmonized quarantine procedures and certifications ensure the safe trade of LS & LSP, minimizing trade disruptions.
- **Protecting public health:** Preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases- protecting both animal & human health.

Thank you

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