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*Standard Methods and Procedures  
(SMPs) for  
**Export Quarantines**  
in the Greater Horn of Africa*





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in the Greater Horn of Africa***

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## **Foreword**

The arid and semi-arid lands of the Horn of Africa (HOA) are home to poor and vulnerable populations, the majority of whom rely on livestock to sustain livelihoods. However, the performance of livestock in the region remains low, given the widespread occurrence of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) that are responsible for production losses, and reduced performance of intra- and inter-regional trade in livestock and livestock products. Because of disease outbreaks, live animal exports have been severely constrained during the past two decades, by bans imposed by importing countries to reduce risks associated with these diseases.

To address the negative impact of TADs on livestock trade, AU-IBAR and ICPALD together with the participating countries in the region, with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), have developed a framework to support harmonization and coordination of the control of the diseases, referred to as the Standard Methods and Procedures (SMP) Approach. The SMP approach involves strengthening capacities of member states for surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory diagnostics, disease control programmes, and communications. The fundamental aspect of the approach is the linking of disease prevention and control activities in a country, to a set of regional minimum standards and procedures for TADs prevention and control in line with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards.

The minimum standards, procedures, methods and goals for a particular disease are contained in an individual SMPs. It deals with subject areas of surveillance, laboratory procedures and disease control, and states minimum standards, procedures and goals that must be met for harmonized regional control of a disease.

This booklet presents the SMPs for Export Quarantines, and deals with the specific dynamics of Export Quarantines.

The compilation of the materials in the SMPs for Export Quarantines, taking into consideration the characteristics of the Greater Horn of Africa, was made possible by technical experts from the region with technical support from AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE and AU-PANVAC. AU-IBAR is indebted to many scientists who reviewed the document and especially to Dr. James Wabacha the coordinator of the SMP-AH project for coordinating the preparation of the SMPs.

The SMPs for Export Quarantines targets field veterinary personnel, policy makers, laboratory personnel, veterinary students and Quarantine Station Managers in the region.

Professor Ahmed El-Sawalhy

Director

African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

## **1.0 Introduction**

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Economic Community (REC), plus Tanzania, has an estimated population of about 350 million ruminants, making it the highest concentrations of livestock in the world. Demand for livestock and livestock products from this region are a steadily increasing due to the rising world population and increasing affluence. Potential areas for export of livestock from the GHOA area include other regions within Africa, nations of the Arabian Peninsula and Middle East, and South East Asia.

Stability of livestock trade is a matter of importance to both exporting and importing countries – to exporters for stable livelihoods of livestock producers and contribution to the national economies, and to importers for food security and an adequate supply of livestock for religious holidays and celebrations.

Responsibilities of the exporters include provision into the trade of healthy, disease-free animals and animal welfare during transportation. The exporting nations are working toward coordination of their veterinary departments to upgrade their ability to control Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) that, when present, impinge on trade. This issue falls within the recommendations by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The principle is referred to as Safe Trade with Appropriate Level of Protection, or STALOP, and is under the conceptual framework of the OIE Judgment of Equivalence.

Likewise, responsibilities of the importing nations include import regulations that are scientifically based in both concept and implementation, reasonable in their scope, coordinated among the nations of Gulf Cooperation Council, and Regional Economic Communities, and accepting of the STALOP principle. Disease control decisions, like import regulations, must be based in good science.

The IGAD approach to regional TADs control is to use a Standard Methods and Procedures (SMP) document as the protocol for control of each individual disease. Each disease has a specific and separate SMP that takes into account the unique dynamics of that disease. All exporting nations are then using the same approach to that disease, thereby enhancing coordination of their disease control programs and approaches across the entirety of Eastern Africa. The SMP approach forms a unified livestock Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) basis for the entire IGAD region.

Export Quarantines are a critically important part of the livestock value chain as related to this export trade. They perform the final checks and certification for healthy

animals prior to actual export, such as identification, clinical inspection, sampling, testing, vaccination / treatment and certification during pre-quarantine, quarantine and post-quarantine periods. Standardization among the several Export Quarantines is an important aspect of standardization of disease control for provision of healthy, disease-free animals.

This SMP supports the Export Quarantine system in the Greater Horn of Africa with a coordinated, standardized approach to preparation of livestock for export. It is designed to meet compliance with bilateral agreements and regulations and is in line with the OIE and WTO guidelines and standards.

This SMP document describes the methods and procedures for traded livestock and covers holding grounds/collection points, pre-quarantines/intermediate quarantines, export quarantines, and post-quarantines.



