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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR QUARANTINES IN THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA



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Acknowledgement

This revision of the Standard Operating Procedures for quarantine SMP was undertaken in February 2024 by ICPALD with the technical support of Dr. Murithi Mbabu and technical experts and relevant stakeholders coordinated by the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD). The Regional Livestock Program (RLP) financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), supported the publication of this version.

The first version was made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The compilation of Standard Operating Procedures for the Export Quarantines SMP was made by technical experts from the region with technical support from AU-IBAR, ICPALD, FAO, WOAHA and AU-PANVAC in 2017. We are indebted to many scientists who reviewed the document and to Dr. James Wabacha, the coordinator of the SMP-AH project for coordinating the preparation of the Export Quarantine SMP with its Standard Operating Procedures.

Foreword

The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of the Horn of Africa (HOA) is home to rich livestock resources. Majority of the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists rely on livestock to sustain their livelihoods. Nevertheless, 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. Disease outbreaks have also been a major constraint, severely affecting live animal and meat exports during the past two decades. This is attributed to 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 participating countries in the region, have developed a framework to support harmonization and coordination of the control of the diseases and trade in livestock; referred to as the Standard Methods and Procedures (SMP) approach. The framework development work was financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The SMP approach involves strengthening capacities of Member States for surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory diagnostics, disease control programs, quarantine, 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 (WOAH) standards.

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

This booklet presents the Standard Operating Procedures of the SMP for Export Quarantines, and addresses specific SOPs of Export Quarantines.

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

Dr. Dereje Wakjira
Director
ICPALD

1.0 Introduction

Quarantine systems play a key role in the local and export trade of livestock in the region. The requirement for export markets is compliant with Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) standards, and quality requirements. As such this has triggered the requirement for improved compliance with standards within the quarantine system in the region. Non-compliance to SPS standards normally results in infected animals mistakenly shipped to export markets. This often leads to punitive measures on livestock exports, and often leads to livestock export bans and financial catastrophic effects to livestock exporting countries in the region.

1.1 Key Challenges Affecting Livestock Exporting Countries

There are a number of challenges that affect exporting countries. They include:

- a) Mistrust from importing countries;
- b) Non-compliance with importing country requirements;
- c) Lack of transparency on sanitary concerns;
- d) Animal welfare concerns;
- e) Shipment rejections;
- f) Varied and sometimes differing procedures and protocols;
- g) Capacity (human, facilities); Design, location issues and facilities or laboratories or layout;
- h) Inadequate linkages and communication with quarantine or veterinary personnel from trading partners.

1.2 Development of Standard Operating Procedures for Livestock Quarantine Systems

To address the challenges mentioned above, AU-IBAR through the Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH) project spearheaded the development of the Standard Methods and Procedures (SMP) for export quarantines. To operationalize the SMP, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Livestock, quarantine systems had to be developed.

1.3 Objectives of Standard Operating Procedures for Livestock Quarantine Systems

Key objectives included the following:

1. To enhance compliance to SPS measures for sustainable livestock export trade;
2. To facilitate harmonization of quarantine procedures in the greater Horn of Africa;
3. To provide a consolidated reference on animal quarantine procedures based on country and regional regulations.

1.4 Components

This manual for Standard Operating Procedures for Livestock Quarantine Systems is divided into four components as follows:

- A model design for a quarantine facility,
- Standard Operating Procedures for pre-quarantine,
- Standard Operating Procedures for quarantine,
- Standard Operating Procedures for post-quarantine

2.0 A Model Design for a Quarantine Facility

2.1 Siting of a Quarantine Facility

For siting of a quarantine facility, it is important to take into consideration the following:

