

Guidelines for exporters of ornamental fish/aquatic animals

Department of Animal Production and Health

Gatambe

Peradeniya

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	Content	Page no
1	Guidelines for the registration of export oriented ornamental fish /aquatic animal establishments with the Department of Animal Production and Health	1
1.1	Registration of a new establishment	1
1.2	Annual Renewal of registration	2
2	Biosecurity guidelines for export -oriented ornamental fish establishment	2
2.1	Biosecurity guidelines for freshwater ornamental fish/aquatic animal exporters	2
2.2	Biosecurity guidelines for marine ornamental fish/aquatic animal exporters	6
2.3	Biosecurity guidelines for ornamental fish/aquatic animal suppliers who supply ornamental fish/aquatic animal to the exporters or collectors for exportation	9
3	Biosecurity monitoring/inspection checklist for export-oriented fish establishments	12
3.1	The checklist for biosecurity monitoring/inspection for the registration and renewal of registration of export -oriented fresh water/ marine ornamental fish establishments	12
3.2	Bi-annual biosecurity monitoring/inspection of export-oriented freshwater/marine ornamental fish establishment (6 months of registration/renewal)	16
4	Sampling guidelines for bi-annual surveillance of export-oriented ornamental fish /aquatic animal establishments	17
5	Guidelines for managing non-compliance in testing reports at biannual surveillance of export-oriented ornamental fish /aquatic animal establishments	18
5.1	Action to be taken for parasitological/bacteriological non-compliance	19
5.2	Action to be taken for viral pathogen non-compliance	19
6	Guidelines to obtain International Veterinary Health Certificate (IVHC) for Ornamental Fish Exportation	20

1. Guidelines for the registration of export oriented ornamental fish /aquatic animal establishments with the Department of Animal Production and Health

Export-oriented ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishment should be registered with the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) and agree to the conditions stipulated by DAPH.

For the registration, the owner or authorized representative of the establishment should submit a duly filled application (annex 1- Application for registration/renewal of an ornamental fish/other aquatic species/ breeder farm /export establishment /import and quarantine establishment /collecting and supplying center).

The following documents should be accompanied with the application:

- a) A sketch layout of the establishment/ farm layout
- b) Copies of the NAQDA and Department of Fisheries registration certificates
- c) Registration fee should be paid as per the DAPH circular
(https://daph.gov.lk/files/uploads/pdf_document/0-1722843775.pdf).

1.1. Registration of a new establishment

- I. The ornamental fish entrepreneur submit an application for the registration to the Director Veterinary Regulatory Affairs (D/VRA)/DAPH
- II. The D/VRA send a request to the Director Animal Health (D/AH) for biosecurity assessment for the registration.
- III. The D/AH inform the inspection team (team from Animal Health Division, Veterinary Research Institute, Veterinary Regulatory Affairs, the relevant Veterinary Investigation Officer and the Research Assistant) for biosecurity inspection.
- IV. The team visits with a checklist (refer 3.1-The checklist for biosecurity monitoring/inspection for the registration and renewal of registration of export -oriented freshwater/ marine fish establishments) to assess the biosecurity measures in place and submit an inspection report to D/AH.
- V. Based on the inspection report of the team, D/AH recommends the registration of the establishment in D/VRA/DAPH.
- VI. If approved, the establishment is registered for a validity period of one year.
- VII. If there is any non-compliance during the inspection, the establishment needs to take corrective action and inform VIO for verification, and register accordingly.

1.2 Annual Renewal of registration

- I. All registered establishments are reminded for the annual renewal of the registration in December by DVRA.
- II. The authority of the establishment requests for the annual renewal of registration with a duly filled application (annex 1- Application for registration/renewal of an ornamental fish/other aquatic species/ breeder farm /export establishment /import and quarantine establishment /collecting and supplying center) and the fee before the end of February of each year.
- III. The D/AH informs the farm renewal inspection team (relevant VIO, Government Veterinary Surgeon (GVS) of the area, RA of the VIC) for biosecurity inspection.
- IV. The team inspects the establishment using the checklist (refer 3.1-The checklist for biosecurity monitoring/inspection for the registration and renewal of registration of an export -oriented fresh water/marine fish establishment) and submits inspection report to the D/AH.
- V. The D/AH recommends the renewal of registration of the establishment to D/VRA based on the inspection report.
- VI. D/VRA renew the registration of the establishment for the relevant year.
- VII. If there is noncompliance for registration
 - For minor non-compliances, the establishment should fulfil the inspection team recommendations and the verification will be done at the next bi-annual inspection by the inspection team. Meanwhile, the establishment is recommended for the renewal of registration by D/AH.
 - For major noncompliance, the establishment must fulfill recommendation given by the inspection team. The establishment is not recommended until the correction is verified by the inspection team by D/AH.

