CARICOM

Trade Policy for Animal and Animal Products (TPAAP)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ASF	African Swine Fever
ALOP	Appropriate Level of Protection
AI	Avian Influenza
CA	Competent Authority
CAFHSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCCVOs	CARICOM Committee of Chief Veterinary Officers
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
MS	Member State
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
SPSA	Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TPAAP	Trade policy for animal and animal products
VS	Veterinary Services
WTO	World Trade Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is made up of 15 Member States (MS) and 5 Associate Member States located in the English, Dutch and French - speaking Caribbean region, with a total population of approximately 16.6 million people.

2. Member States possess varying levels of development of their livestock industry inclusive of size, type and level of exploitation.

3. The livestock industry in some CARICOM countries is large enough to generate surpluses for export. Poultry (meat and egg production) is the most widespread of all the livestock sub-sectors and is targeted mainly for domestic consumption. Intra-regional trade in poultry meat and eggs are concentrated among a few MS. The cattle sub-sector is the second most developed. Pigs, sheep and goats constitute a smaller portion of the industry and are all at differing levels of development.

4. CARICOM members have an exceptional animal health status, that is, free from major high impact diseases of commercial interest.

5. There have been no reports of high-impact diseases such as Classical Swine Fever, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, and Equine Plague in the Region. The absence of these diseases in the Community represents an important health heritage that needs to be safeguarded.

6. A cross cutting issue for most MS is having economies that are highly dependent on international tourism. The impact of this phenomenon increases the year-round demand for high quality food mainly from third countries. Each year, an estimated 7,371,000 people visit CARICOM.

7. Trade in animals and animal products pose a health risk to the importing country within the CARICOM Region. This therefore requires a system of high standards for the assessment and management of these animals and animal products as well as the various food safety risks.

8. CARICOM MS, based on the level of available resources, have organized, and equipped their Veterinary Services (VS) to assume responsibility of facilitating safe, animal-health based importation. Currently, these systems are not adequately organized or harmonized. These VS at present is constrained to meet the objectives of the Community and the international guidelines in this area, which require that decisions in the field of importation be supported by

technical information regarding animal origin, disease occurrence, population size, etc.

9. This lack of standardized, robust, and efficient evaluation systems, poses, on the one hand, a threat to the exceptional animal health status of CARICOM MS and on the other, it restricts the commercial opportunities necessary to meet the requirements of national food security, demand by the tourism industry , as well as the objective of enhancing intra-regional trade.

10. Despite Community regulations, there are concerns about lack of harmonization and operational difficulties in exploiting the benefits of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), premised on the need to protect the animal population of each MS whilst also taking into consideration the Public Health concerns.

11. CARICOM has made some progress in developing harmonized systems, such as the Protocol governing 'CARICOM *control, analysis, and approval procedures for trade in animals and animal products'*[1], however it is not enough to define a trade policy. For these reasons, CARICOM has seen the need for a trade policy for animal and animal products (TPAAP). The Policy supports the regulations and actions to be taken by MS to safeguard animal health and food safety issues associated with such trade. The immediate mandate is derived from the decision of the 48th Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) to formulate a trade policy for animal and animal products.

12. The TPAAP contributes to the regional animal health management system. This includes border control, epidemiological surveillance system (including laboratories), biosecurity, traceability systems, disease control, export inspection and export certification. Additionally, quality assurance systems in production, transformation and commercialization are included in the food safety management system.

13. The following are the core elements of the TPAAP, which considers the Community's objectives and aspirations, as well as the VS structure and capabilities within MS. It also incorporates the progress made in developing the Protocol governing 'CARICOM control, analysis and approval procedures for trade in animals and animal products.

[1] Last draft (May 2017) Annex II

2. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

14. The goal of the TPAAP is to provide a single harmonized framework for trade in animals, meat products and derivatives.

15. The Policy will also address the challenges affecting MS the application of non-tariff measures, other SPS issues and general capacity enhancement gaps which currently exist within the Region.

16. The objectives of the policy are as follows:

a) Harmonize the requirements and standardize procedures for trade among the MS. The Policy considers the prevailing international guidelines from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the requirements of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

b) Facilitate the efficient and safe flow of animals and animal products across borders both within the Community and with respect to extra-regional trade.

c) Incorporate food safety issues into trade procedures for animals and animal products throughout the Region

3. ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES

17. The entry of animal infectious agents into countries through commodities can lead to infections or diseases in animals or people in countries importing such commodities. Live animals, products and by-products of animal origin may "transport" infectious or parasitic agents within them and survive the time and conditions of importation. In addition, food-related commodities may transport biological and chemical contaminants with acute and/or permanent effects on the people who consume these products in importing countries.