1. The place should be naturally and geographically suitable for a quarantine facility;
2. The quarantine facility should be isolated from other livestock keeping and intensive agriculture activities;
3. The facility should be located at a place away from the direction of wind in order to avoid spread of wind-borne diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) to animals in the quarantine;
4. In case the pre-quarantine and export quarantine facilities are on the same land, the minimum distance between them should be 2-3 kilometres to minimize animal contact in the two facilities;
5. Pens should not touch the fence of the quarantine;
6. Create separate pens for each consignment;
7. Ensure sufficient space per animal as per the animal welfare requirements;
8. Provide a shade for the animals at the feeding section of the pen. For sheep the shade should be 3 meters high and for camels the pens should be left open;
9. Allow a sufficient distance between neighboring pens to give ample exit and entrance space for the animals;
10. Avoid mixing different animal consignments and species in the same pens within the quarantine;
11. The pens should allow for easy cleaning.

Note: The location requirements for holding ground, pre-quarantine and quarantine are the same, but the difference is in the duration the animals spend at each station.

2.2 A Model Design of a Quarantine Facility

Figure 1 illustrates a model design of quarantine facility. This serves to guide new establishments in several countries. Specific measurements for construction of the facility can be sourced from WOAHA guideline documents for animal spacing and animal infrastructure establishment.