2. Biosecurity guidelines for export -oriented ornamental fish establishment

2.1 Biosecurity guidelines for freshwater ornamental fish/aquatic animal exporters

All ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishments or farms must be registered with the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) and adhere to the conditions stipulated by DAPH

- ‘Exporter’- An exporter is a person/company who rears/keeps ornamental fish/aquatic animals in a place/farm/establishment with the objective of exporting ornamental fish/aquatic animal. An exporter may be either ornamental fish/aquatic animal breeder or collector who rears/keeps ornamental fish/aquatic animals until export.

- ‘Export -oriented ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishment’ is a place/farm where export-oriented ornamental fish/aquatic animal are bred/reared/kept until export. It may be a breeding establishment or keeping fish until export by a collector.
- All export oriented ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishments should comply with the guidelines issued by DAPH.
- All exporters should cooperate with the inspection /surveillance teams who visit the fish establishments for biosecurity monitoring/ inspection and bi-annual surveillance.

A. Infrastructure facilities

- I. The establishment should be surrounded by a security fence.
- II. Functional tyre dip for vehicles is recommended at the entrance.
- III. Functional foot baths should be available at each entry points.
- IV. Limited visitors should be permitted to enter the establishment.
- V. Other animal species should not be allowed to enter the premises.
- VI. Sign boards/name boards should be displayed in each unit of operation.
- VII. Functional hand wash facility (disinfection) should be available at the entrance
- VIII. The disinfectant solution in the foot bath should be changed daily (or according to the instruction provided by the manufacturer).
- IX. Outdoor fish holding tanks should be covered with bird nets/shade nets.
- X. Adequate number of fish holding tanks should be available; they should be numbered.
- XI. Separate sets of equipment should be available for each operational unit.
- XII. A quarantine unit should be available for newly introduced fish to the facility and a separate quarantine unit for pre-export quarantine.
- XIII. Disposal pit with concrete side walls /incinerator should be available within the premises for disposal of dead fish.
- XIV. An acceptable solid waste disposal system should be available.
- XV. The floor area where the tanks are placed should be concreted and facilitated removing spilled water completely,

B. Health management of fish/aquatic animals

- I. Healthy fish/aquatic animals should be introduced from known trusted establishments/farms.
- II. Fish should be observed regularly for abnormal behaviour and remove dead/dying fish immediately.
- III. Dead/dying collected fish should be disposed in a disposal pit or incinerator (burn).

- IV. During incident of mass mortality (disease outbreak), disinfectant should be added before discarding.
- V. The disposal site should be located away from the water sources.
- VI. Tanks with fish showing abnormal behaviour should be marked for easy identification.
- VII. The workers should be made aware of handling sick fish.
- VIII. If a significant number of deaths are observed in the farm, it should be informed to the relevant Government Veterinary Surgeon/ Veterinary Investigation Officer.
- IX. Fish tanks should be free from vectors (snails, frogs, etc.).

C. Water quality and water supply

- I. Water must originate from a clean and uncontaminated source.
- II. Water should be screened/filtered at the water inlet to prevent entering of wild aquatic animals to the premises.
- III. Water outlet should have a screen/filter to prevent escape of cultured/exotic aquatic animals to the environment.
- IV. Water should be tested biannually for microbiology.
- V. Water should be tested for water chemistry (PH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, acidity etc.).

D. Feed quality and feed supply

- I. Commercial feed should be obtained from a reliable source.
- II. Feed should be stored in a cool dry place and protected from vectors.
- III. Manage feed stock in a manner as the “first in - first out method”
- IV. The ingredients of self-mixed feed should undergo sufficient processing (e.g. boiling of raw fish/meat) and it is recommended to check self-mixed feed periodically for the quality.
- V. Live feed (live fish, artemia, bloodworms, etc.) should be obtained from reliable sources.

E. If fish are collected from another farms/establishment

- I. All ornamental fish/aquatic animal suppliers (who supply ornamental fish/aquatic animal to export- oriented establishments) should be registered in the relevant export – oriented establishment.
- II. The authority of the ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishment should satisfy the biosecurity level maintained by the supplier farms.
- III. Ensure, only healthy ornamental fish/aquatic animals are received into the establishments.