## **2.0 Definitions**

**Note:** the definitions below are provided in the context of the SMP-AH Export Quarantines in this document.

### **2.1. Livestock holding ground/collection point**

A facility where animals from markets, production areas and livestock corridors assemble for a short period of time to enable the clients and the traders to complete the consignment;

In this facility animals are fed, watered, rested, and identified; provided limited veterinary interventions. It might be planned for using as a reserve for livestock living around the holding if necessary or as necessary and also will be issued with an international animal health inspection certificate if intended for export. Livestock movements permit to enter quarantine and/or pre-quarantine facility is issued for those destined for further movement;

Only healthy animals are allowed to enter the value chain from this point onwards;

This facility may be owned and managed by private companies or by government. Veterinary interventions irrespective of ownership are regulated and controlled by the official veterinary authority.

### **2.2. Pre-Quarantine:**

A Pre-Quarantine must be officially recognized by the Chief Veterinary Officer;

A pre-quarantine is a facility where animals from holding grounds or other collection points assemble for veterinary interventions such as identification, sampling and testing, vaccinations, treatments, and monitoring for presence of disease. Time spent in the pre-quarantine may, with agreement of all parties, be considered as a component of the required total duration of the quarantine period;

The facility must be isolated and securely fenced for purposes of sufficient biosecurity and to avoid close contact with other animals outside the facility. Human contact with the animals should be limited to facility personnel only;

Regardless of ownership, all pre-quarantine facilities shall be under regulatory control of official veterinary authorities.

### **2.3. Export Quarantine Facilities (Quarantine or Principal Quarantine)**

Export quarantine is a facility where animals are being held in isolation for a specified period of time for purposes of veterinary observation, sampling, testing, vaccinations and/or treatment as per requirements of the importing country.

The facility must be isolated and securely fenced for purposes of sufficient biosecurity to avoid close contact with other animals outside the facility. Human contact with the animals should be limited to facility the authorized personnel only;

Regardless of ownership, all quarantine facilities shall be under regulatory control of official veterinary authorities;

### **2.4. Post-quarantine procedures for export animals**

Procedures of preparing animals for departure including final inspections, certification of vessels, completion of the international veterinary certificate, and any other required documentation.

### **2.5. Livestock Movement Permit**

A document issued by national veterinary authorities after a health inspection, specifying the identification, number, and type of animals, the owner, means of transport, and allowing for movement of animals to an intended location.

### **2.6. Animal Health Inspection Certificate**

A certificate of veterinary inspection confirming that the identified animals show no signs of infectious or contagious disease, have been subjected to specified tests and or vaccinations as required. This certificate allows movement of the identified animals to a specified location.

### **2.7. International Veterinary Certificate**

A certificate of veterinary inspection confirming that the identified animals show no signs of infectious/contagious disease and have been subjected to specified tests and/or vaccinations as required by importing country. This certificate allows movement of the identified animals to a specified international location.

### **2.8. Primary Livestock market**

This is first point of sale into the livestock marketing value chain. Here the animals are should be inspected for health and provided with a movement permit.

### **2.9. Marshalling yard**

A facility located inside/near the port of embarkation where animals for export or import receive final veterinary inspection and port/customs clearance.

### **2.10. Certificate of Origin**

A certificate issued by the Chamber of Commerce confirming that the identified animals originate from a specified country.

### **2.11. Certificate of Quarantine**

A certificate provided by Quarantine authorities certifying that the identified animal(s) have satisfied all export requirements.

### **2.12. Vessel Certificate**

A document provided by competent port authorities certifying that the vessel is fit to transport the required type and number of animals in regard to space, ventilation, feeding and watering facilities, hygiene, and other animal welfare concerns.

### **2.13. Feed lot**

A facility for feeding and conditioning animals for weight gain and improved carcass quality, and if used as a holding ground for export animals shall fall under veterinary regulatory supervision.

### **2.14. Ranch/farm**

This is an initial animal production facility that if used as a holding ground for export animals, shall fall under veterinary regulatory supervision.

### **2.15. Transit animals**

Animals moving from one country through another country in order to reach their final destination;

Such animals may require debarkation for animal welfare purposes (feed, water, and rest), health, and facilitation of trade.

Competent veterinary authorities of the transit and exporting country shall cooperate to satisfy any requirements pertaining to transit and/or facilitation of trade.

### **2.16 Importing country**

Means a country that is the final destination to which commodities are sent.