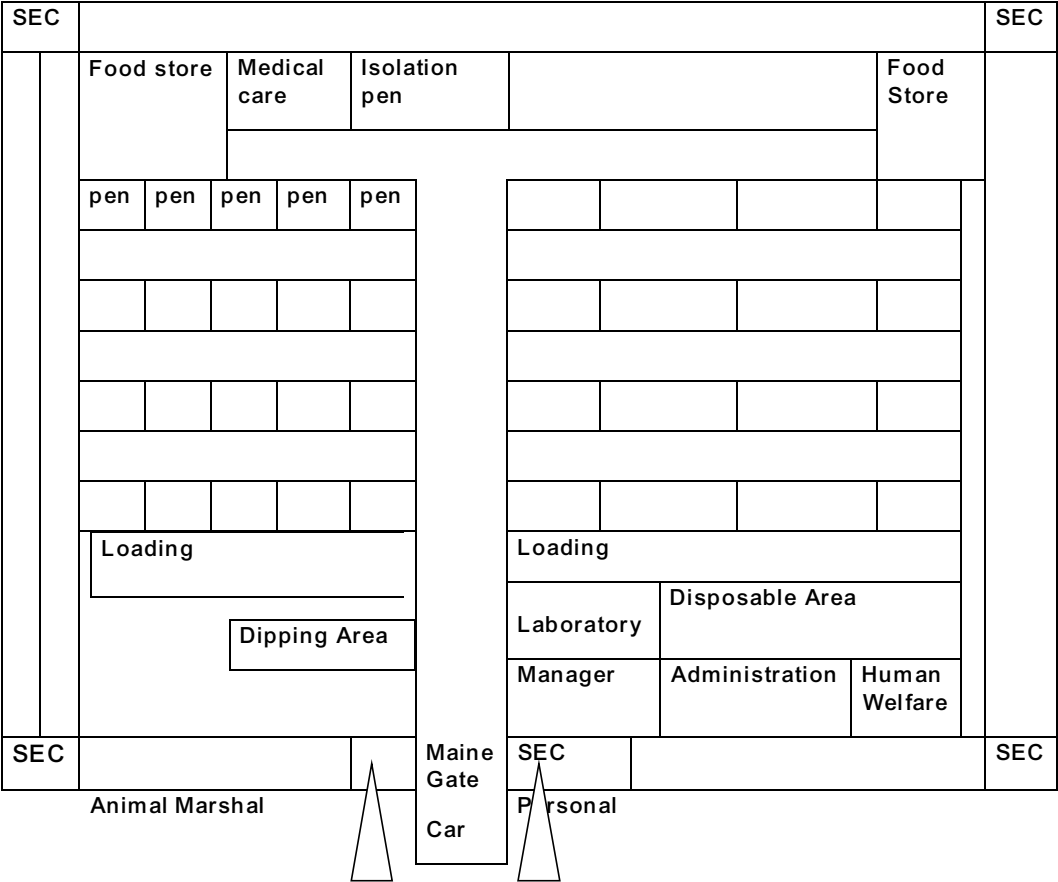


Figure 1: Illustration for a Quarantine Premise

3.0 Standard Operating Procedures for Pre-quarantine

3.1 Definition

Pre-quarantine is a facility recognized by the Chief Veterinary Officer or authorized veterinary officer where animals are isolated and securely fenced at an appropriate distance from quarantine. The animals from holding grounds or other collection points assemble for veterinary intervention in the pre-quarantine. In some countries, identification, sampling, testing, vaccination, and treatments are done in the pre-quarantine. However, this depends on the infrastructure of a pre-quarantine or holding ground and the agreement with importing countries. The period of staying in the pre-quarantine differs according to the importing country's request.

3.2 Purpose

- To collect and review documentation and data concerning the consignment such as health certificate, movement permit, number of animals, species, among others;
- To keep animals under general clinical observation;
- To allow identification of diseased animals with clinical signs of trans-boundary animal diseases and the subsequent rejection of such animals;
- To prevent entrance of infected animals and the spread of diseases.

3.3 Scope

The scope of the Standard Operating Procedure for Pre-quarantine covers the period when the animals arrive to the pre-quarantine or holding ground until they are released to the main quarantine. During this time, monitoring of the health status of animals is undertaken.

3.4 Responsibilities

The pre-quarantine management and the regulatory body (national veterinary authority) are responsible for the pre-quarantine. It is important for the management to provide sufficient water to the pre-quarantine facility. Animals should also be fed according to the agreement with the animal owner. Feed quality is usually checked and verified by the veterinary regulatory authority.

3.5 Procedures

Several important procedures have to be undertaken during the pre-quarantine period. They include the following:

- a) Checking the health certificate and movement permit of the animals;
- b) Record animal Information like species, age, number of animals per consignment, owner's name, place of origin, date of receipt, intended country of import (see Table 1). The certifying (signing) authority should be the pre-quarantine manager;
- c) Any particular consignment of animals must be completely stocked within three (3) days after initiation;
- d) Make sure that livestock received in the pre-quarantine facilities are in good body condition and are free from diseases and injuries. Any animal contracting a disease and injury should be immediately attended to;
- e) The pre-quarantine facility should have adequate space for a given consignment at a given time. Stock pens and other enclosures used for feeding, watering, and resting must have sufficient space for all animals to lie down at the same time;
- f) Animals belonging to the same consignment should be put in the same pen. In case the consignment is big, they can be placed in adjacent pens;
- g) Ensure animals from separate consignments and of different species do not mix;
- h) Undertake physical veterinary inspection at the time of entry and during the pre-quarantine. The inspection form must be signed by the authorized veterinary officer or regulatory authority;
- i) If an animal is found with any trans-boundary animal disease, the whole consignment shall be rejected;
- j) Control of insect vectors and parasites shall be undertaken as appropriate or as required by the import and export protocol;
- k) Animals should be watered and fed at the time of entry to the pre-quarantine and during their stay;
- l) Secure the animals at all times in the pre-quarantine. The facility should be adequately fenced with only one entrance/exit to avoid human and animal intrusion. Regular inspection of the perimeter fence should be undertaken to check for any breakage;

- m) Regular disinfection and cleaning of pens in the pre-quarantine according to WOAHA standards and with appropriate records maintained;
- n) The pre-quarantine should have appropriate loading and offloading ramps for various animal species that are designed and constructed to minimize injuries during;
- o) Inspect the pre-quarantine facilities for any protruding objects or rough surfaces that can cause injury to animals;
- p) Handle animals gently and humanely at all times to avoid injury or extra stress. Do not get them excited, move them slowly and quietly;
- q) Animals must be handled by Staff who are trained on animal handling and welfare;
- r) The facility should have a wheel bath and foot bath containing appropriate disinfectant for vehicles and people respectively;
- s) All the staff/personnel of the pre-quarantine should have protective and sanitary clothing (PPE);
- t) Document all the activities of pre-quarantine by filling the designed forms;
- u) Animals released from pre-quarantine to quarantine should have "Release order" (see Table 2) from authorized veterinarian at pre-quarantine having all information about consignment;
- v) Animals should be transported to quarantine facilities using dedicated livestock trucks which are well-ventilated with non-slip floors to minimize exposure of animals to dust, toxic gasses (ammonia, exhaust fumes) and injuries.