F. Quarantine facility and quarantine of fish

a. Quarantine facility for newly introduced fish to the premises

- I. A separate quarantine unit should be available within the establishment.
- II. Adequate number of quarantine tanks should be available for the fish stock and the tanks should be numbered.
- III. Quarantine unit should be separated from other units of the establishment and used separate equipment (nets/ siphon tubes, etc.).
- IV. Waste water should be filtered and disinfected before being removed from the quarantine unit and should not be directly diverted to the common drainage system.

b. Quarantine facility for fish before export (pre-export quarantine)

- I. Fish intended for the export should be quarantined in a separate indoor unit in the establishment.
- II. Quarantine fish varieties/species separately considering the importing country requirement.
- III. Number of quarantine days may change depending on the import country requirements.
- IV. All the quarantine tanks and the surrounding area should be disinfected after termination of quarantine period of each batch.
- V. All-in, all-out method is recommended to practice

G. Cleaning and disinfection of the establishment and equipment

- I. Every equipment should be thoroughly washed and disinfected after use.
- II. Fish tanks/raceways/ponds should be thoroughly washed by water and disinfected using an appropriate disinfectant.
- III. After disinfection, proper rinsing, and sun drying or neutralizing chlorine products are necessary to remove toxic residues.

H. Waste water treatment

- I. Waste water of the facility should be treated by filtration, sedimentation, chlorination, and de-chlorination.
- II. Filtration of the waste water should be carried out to remove debris and dead fish before sending to sedimentation tanks.
- III. Waste water should be directed into sedimentation tanks and should not be diverted to common drainages.
- IV. After sedimentation, the waste water should be chlorinated (25-50mg/L of water) and kept for 24 hours before discharging and disposal. The treated waste water should be disposed as per the guidelines given by Central Environment Authority (CEA).

I. Conditioning & packing

- I. Indoor facility should be available for the conditioning and packing.
- II. Sufficient number of tanks should be provided to each and every fish species for conditioning.
- III. The packing water should be conditioned and free from pathogenic microbes (salmonella/vibrio etc..).
- IV. The tanks should be disinfected and dried after every shipment.

J. Record Keeping

The records should be maintained and provided to the auditing teams of the Department of Animal Production and Health for inspection.

- I. Register of fish species/ varieties in the establishment.
(Details of fish introduced to the establishment -origin of fish- supplier name address and contact details, date purchased, fish species, number of fish, details of the quarantine period after introduction to the farm, quarantine and pre-export quarantine details etc.)
- II. Fish health monitoring and traceability for export certification.
- III. Disease diagnoses, mortality, treatment, disease control activities, and laboratory reports (microbiology and diagnostic reports)
- IV. Bi-annual surveillance reports and bi-annual biosecurity monitoring reports

2.2. Biosecurity guidelines for marine ornamental fish/aquatic animal exporters

- These biosecurity guidelines cover any establishment which receives marine fish/aquatic animals from in Sri Lankan Sea and/or import of marine fish, including Temporary Imports for Export Processing (TIEP). All export-oriented marine ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishments should be registered with the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) and adhere to the conditions stipulated by DAPH.
- The marine fish/ marine aquatic animal caught locally or imported for Temporary Import for Export Processing (TIEP) should be kept in a separate water system if reared/kept in the same location of fresh water ornamental fish establishments.
- All export-oriented marine fish (consignment) should be placed in a DAPH-approved and registered export establishment.
- All export-oriented marine fish establishment must follow the guidelines provided by DAPH.
- All exporters should cooperate with the inspection /surveillance teams who visits to the fish establishments for biosecurity monitoring/ inspection and bi-annual surveillance.

- The marine fish should be collected from an area at least five kilometres away from any finfish aquaculture operation and the fish in the consignment should not contact / associated with farmed food fish or with recreational fishing.
- The marine fish should be wild caught or as per country requirement.