### **2.17. Official Veterinarian**

Means a veterinarian authorized by the Veterinary Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of OIE terrestrial animal health code

### **2.18. Official Veterinary control**

Means the operations whereby the Veterinary Services, knowing the location of the animals and after taking appropriate actions to identify their owner or responsible keeper, are able to apply appropriate animal health measures, as required. This does not exclude other responsibilities of the Veterinary Services e.g. food safety.

### **2.19. Quarantine station**

Means an establishment under the control of the Veterinary Authority where animals are maintained in isolation with no direct or indirect contact with other animals, to ensure that there is no transmission of specified pathogen(s) outside the establishment while the animals are undergoing observation for a specified length of time and, if appropriate, testing and treatment.

### **2.20. Laboratory**

Means a properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel under the control of a specialist in veterinary diagnostic methods, who is responsible for the validity of the results. The Veterinary Authority approves and monitors such laboratories with regard to the diagnostic tests required for international trade.

### **3.0 Procedures at holding grounds**

Holding grounds must be fenced and may have but are not required to have a crush for animal health purposes, an office for record keeping and storage, electrical power, toilets, and security arrangements; fulfill animal welfare issues

Feeding and watering facilities must be available at all times;

Animals must be attended to at all times to ensure their health, welfare and safety;

Animals entering the holding ground must be identified to source and records maintained;

If needed or required, animals may be treated or vaccinated for any condition and appropriate records maintained;

Animals leaving the holding ground must be inspected for health by competent veterinary personnel and issued with a movement permit and livestock health certificate;

Subject to authorization by the Chief Veterinary Officer, a holding ground may be used as a Pre-Quarantine facility and shall meet minimum requirements as defined in 2.2.

If case of infectious/contagious disease, veterinary authorities shall be notified to take necessary measures.

Sanitation and biosecurity measures must be undertaken regularly.

#### **4.0 Procedures at pre-quarantine**

- a. Pre-Quarantines may be public or private but must be supervised and audited by veterinary authorities;
- b. Personnel requirements of a pre-quarantine include a manager, veterinarian(s), veterinary technicians, attendants, and other personnel as need be;
- c. Pre-quarantines sites must be located to ensure isolation;
- d. A Pre-Quarantine must be securely fenced and have the following minimum facilities:
- e. A receiving area outside of the Pre-Quarantine where animals are inspected prior to entry into the Pre-Quarantine facility;
- f. Sufficient feeding and watering facilities;
- g. Loading and offloading facilities;
- h. footbaths for entering animals and tyre baths for entering vehicles; a crush; isolation pens; an office; sample collection area and vaccination equipment; cold chain equipment; toilets; stable electric power; laboratory access; security arrangements; and safe disposal of waste materials;
- i. Animals entering the Pre-Quarantine must be health inspected, checked for movement and health documentation. Identification of animals must be maintained for traceability purposes;
- j. Subject to prior official veterinary approval, animals for export may begin their quarantine period at the Pre-Quarantine;
- k. Mixing of different consignments of animals and species shall not be allowed;
- l. Daily inspection of animals must be undertaken by the quarantine veterinary staff. Sanitation, prophylaxis, vaccination, treatment, and/or culling of sick animals shall be carried out as appropriate, and records maintained;
- m. Insect vector and parasite control shall be undertaken as appropriate or required by import / export protocols;
- n. In case of infectious/contagious disease, veterinary authorities shall be informed to take necessary measures;
- o. The cause of any deaths shall be investigated and appropriate sampling and testing undertaken.
- p. Identification and records of any animals sampled, treated, or vaccinated must be accurately maintained and kept for a minimum of one year and provided to the Chief Veterinary Officer if/as required by law;
- q. Regular cleaning, disinfection and safe disposal of waste materials must be undertaken according to OIE standards and appropriate records maintained;
- r. Any particular consignment of animals must be completely stocked within three (3) days after initiation.