Table 1: Animal Information Record Sheet

Species	Number of animals	Age range	Owner's name
Place of origin	Date of arrival	Destination country	
Remarks			
Approved by	TITLE	SIGNATURE/DATE	

Note: The veterinary personnel at pre-quarantine should receive the movement permit, animal health certificate and certificate of origin.

Table 2: Release Order Template

No. of animals	Species	No. of days spent in Pre-quarantine	Remarks
Authorized signature	Title	Date	Name

3.5 References

SMP for export quarantine

WOAH guidelines



Figure 2: Marshalling Animals from Pre-quarantine at Djibouti International Quarantine



Figure 3: First Veterinary Inspection in Pre-quarantine

4.0 Standard Operating Procedures for Quarantine

4.1 Definition

Quarantine is a facility where animals are held in isolation for a specified period of time¹ for the purpose of veterinary observation, sampling, testing, vaccination, and or treatment as per the requirement of the importing country. Regardless of ownership, all quarantine facilities shall be under the regulatory control of official veterinary authorities.

4.2 Purpose

- To fulfill the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary requirements;
- Ensure acclimatization of animals before shipping;
- To prevent introduction of diseases and vectors to importing countries;
- Increase trust and confidence in importing country; and
- To ensure safe and sustainable livestock export trade.

4.3 Scope

The scope of the quarantine covers the time when animals enter into the quarantine from the pre-quarantine until released for shipment. All necessary Sanitary Phyto-Sanitary measures are to be applied during this period.

4.4 Responsibilities

The quarantine management and public veterinary authority are the ones responsible for the quarantine.

4.5 Procedures

During the quarantine, several procedures have to be undertaken. They include the following:

4.5.1 Procedures for Animals at the Reception/Open Yard

- a) The Chief Veterinary Officer authorizes the quarantine facility;
- b) Receive animals from pre-quarantine having all the documents according to the “Release Order” issued by the authorized veterinarian;
- c) Undertake physical clinical examination of animals for diseases and injuries to make sure that livestock received in the quarantine facilities

are in good body condition as well as free from diseases and injuries. Any animal contracting a disease and injury should be immediately attended to;

- d) If an animal is found with a major problem of a trans-boundary animal disease, then the whole consignment shall be rejected;
- e) Receive animals in the quarantine only during day time;
- f) Dip and spray animals as required to kill and control external parasites;
- g) In case any animal is rejected at the time of entry into quarantine, the animals are handed back to the owner;
- h) Animals must be handled by staff who are trained on animal handling and welfare;
- i) Vehicles and people should pass through a wheel bath and foot bath respectively. The two contain appropriate disinfectant;
- j) The quarantine facility should have a livestock collection area and loading ramps which are designed and constructed to minimize injury during loading and off-loading of animals.

4.5.2 Procedures for Animals Accepted in the Quarantine Facility

The following should be done if animals are accepted in the quarantine facility after veterinary investigation in open yard:

1. Put each consignment in separate pen and according to species and classification of the quarantine facilities;
2. Stock pens and other enclosures used for feeding, watering, and resting must have sufficient space to enable all animals to lie down at the same time;
3. Inspect the quarantine facilities for any protruding objects or rough surfaces that can cause injury to animals;
4. Handle animals gently and humanely at all times to avoid injury or extra stress. Do not get them excited, move them slowly and quietly;
5. Assign working team including veterinarian for the consignment;
6. Daily inspection of animals must be undertaken by the quarantine veterinary staff;
7. Veterinary authorities shall take necessary measures upon receiving a report of an infectious/contagious disease in quarantine;
8. In case any animal dies, the causes shall be investigated and appropriate sampling and testing undertaken;
9. Always provide feed and water in regularly cleaned and disinfected water and feed troughs;