18. The TPAAP has been developed within the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which establishes the Caribbean Community (CARICOM and is guided by the following principles which are consistent with the Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy[2]:
    i. Regionality
    ii. Consistency
    iii. Partnership
    iv. Sustainability
    v. Entrepreneurship
    vi. Affordable Food
    vii. Accountability and Transparency

19. The TPAAP sets out as a major principle guidance and support to the process of trade between countries, based on COTED decisions, import regulation and enforcement based on OIE and WTO decisions, principles and guidelines and the principles of the Agreement for Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPSA), namely, equivalence, harmonization, regionalization, transparency and risk analysis. The TPAAP, from a technical standpoint, is also governed predominantly by the internationally accepted standards and best practices as per OIE and WTO technical protocols and agreements.

20. Having regard to the above principles and guidelines, MS will establish a set of harmonized protective measures to prevent diseases and pollutants from entering countries within the region.

[2] Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy (October 2011)

21. Country regulations are a way to mitigate risks. These general or specific regulations are demands made to exporting countries before, during and after importation. On the other hand, the required import control measures may be applied pre-border (exporting country), border (at the point of entry to the country) and post-border (within the country). The package of measures together reduces the risk to a level that is considered acceptable. This is the concept of Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP).

22. The VS within each MS is responsible for establishing import requirements, enforcement, and export certification. VS are the guarantors that export is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the importing countries.

23. In accordance with the WTO, through the SPSA, a country that imports animals has the right to enforce measures to protect animal and human health in their territory. However, these requirements must have technical justification, based on science and therefore should not be an unjustified barrier to trade. CARICOM MS through the TPAAP commits to adhering to these agreed measures.

24. In the absence of information or if uncertainty is very high, and the importing country is exposed to a high impact hazard, the precautionary principle, i.e., not allowing or establishing superior control measures, may be used. This path must be scientifically justified. Article 5.7 of the SPSA will be applicable in any such case.

25. Throughout the process of drafting standards, both in respect of risk assessment and in the resulting final standard, the participation of the different stakeholders, public and private, is very important. This is to ensure that all technical and scientific elements, including the practical elements of its implementation, are considered. To this end, the process of developing regulations must have an established timeframe and mechanisms for national and international public consultation. To facilitate and enable safe trade, international organizations of reference are available. In the case of animal health, it is the OIE and for food safety, it is the *Codex Alimentarius*. These international organizations support countries with other standards, guidelines, and tools, both for the development of import regulations in generic form or for particular countries or commodities. Under the TPAAP, CAHFSA will be the lead agency and will provide the necessary support to MS.

26. The TPAAP identifies CAHFSA as the main regional SPS entity. A key consideration for the TPAAP will be the completion of the CAHFSA dispute settlement mechanism. This mechanism will form the foundation as an alternative for resolving all disputes relating to trade in animal and animal products between MS and other third parties where necessary. The Draft Dispute Settlement Mechanism is included as Annex III[3].

4. MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE TPAAP

27. The key elements of the TPAAP, including standards and entities responsible for both CARICOM and MS, are as follows:

4.1. Definition of Community objectives and scope of the policy.

28. The TPAAP reflects the cross-cutting interests and objectives of the CARICOM MS. In general, the specific interest of each MS is represented and considered, while paying particular attention to the unique circumstances of each MS with regards to its application. The TPAAP defines the concepts, scope, emphasis, and actors involved in achieving animal health and public health objectives and puts them at the service of countries' social and economic development. It provides details implementation approach and responsibility allocation for the development of the standards and its operationalization.

29. The TPAAP is the expression of the ALOP that a MS is willing to accept in its import process, in support of its trade policy objectives.

30. There are several objectives of the TPAAP, which has already been agreed by CARICOM. First, MS acknowledge the importance of trading animals and products of animal origin within the CSME, as inputs for the livestock industry, for food and nutrition security, and for economic development. Secondly, MS are aware of the animal and public health risks associated with the trade of animal and animal products, plus the different management and mitigation systems which may apply in other public institutions. In short, they are aware of the feasibility of being able to access greater variety of commodities, without jeopardizing the health of their animal and human populations.

[3] To be approved by COTED

4.2. Classification and prioritization of commodities of interest to the Community, animals, and products of animal origin for which the policy would apply.

31. The definition of animal and animal products commodities represents the interest of most countries, and above all meets the objectives defined by CARICOM's TPAAP. This is supported by a list of definitions for the **OIE** Terrestrial **Animal Health Code as Annex II.**

32. Commodities fall into the categories of **live animals**, **genetic material**, **animal product**s and **by-products of animal origin**. These commodities have been organized using pre-established international categories.

33. Commodities will be prioritized based on their risks and their importance by the quantity and frequency of trade and importation. The differentiation and prioritization of animal commodities into categories, will allow for visualizing in detail the impact that the operation of the trade in animals and animal products has on people, the livestock industry, the private sector, and the structures of the VS of MS.