A. Infrastructure facilities

- I. Marine fish are not recommended to rear with fresh water fish in the same establishment and if they are reared together in a same fish establishment make sure to manage them separately.
- II. The marine fish export establishment should be an indoor facility.
- III. Functional foot bath and hand-washing facility (disinfection) should be available at the entrance.
- IV. For each unit of operation, sign boards should be displayed.
- V. The disinfecting solutions in the foot bath should be changed periodically or when visibly soiled with debris.
- VI. Adequate numbered tanks should be available.
- VII. Separate set of equipment should be available for each tank or unit (same water circulation system).
- VIII. Clean mechanically filtered disinfected water should be used during the holding period and packing.
- IX. Visitors should be limited and other animal species should be restricted to the premises

B. Fish health management

- I. Fish should be frequently observed for abnormal behaviour and remove dead/dying fish as soon as possible.
- II. Dead/dying fish should be collected to an appropriate container without spilling and splashing water into the nearby tanks.
- III. The workers should be made aware of handling sick fish
- IV. Disposal pit with concrete side wall/ incinerator should be available for disposal of dead fish.
- V. If a significant number of deaths are observed in the farm, they should be informed to the relevant Government Veterinary Surgeon/ Veterinary Investigation Officer

C. Quarantine facility and quarantine of fish

a. Quarantine facility for newly arrived fish to the premises

- I. Indoor quarantine unit should be available within the establishment.

- II. Adequate number of quarantine tanks should be available for the fish stock and the tanks should be numbered.
- III. Quarantine unit should be separated from other units of the establishment and use separate equipment (nets/ siphon tubes, etc.).
- IV. Waste water should be filtered and disinfected before being removed from the quarantine unit and should not be diverted into the common drainage system.

b. Quarantine facility for fish before export (pre-export quarantine)

- I. Fish of the export consignment should be quarantined in a place/facility which is approved by the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH).
- II. Number of quarantine days may be changed depending on the import country requirements.
- III. All the quarantine holding tanks and the surrounding area should be disinfected after the termination of quarantine period of each batch.

D. Waste water

- I. Waste water should not be diverted in contact with common drainages and should be treated with chlorination (25-50mg/L of water) and kept 24 hours before discharge or as per the guidelines given by Central Environment Authority (CEA).

E. Conditioning & packing

- I. The conditioning and packing area should be an indoor facility.
- II. The packing water should be conditioned and free from pathogenic microbes.

F. Record Keeping

- I. The records should be maintained and provided for inspection, auditing and certification purposes by the Authorized officers of the Department of Animal Production and Health
- II. Register of marine fish species/ varieties in the establishment. Details of fish introduced to the establishment (origin of fish- name address and contact details of the supplier, date purchased, fish species, number of fish, details of the quarantine period after introduction to the farm etc. and for marine fish, place of caught/sea area, diver's details)
- III. Fish health monitoring and traceability (sea area/country and details of imports) for export certification.
- IV. Disease diagnoses, treatment, control activities, laboratory reports (microbiology and diagnostic reports),
- V. Bi-annual surveillance laboratory reports and biosecurity monitoring reports.

2.3 Biosecurity guidelines for ornamental fish/aquatic animal suppliers who supply ornamental fish/aquatic animal to exporters or collectors for exportation

- ‘Supplier’- The supplier is ornamental fish/aquatic animal breeders or collectors who supply ornamental fish/aquatic animal to export-oriented ornamental fish/marine fish/aquatic animal establishment (exporters). The supplier may be freshwater or marine water ornamental fish/aquatic animal supplier.
- All suppliers should register with the export- oriented establishment (ornamental fish/aquatic animal/ marine ornamental fish/aquatic animal) if they supply ornamental fish/aquatic animalising for exportation.
- If the supplier is a collector, the collector may directly supply ornamental fish/aquatic animal to export- oriented establishment or rear/keep until supply to export- oriented establishment

A. Infrastructure facilities

- I. The establishment should be surrounded by a security fence.
- II. Unauthorized visitors and other animal species should be restricted to the premises.
- III. Functional foot bath and hand wash facility (disinfection) should be available at the entrance
- IV. The disinfecting solutions in the foot bath should be changed daily or according to the instruction provided by the manufacturer
- V. Fish holding tanks in the outdoor facilities should be covered by bird nets/black shade nets.
- VI. Adequate number of tanks should be available, and the tanks should be numbered.
- VII. Separate set of equipment should be available for each tank/unit.
- VIII. Concrete-lined disposal pit/incinerator should be available within the premises for disposal of dead fish
- IX. An acceptable solid garbage disposal system should be available.

B. Water quality and water supply

- I. Water must originate from a clean and uncontaminated source.
- II. Water should be screened/filtered at the water inlet to prevent entering of wild aquatic animals to the premises.
- III. Water outlet should have a screen/filter to prevent escape of farmed/exotic aquatic animals to the environment.
- IV. The water should be tested biannually for microbiology.