## **5.0 Procedures at Export/Principal Quarantine**

- a. Quarantine requires authorization by the Chief Veterinary Officer;
- b. A reception facility, including a crush and holding pen, is required for inspecting animals prior to entering the Quarantine;
- c. Quarantine sites must be located to ensure isolation and securely fenced.
- d. Basic requirements include loading and offloading facilities;
- e. a stable source of electricity;
- f. a reliable and healthy water supply;
- g. sufficient feeding facilities;
- h. holding and isolation pens;
- i. a regulatory laboratory;
- j. offices; cold chain equipment and facilities;
- k. vaccination and treatment equipment; toilets;
- l. post mortem facility; incineration;
- m. security arrangements;
- n. safe disposal of waste materials; crushes in reception and quarantine areas; and other equipment and facilities as need be;

Adequate regulatory veterinary staff shall be available all times at Quarantine sites;

Animals received into a Quarantine shall have a movement permit and veterinary health certificate, and certificate of origin if animals originate in another member state. Such records shall be maintained for a minimum of one (1) year and then provided to veterinary authorities as per request and/or required by law;

Mixing of different consignments of animals and species shall not be allowed;

The animals shall be subjected to inspection at the Quarantine gate;

Daily inspection of animals must be undertaken by the quarantine veterinary staff. Sanitation, prophylaxis, vaccination, treatment, and/or culling of sick animals shall be carried out as appropriate, and records maintained;

If case of infectious/contagious disease, veterinary authorities shall be informed to take necessary measures;

The cause of any deaths shall be investigated and appropriate sampling and testing undertaken;

Regular cleaning, disinfection and safe disposal of waste materials must be undertaken to meet OIE standards and records maintained;

Before the international veterinary certificate is issued, official veterinary authorities shall inspect animals pending export and review the quarantine management report and laboratory results. The final animal health examination should be held within 24 hours before shipment.

## **6.0 Post Quarantine**

Animals kept in marshalling yards must be provided with adequate feed, water, and shade as appropriate;

A Vessel Certificate shall be confirmed by port and veterinary authorities prior to loading of animals onto the vessel;

Before loading, all required documentation must be confirmed by veterinary authorities including international animal health certificate, certificate of origin, Quarantine report, and laboratory reports as needed;

Final inspection of animals for health and welfare fitness should be done during the actual boarding process by the appropriate veterinary personnel.

## **7.0 Administrative issues in regard to Export Quarantine SMP**

- a. Sensitization of stakeholders on the importance of holding grounds and quarantine facilities should regularly be undertaken by veterinary authorities as important components of overall disease control, animal welfare strategy, and stabilization of livestock trade.
- b. Effective communication should be maintained between holding grounds, pre-quarantines, export quarantines, and post quarantines facilities on animal health and trade issues.
- c. Training on bio-safety, bio-security, animal welfare, and communications should be undertaken regularly for veterinary personnel and relevant stakeholders along the livestock value chain.
- d. The quality and safety of vaccines and pharmaceuticals used in any quarantine operation must meet international standards.



## 8.0 Requirements for export of live animals GHOA by Middle East

COUNTRY	RVF	FMD	CBPP	BRUCELLOSIS	POX	LSD	Quarantine period(Days)
Egypt	Vaccination	Test	Test	--	--	Vaccination	30
Emirates	Vaccination	Test	--	Test 10%	--	--	21
Kuwait	Vaccination	--	--	--	Vaccination	--	10
Oman	Test 5%	--	--	Test 50%	--	--	21
Saudi Arabia	Vaccination	--	--	Test 100%	Vaccination	--	30
Yemen	Vaccination	--	--	--	--	--	10
Qatar	Vaccination	Vaccination	--	--	Vaccination	--	10
Jordan	Test 10%	Test 10%	Test 10%	Test 100%	Vaccination	--	30
Lebanon	Test 100%	Test 5% + Vaccination	Test	Test	RP Test 3%	--	30
Bahrain	Vaccination	Vaccination	--	--	Vaccination	Vaccination	7-21

## 9.0 Laboratory tests for the most important TADS currently used in the quarantines in GHOA updated 2015

	Disease	Prescribed tests by OIE (OIE standards)	Tests currently used	Confirmatory test	Response to positive test result
1	FMD	ELISA	ELISA	ELISA	Culling and notification
2	RVF	HI, ELISA	ELISA (IgG IgM)	ELISA	Culling and incineration under official supervision and notification
3	PPR	VN, ELISA	ELISA	ELISA	Culling and notification
4	LSD	VN	-VN ?	ELISA	Culling and notification
5	Sheep and goat pox	VN	-VN	AGID	Culling
6	Camel pox	-	-VN?	AGID	Culling
7	CBPP	CF, ELISA	ELISA	Culture, CF	Culling, incineration and notification
8	CCPP	CF	CF, ELISA	CF, Culture	Culling, incineration and notification
9	Brucellosis	RBT, CF	RBT	CF, ELISA	Culling under official supervision





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