10. Review the specific requirements of importing countries for each consignment, including identification, vaccination, sampling and testing;
11. Undertake identification, vaccinations, sampling, testing according to the reviewed requirements of each importing countries;
12. Sampling should be done according to the standard sampling procedure, using labeled vacutainer with permanent marker;
13. Use the laboratory record sheet (template as attached²). The laboratory record sheet should have all information about the consignment including total number of samples, pen number, animal species, owner details, requested tests, date of submission to the laboratory;
14. Standardize and use uniform writing during sample identification process;
15. The chief of station should sign the laboratory record sheet and submit the sheet and samples to the laboratory manager for examination;
16. Laboratory manager receives the samples and undertakes the required tests (see annex 1 –laboratory sheet template);
17. The test results of the consignment are submitted to the Chief of station and another copy submitted to the technical manager of quarantine;
18. The Chief of station isolates the positively identifies and doubtful diseased animals;
19. Sanitation procedures must be followed during all times of the quarantine;
20. The Chief of station sends the weak and dead animal(s), after reporting, to the Post Mortem room for pathological examination. Use the attached PM report template³;
21. Reports of all activities from the Chief Quarantine Veterinarian and Laboratory Manager ought to be submitted to technical manager, daily;
22. Information should be shared with the public veterinary authority in time;
23. After gathering information from quarantine technical manager and supervisor from the public authority, the competent authority issues the veterinary health certificate;
24. The animals must be well fed and have drunk water before preparing them for release from quarantine;
25. Alert the port veterinarian to prepare to receive animals at least two

2 Laboratory sheets, annex 01

3 Post mortem template

days in advance so that all necessary action for the right shipping is taken into consideration;

26. Ensure any diseased or injured animals are removed from the consignment before loading of the consignment;
27. The technical manager has the power to remove any animal/ consignment from the quarantine if the animal/ consignment may pose danger to this or another consignment;
28. Prepare the animal for loading⁴ in a separate place and avoid mixing of animals from different consignment;
29. Inform all relevant authorities for marshal consignment;
30. Ensure that ONLY animals that were in quarantine are destined for shipping as a shared responsibility with the owner;
31. Animals should be transported to post-quarantine facilities using dedicated livestock trucks which are well-ventilated with non-slip floors to minimize exposure of animals to dust, toxic gasses (ammonia, exhaust fumes) and injuries;
32. Appropriate disposal of any material used after vaccination, sampling and treatment should be done;
33. Ensure regular removal of manure into a separate place outside the quarantine;
34. No unauthorized visitors should be allowed in the quarantine facility;
35. All staff/ workers in a particular consignment should not work in other consignments except where strict biosecurity measures are followed;
36. The dead animals/carcasses should be incinerated or buried at least two meters under the ground, with coating of lime, away from the quarantine facility;
37. Ensure regular fumigation, disinfection and cleaning of pens in the quarantine facility according to WOAHA standards and appropriate records maintained;
38. The facility should be double fenced with only one entrance/exit to avoid human and animal intrusion. Regularly check for double fencing to prevent/control contact with wild/stray animals.

4.6 Cross Cutting Issues

1. The isolation pen should be under the observation of the Chief of the station;
2. The facilities should have a small slaughter hall for emergencies;