C. Feed quality and feed supply

- I. Commercial feed should be acquired from a reliable source.
- II. Feed should be stored in a cool dry place and should protect from vectors.
- III. Feed stock should be maintained in a manner as the “first in - first out method” and should be used within expiry period for safeguard the quality of the compound fish feed.
- IV. The ingredients of self-mixed feed should undergo sufficient processing (e.g. boiling of raw fish/meat) and the self-mixed feed is recommended to check for the quality.
- V. Live feed (artemia, bloodworms, etc.) should be obtained from reliable sources.

D. If supplier is a collector

- I. The collector should provide the details of the particular fish stock/consignment to the export- oriented establishment (exporters)
- II. It is collector’s responsibility to collect healthy ornamental fish/aquatic animal from biosecurity-maintained farms
- III. Only healthy ornamental fish/aquatic animals should be collected and supplied to the export -oriented establishmentA quarantine unit should be available for newly arrived fish to the facility and a separate quarantine unit for pre-export quarantine.

E. Quarantine of ornamental fish/aquatic animal

Quarantine facility for newly collected fish to the premises

- I. Indoor quarantine unit should be available within the facility.
- II. Adequate number of quarantine tanks should be available for the fish stock and the tanks should be numbered.
- III. Quarantine unit should be separated from other units of the establishment and used separate equipment (nets/ siphon tubes, etc.)
- IV. Waste water should be filtered and disinfected before removing from the quarantine unit and should not be diverted into common drainage system.

F. Cleaning and disinfection of the farm and equipment

- I. Every equipment should be cleaned, thoroughly washed and disinfected after use.
- II. Fish tanks/raceways/ponds should be thoroughly washed by water and disinfected using an appropriate disinfectant.
- III. After disinfection, proper rinsing and sun drying or neutralizing chlorine products are necessary to remove toxic residues.

G. Waste water treatment

- I. Waste water of the establishment should be treated by filtration, sedimentation, chlorination, and de-chlorination.
- II. Filtration of the waste water should be done to remove debris and dead fish before sending to sedimentation tanks.
- III. Waste water should be directed into sedimentation tanks and should not be diverted/in contact with common drainages.
- IV. After sedimentation, the waste water should be chlorinated (25-50mg/L of water) and should be kept for 24 hours before discharge and dispose treated waste water as per the guidelines given by Central Environment Authority (CEA).

H. Fish health management

- I. Each fish species should be reared in separate tanks.
- II. Fish should be frequently observed for abnormal behaviour and remove dead/dying fish as soon as possible.
- III. Dead/dying fish should be collected to an appropriate container without spilling and splashing water into the nearby tanks.
- IV. Dead/dying collected fish should be disposed of preferably in a concrete-lined disposal pit or burned.
- V. Tanks with fish showing abnormal behaviour should be marked for easy identification.
- VI. The workers should be made aware of handling sick fish.
- VII. If a significant number of deaths are observed in the farm, it should be informed to the relevant Government Veterinary Surgeon/ Veterinary Investigation Officer. Fish tanks should be free from vectors (snails, frogs, etc.).

I. Conditioning & packing

- I. Indoor facility should be available for the conditioning and packing.
- II. Sufficient number of tanks should be available to condition each and every fish species.
- III. The packing water should be conditioned and free from pathogenic microbes.
- IV. The tanks should be disinfected and dried.

J. Record Keeping

- I. Records on disease diagnoses, treatment, control activities and laboratory reports (microbiology and diagnostic reports), should be properly maintained.
- II. Maintain a register for the newly collected fish (origin of fish- name address and contact details, date purchased, fish species number of fish, details of the quarantine period after introduction to the farm)

- III. A register should be maintained and available for inspection, auditing and certification purposes by the authorized officers of the Department of Animal Production and Health.

3. Biosecurity monitoring/inspection checklist for export-oriented fish establishments

3.1. The checklist for biosecurity monitoring/inspection for the registration and renewal of registration of export -oriented fresh water/ marine ornamental fish establishments

- I. Name of the establishment:
- II. Name /address/ contact No.
- III. Ownership of the establishment: Owned / Rental / Lease
- IV. Dept. of Animal Production and Health Registration No:
- V. NAQDA Registration No:
- VI. Dept. of Fisheries Registration No;
- VII. Environmental license No:
- VIII. Date of Inspection:
- IX. Size of the establishment (area):
- X. Type of fish in the facility: Fresh water / Marine water / Both
- XI. GPS Location:

S/N	Requirement	Yes	No	N.A.	Remarks
A. Infrastructure & biosecurity					
1	Security fence surrounding premises				
2	Unauthorized visitors restricted				
3	Other animal species are not reared in the establishment (pls mention)				
4	Farm layout is displayed				
5	Operational units identified with signboards				
6	Functional footbath available at each entry points				
7	Outdoor tanks protected with bird/shade nets				
8	Indoor tanks or closed artificial systems for marine fish				
9	Tanks are adequately available and are numbered				
10	Separate equipment available for each tank/unit				

11	Concrete lined disposal pit/incinerator available to discard dead fish				
12	Functional solid waste disposal system				
B. Fish/aquatic animal health management					
1	Fish species maintained separately				
2	No nearby food fish farms /recreational fishing activities				
3	Staff trained in fish health and biosecurity management				
4	Protective footwear and clothes for farm staff				
5	Tanks for sick / abnormal fish is available				
6	Ponds and Tanks free from vectors (snails, frogs, crabs etc.)				
C. Water and Feed					
1	Separate water inlet and outlet, screened/filtered				
2	Separate cool and dry place for feed and chemical storage				
3	Feed protected from pests/vectors				
4	No expired feed in feed stores				
D. Quarantine management					
1	Functional indoor quarantine unit for newly introduced fish				
2	Functional pre-export quarantine facility				
3	Adequate quarantine tanks available and numbered				
4	Quarantine/ pre-export quarantine units are managed separately (equipment/waste water etc..)				
5	Quarantine waste water not directed into common drainage				
E. Cleaning & disinfection					
1	Hand washing/disinfection facility available				
2	Footbath disinfectant properly maintained (change at least once a day)				
3	Availability of clean equipment (Fish nets, collecting equipment etc..)				
F. Wastewater management					
1	Wastewater filtration system available				
2	Sedimentation facility available				
3	Wastewater isolated from common drainage				
G. Conditioning & packing					
1	Separate Indoor area for conditioning/packing available				

2	Separate treated water tanks for conditioning and packing				
3	Adequate conditioning tanks available				
H. For marine ornamental fish					
1	Locally caught, imported and TIEP fish are managed separately				
2	Fresh water fish and marine fish managed separately				
I. Record keeping					
1	Health records ➤ Disease diagnosis ➤ Mortality ➤ Disease control and Treatments Reporting of disease events to relevant veterinary authorities				
2	Laboratory reports ➤ Water microbiology/quality ➤ Bi-annual surveillance ➤ Disease diagnostic Any other (mention)				
3	Biosecurity monitoring records ➤ Recommendations of the inspection team Action taken for correction as to the recommendations				
4	Quarantine and pre- export quarantine ➤ Fish species and the introduction date, quarantine period ➤ Disease diagnosed/ treatments and any action taken during quarantine ➤ Records on resting period ➤ Cleaning and disinfection after every batch ➤ Any practice for packing water treatment ➤ Any practice for disinfection of quarantine waste water				
5	Cleaning and disinfection ➤ Cleaning and disinfection procedure for all units ➤ Waste water chlorination				
6	Fish Supplier records ➤ Supplier register (Name, Address, fish species, date received, Quantity) for				

	- local and imported fresh water fish - locally caught, imported and TIEP fish for marine fish				
7	For marine fish, Area captured with species and quantity (Including name of the divers)				
8	Records available for inspection				

Non-Conformities:

Recommendations / comments:

Overall assessment

- ☐ Satisfactory
- ☐ Satisfactory with minor corrective actions
- ☐ Unsatisfactory (Corrective Actions Required)

Inspection team

Signature

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Owner/Manager's Signature:

Date:

* A copy of filled checklist should be submitted to the establishment authority

3.2 Bi-annual biosecurity monitoring/inspection of export-oriented fresh water/ marine ornamental fish establishment (6 months of registration/renewal)

- I. Name and address of the establishment –
- II. Contact number-
- III. DAPH registration number-
- IV. Date of registration/renewal of registration-
- V. Date visit for bi-annual monitoring/inspection-

Biosecurity recommendations at previous visit (date.....)	Correction done as to the team recommendation
New recommendations/corrections to be done if any:	

Inspection Team:

Name

Signature

1.

2.

3.