⁴ Template of quarantine to port animal movement permit

3. There should be a maintenance and repair unit within the facility;
4. All staff/ workers at the quarantine should have Personal Protective equipment (PPE);
5. The quarantine staff uniform must be easily distinguished according to the quarantine section where they work;
6. All staff/workers in a particular consignment should not work in other consignments except where strict biosecurity measures are followed;
7. All visitors to the quarantine must sign-in and obtain a visitor pass at the entrance;
8. The vehicles driving inside the quarantine facility should not exceed a speed of more than 10km/h for both staff and visitor;
9. Loading and offloading ramps ought to be appropriate for different species of animals.
10. The competent authority prepares the International veterinary health certificate as per the international Standard (WOAH)⁵;
11. There should be constant electric power supply to the quarantine facility;
12. Ensure welfare of all quarantine staff (medical insurance, incentives, working space, compensation), if possible;
13. Ensure constant and streamlined communication between administrative, technical and all other related officers/ stakeholders;
14. Provide awareness program to all staff of quarantine from time to time. This should include disinfection calendar, feeding and drinking water for the animals, ensuring biosecurity, guide for incinerator functions;
15. All the pen doors should be locked and keys securely kept with the head of station;
16. The vaccine and diagnostic materials and reagents should meet international standards and maintain cold chain at all times;
17. The vaccine and diagnostic kits/reagent material should be handled properly by the laboratory manager or other officers.

5 Template of standard international veterinary health certificate; to be customized for each country

4.7 References

SMP for export quarantine in Horn of Africa

OIE guidelines on animal welfare and movement

SOP for animal quarantine and certification service for India and Ethiopia
2010

Annex 1: Laboratory Sheets Template

Name of station:

Owner's name..... Date:...../...../.....

Animal species.....Total number.....

Pen number..... Destination port:

Disease examined.....Expected date of discharge.....

Vaccination,...Date of vaccination...../...../.....

Requested test/s: 1- 2.....3.....

Head of station name:

Signature:

Results of examination

POSITIVE CASES				CONCLUSION OF RESULTS	
1		8		Positive cases (total)	
2		9			
3		10			
4		11		Rejected samples (if any)	
5		12			
6		13		1	
				2	
7		14		3	

* Any rejected samples, the laboratory should notify head of station to re-collect the sample

Examined by: _____ Date: _____

Lab manager: _____

Annex 2: Post Mortem Report Format

1-To be filled by head of station or field veterinarian:

Station: Date: Ear tag #:

Species: Sex:

Case history

2-To be filled by VET responsible for post mortem:

External examination:

Post mortem findings:

Head & neck

Thoracic cavity

Abdominal cavity

Pelvic cavity

3- Sample(s) submission to the lab:

Sample(s):

Required test (s).....Reference

Result:

4-Conclusion:

Signature of VET responsible for post-mortem:

Annex 3: Quarantine to Port Movement Permit

Triplicate

Date:

Driver's name.....Vehicle plate no.

No. of animals loaded: Name of vessel:

Animal species	No. of animals at quarantine	No. of animals at port	Remarks
Sheep			
Cattle			
Camel			
Goats			

Number Verification (Counting of Animals)

Checked by:Signature:

Authorized by: Signature:

Approved by quarantine Director:Signature:

Received by port authority: Signature:



Figure 4: Sheep Ready for Export at Quarantine



Figure 5: Loading and Offloading Ramps for Sheep and Goats



Figure 6: Blood Sample Collection at Quarantine



Figure 7: Loading Ramp with Shade for Large Animals Quarantine



Figure 8: Ear Tagging at Quarantine

5.0 Standard Operating Procedures for Post Quarantine⁶

5.1 Definition

Standard Operating Procedures for Post Quarantine is a process for preparing animals for departure from the quarantine to the destination port - including final inspection, certification of the vessels, transportation, completion of the international veterinary certificate, and any other documents required.

5.2 Purpose

To ensure humane handling and transportation of animals from quarantine to port for both land and sea transportation.

5.3 Scope

The scope of the post-quarantine covers the time when animals depart from the quarantine to when they arrive at the destination port.

5.4 Responsibilities

The quarantine management, animal owners or traders and or exporters, public veterinary service/authority at the port and the vessel management are responsible for the post-quarantine period.