Owner/Manager's Signature:

Date:

* A copy should be submitted to the establishment authority

4. Sampling guidelines for bi-annual surveillance of export-oriented ornamental fish /aquatic animal establishments

- A. Live fish, aquatic animals and packing water are collected at the biannual inspection of export-oriented ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishments by the Veterinary Investigation Officer (VIO).
- B. When aquatic animal/fish does not originate from one source, a representative sample from all sources are collected.
- C. Each species/variety should be collected in separate bags with sufficient water and oxygen.
- D. Packing water should be collected to an unused packing bag.
- E. Sampling procedure of aquatic animal/fish and packing water is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Sample type, purpose of sampling, testing parameters, number/ volume of the sample for testing during biannual inspection

No	Sample type	Purpose of sampling	Testing parameters	Number/ volume
1	Freshwater & marine fish species *	Mandatory	Internal & external parasites, pathogenic bacteria	5 fish / species
2	Carp and goldfish	Mandatory	Koi Herpes Virus, Spring viremia of carp virus (requirement of EU/UK/South Africa/Korea/Canada/Australia)	5 fish/ species
3	<i>Danio</i> spp.	EU/UK – oriented	Spring viremia of carp virus	5 fish/ species
4	Susceptible freshwater fish species **	Australian-oriented exports	Megalocytivirus (for <i>Gouramis</i> /paradise fish / <i>cichlids</i> / <i>poeciliids</i> / <i>bettas</i>)	60 fish/ *variety/water body
5	Marine Fish	Only for China-oriented exports	Viral nervous necrosis, red sea bream iridovirus	4 fish/ species
6	Packing water (Freshwater/ marine water)	Mandatory	Pathogenic <i>Salmonella</i> spp., <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	1 L

* VIO decides the number of species/varieties to be sampled depending on the number of species/varieties available at each exporter.

**** Megalocytivirus testing** – (a) If fish are exported as individual varieties, 60 fish from each variety should be sampled.

(b) If fish are exported as assorted, 60 fish from each assorted group should be sampled (maximum 5 varieties in one sample bag)

F. Diagnostic Tests

- I. Diagnostic tests are conducted at the Veterinary Investigation Centres/ Veterinary Research Institute (VRI).
- II. All samples except carp and goldfish are examined for internal and external parasites and pathogenic bacteria at the respective Veterinary Investigation Centre.
- III. Carp and goldfish are dispatched to VRI to test for koi herpes virus (KHV) and spring viremia of carp virus (SVC) by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
- IV. Carp and goldfish samples for internal and external parasites and pathogenic bacteria are tested at the VRI.
- V. Megalocytivirus susceptible spp. are dispatched to VRI to test for megalocytivirus by PCR.
- VI. Marine fish are dispatched to VRI to test for viral nervous necrosis virus (VNN) and red seabream iridovirus (RSIV) by PCR.
- VII. Specific tests will be conducted for specific diseases whenever requested by importing countries.

G. Fees for testing

Fee for testing should be charged according to DAPH Circulars.

5. Guidelines for managing non-compliance in testing reports at bi-annual surveillance of export -oriented ornamental fish/aquatic animal establishments

If non-compliance in health aspects occurs during bi-annual surveillance reports, the International Veterinary Health Certificate (IVHC) will not be issued for that particular species or variety.

If the fish establishment is non-compliance with the laboratory report

- Establishment should take necessary action to correct the non-compliance
- The establishment authority should submit samples to VIC/VRI/Center for Aquatic Disease Diagnosis and Research (CAADDR) or private laboratories (recognized by DAPH) for re-testing.
- Once the test results are negative, the establishment should submit a negative laboratory report to the relevant VIO and request for verification

- The VIO performs sample collection and laboratory testing at the VIC or send samples to VRI for testing according to the sampling plan.
- Verification for non- compliance laboratory results by the VIC is conducted only once between a six-month period (in between biannual surveillance).
- If the samples are again positive for the relevant tests at the verification,
 - The authority of establishment should take action again to correct the situation and inform VIO for verification again.
 - VIO will do the verification in the next bi annual sampling. However, the decision of repeated verification will be taken by the Animal Health Division based on the situation and will be handled case by case.

5.1 Action to be taken for parasitological/bacteriological non-compliance

If the sample is positive for parasites and bacteria

- Treat the whole batch.
- Repeating sampling and testing until negative results are obtained is the responsibility of the establishment authority
- Once negative results are obtained, it should be presented to the relevant VIO for verification.
- VIO will perform sample collection and laboratory testing or send samples to VRI for testing according to the sampling plan for verification.
- For bacterial and parasitic pathogens, verification will be done after the initial bi- annual non- compliance sample test results.

5.2. Action to be taken for viral pathogen non-compliance

If a sample is positive for one or more viruses:

- If koi herpesvirus or spring viremia of carp virus is detected.
The establishment authority must take necessary actions, such as immediately destroying and safely disposing of the infected stock and exposed aquatic animals, movement restriction, quarantine, disinfection of the facility, tracking the supply chain, and leaving the establishment empty for a certain period before re-stocking.
- If other viruses are detected, the establishment authority should follow the instructions given by VIO and take necessary action to improve farm biosecurity according to the DAPH biosecurity guidelines.

- The establishment authority should submit samples to VIC/VRI/CAADDR or a private laboratory (recognized by DAPH) for re-testing.
- Once the test results are a negative, the establishment should submit negative laboratory report to the relevant VIC for verification.
- The VIO will perform sample collection and laboratory testing at the VIC or send samples to VRI for testing according to the sampling plan for verification.
- Verification is performed only after 1 month of the initial bi-annual non-compliance sample test results.

6. Guidelines to obtain International Veterinary Health Certificate (IVHC) for Ornamental Fish Exportation

- I. Exporter/Establishment should have a valid DAPH registration certificate.
- II. Exporter/owner of the establishment should adopt acceptable standards of biosecurity measures.
- III. Owner of the establishment should adhere to biosecurity monitoring and biannual surveillance programme (refer 4- Sampling guideline for bi-annual surveillance of export-oriented ornamental fish /aquatic animal establishments) conducted by DAPH
- IV. The recommendation is issued for the exportation based on the bi-annual laboratory report and acceptable standards of biosecurity measures adopted in the establishment
- V. Additional laboratory tests will be conducted whenever required by the importing country
- VI. It is exporter's responsibility to provide the importing country requirements in writing to the DVRA/DAPH before 3 weeks of obtaining the IVHC.
- VII. If importing country requirements change, the exporter should inform immediately to the DG/DAPH providing enough time to fulfil the required proceedings. (since a reasonable time is needed for sampling and lab testing.).
- VIII. It is mandatory to undergo the required pre-quarantine period before exporting and it is necessary to fulfil any special requirement requested by the importing country.
- IX. If it is not specified, quarantine period is a minimum of 14 days
- X. During the quarantine period, quarantine officer/authorized officers should inspect and submit a report to the D/VRA depending on the importing country requirement.
- XI. If any significant death/mortality/sickness is observed in the quarantine unit, it should be immediately informed to the relevant VIO. Chief Animal Quarantine Officer (CAQO) should not recommend such consignment for exportation.

- XII. Animal Quarantine Office needs at least three working days to issue IVHC after submitting the following documents.
- a. Dully filled application ((annex 1- Application for registration/renewal of an ornamental fish/other aquatic species/ breeder farm /export establishment /import and quarantine establishment /collecting and supplying center)
 - b. Packing list
 - c. If exporter purchases fish from other DAPH registered establishments, the original purchasing invoice or original certified document to confirm the purchase should be submitted.
 - d. Relevant annexures and declarations according to the importing country requirements.
- XIII. Exporter should produce the original documents at the time of collecting the IVHC and sole responsibility of the submitted documents should be borne by the exporter.
- XIV. When issuing an IVHC, the renewal/new registration certificate and bi-annual surveillance report (laboratory report) with the recommendation of D/AH and D/VRA will be taken into the consideration.
- XV. DAPH reserves the right to conduct any special inspection(s) of the establishment as it deems necessary. After issuing the certificate, an authorized officer reserves the right to withdraw or cancel the IVHC if a disease/noncompliance is suspected or confirmed.
- XVI. The IVHC is valid only for 10 days from the date of issuance. The consignment should be departed within the validity period of the certificate.
- XVII. If necessary, the certificate validity period can be extended for another 7 days (applicable only once), with the valid reasons provided in written and can be applied within the validity period of the certificate.
- XVIII. Exporters who export aquatic animals under TIEP scheme should be registered with DAPH.
- XIX. If the transport of animals is by Air, international standards relating to live animal transport stipulated by International Air Transport Association (IATA) should be followed.
- XX. It is mandatory to inform to the D/VRA when an export establishment is closed in order to cancel the registration.
- XXI. It is the Exporter's responsibility to fulfil the importing country requirements and Animal Quarantine is not liable for any consequences due to failure to complete the requirements.