5.5 Procedures

Several procedures have to be undertaken during the post-quarantine period. They include the following:

- a) Reviewing and preparing all documentary requirements of the importing country before release of animals from the quarantine;
- b) Ensure humanely loading and welfare of the animals through the entire process of transportation;
- c) Follow the WOAHA guidelines for animal welfare and transportation;
- d) Safely transfer animals from quarantine to Port (land, vehicle or sea);
- e) Ensuring the transport vehicle is appropriate, clean, disinfected and has enough workers such as guards during the transportation process;
- f) Staying clear of not mixing different consignments and species in one vehicle;

⁶ This includes land and sea transportation

- g) Certify that vehicle drivers follow the agreed specific transportation routes and plan;
- h) Provide awareness for the driver and persons responsible for transportation of the animals in the areas of speed and causing any injuries and damage to animals and vehicles during transportation;
- i) Clean and disinfect the vehicle after delivering of consignment;
- j) Ensure biosafety for the workers/ attendants during/after loading of each consignment;
- k) Clean and disinfect all the pens in the port under the supervision of port veterinarian and public authority veterinarian;
- l) Ensure the vessels are cleaned and disinfected and pack enough feeds and water sufficient for the entire trip plus 2-3 days extra;
- m) The vessels should have good ventilation especially in the lower deck;
- n) Ensure appropriate vessel according to animal species;
- o) Ensure the capacity of the vessel meets the welfare standard of animal for loading and transportation according to WOAHA guidelines;
- p) Ensure loading time onto the vessel is as short as possible and continuous;
- q) Loading of animals must be done with appropriate ramps for each species;
- r) Provide the captain of the vessel with all necessary documents;
- s) Ensure the captain of the vessel signs the animal shipment form⁷;
- t) Ensure that marshal animals do not mix with other un-quarantined animals along the route of marshal;
- u) The marshal animals must be guarded to avoid escape or use of unspecified routes;
- v) Marshal distance must be as short as possible;
- w) Inspect the vessels for its efficacy to transport animal;
- x) In some cases, some technical supervisor from the quarantine travel with the vessel depending on the requirements of importing country;
- y) Maintain training and awareness for the vessel staff on how to humanely handle and observe the animals during the journey.

5.5.1 Procedures During Rejection of a Consignment from Importing Country

The first step would be to establish scientific committee to study the cause of rejection;

- i) In case it is management failure, then quarantine management

and public veterinary authority must take corrective action with the help of some diplomatic negotiations.

- ii) In case of diseases, return the consignment to exporting country. The quarantine management and public veterinary authority will decide whether the animals should be returned to the farm or quarantine.

5.6 Cross Cutting Issues

1. Secure copies of all required documents (animals health inspection certificate, international animal health certificate, movement permit, laboratory result sheet, certificate of origin, vessel certification, certificate of quarantine) are secured in quarantine administration for at least 2-3 years, for purposes of ISO accreditation;
2. Animal welfare standards ought to be considered throughout the whole process;
3. Full data of the importer and exporter should be documented;
4. Full data on number of animals exported to each country should be maintained;
5. Maintain constant and transparent communication between importing and exporting countries at all times.

5.7 References

SMP export quarantine

OIE guidelines on animal welfare, animal movement

Guidelines for importation of animals from Egypt and Saudi Arabia

Annex 4: Animal Shipment Form

Date: Time:
Owner of Animals:Name of Source Quarantine:
Vessel No: Vessel Name:
Destination Port:

Species Loaded	No. of Animals	Remarks
Camel		
Sheep		
Goats		
Cattle		

Total Weight of Consignment:
Name of Captain: Signature*:
.....

*By signing this form, I take responsibility of consignment



Figure 9: Transportation Truck to the Port from Quarantine



Figure 10: Sheep and Goat Transportation Truck at Post Quarantine



Figure 11: Vessel for Loading Animals



Figure 12: Offloading at the Port

IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
(ICPALD)

Kabete Veterinary Laboratories, Kapenguria Road, Off Waiyaki Way
P. O. Box 47824 - 00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 737 777742

Email: icpald@igad.int

www.icpald.org