34. The classification and prioritization of commodities assist in determining the infrastructure requirements (quarantine for example, in the importation of live animals) and technical competences (animal health or food safety) that must be satisfied for the development and implementation of the legal and operational frameworks of the policy. These issues facilitate the importation processes with the minimum risk to human and animal populations.

35. The objective in grouping commodities is to achieve more effective regulation and procedures, which can be applied to groups of products as opposed to having separate regulations for individual products. Commodity grouping encourages the optimization of installed capacities and systematic approach to process management (example: requirements of import of "ruminant semen", instead of semen requirements for cattle, goat, sheep, others).

4.3. Standardization of terms and their definitions within the Community.

36. All terms and definition for the purposes of the TPAAP are in keeping with the internationally accepted definitions as per the **OIE** Terrestrial **Animal Health Code** as set out in Annex II of the policy document. This will act as the harmonizing source for CARICOM MS in relation to Trade in Animals and Animal Products. This standardization of terms and their definitions will facilitate greater efficiency throughout the region.

37. The objective of standardization is to ensure that the definitions used by CARICOM MS are in line with the recommendations established by the reference bodies (depending on the scope concerned) OIE and *Codex Alimentarius* as a framework for trade processes, the WTO. The policy also allows for the development of standard documents which will be used by all MS.

4.4. Community definition of the main diseases of interest to animal populations, and pathogens and residues, of concern for public health.

38. A list of exotic and prevalent animal diseases with their causal agents, as well as pathogens and residues of interest to the Community, will be established and constantly reviewed and updated by CAHFSA.

39. The policy allows for the list of hazards to be prioritized based on the probability of entry and impact on the region and its MS. Each member country shall keep its status up to date, under international standards, for each of these hazards. CAHFSA will act as the focal point for this activity.

40. CARICOM will ensure and support MS to fulfil their obligations about updating their animal health status. For this process, the TPAAP encourages MS to participate actively in the deliberations of the reference agencies (OIE and CODEX).

4.5. Identification, evaluation and development of General Community Legislation

41. The development of general legislation is the formal framework for pursuing the objectives and scope defined in the TPAAP. All the regulatory elements that presently exist in CARICOM and Member States that contribute to the objective of the TPAAP would be identified during this stage of the process.

42. While developing any regulation, the strategy of risk mitigation that CARICOM adopts as a collective, must be explicitly stated. The way in which import assessments are carried out must clearly itemize the steps of the full process, the responsible personnel at each stage, along with the suggested maximum time for the completion of each stage.

43. This same analysis is carried out in each MS, to examine the regulatory framework that allows them to adopt the main elements that will underpin the Community TPAAP, such as transparency, risk analysis, equivalence, among others.

4.6. Standardized development of import and trade regulations, according to prioritized commodities.

44. CARICOM regulations (like the OIE and CODEX minimum standards) specified according to priority commodities, sets the conditions that the different products must satisfy in order to trade in the CSME and therefore the minimum standard for MS.

45. Regulations, according to type of commodity, will contribute to the establishment of a **Community-wide trading system**, based on technical standards, with a high level of transparency and representing the interests and needs of those involved. The Regulatory development by commodity contributes to improving the knowledge of the requirements that each MS has for the different products and thereby harmonizes the legislative processes simultaneously improving confidence. Member States will adopt the new regulations as agreed to by the COTED.

4.7. General and specific procedures for the importation of animals and products of animal origin (Pre-border, border, and post-border).

46. Procedures for the application of regulations in countries. These procedures are those that go beyond a particular commodity and may fall under collective responsibilities. All these principles must be incorporated in the Draft Protocol Governing CARICOM control, analysis and approval procedures for trade in animals and animal products. Once approved by the COTED, it will be the source reference of procedure for these related activities.

47. The structure and objective of import procedures is very similar to that of the world's main markets for animal and animal products. A first level of risk mitigation is the one that is developed and is based on the principle of prevention. It is carried out, in the country of origin, either on animals or products of animal origin. This level, called the pre-border, depends on and is the responsibility of the animal health authority's ability in the country of origin to control, inspect and certify the conditions that the importing country has established for the trade in one or more commodities.

48. The second level is at the border and depends entirely on the procedures and capacity that the VS has established in the country of destination, to verify that compliance with established requirements for each commodity were met`. At this level, there is the application of animal post-entry quarantine system, product sampling to verify the safety and quality of products, and verification of physical conditions, among others.

49. The third level of control in the import procedure is post-border. It aims to detect from an early stage any non-compliance or breaches of the previous systems (pre border and at the border). At this level, both the animal health authority and the private sector share responsibility for compliance having regard to the possible different signs of abnormality in animals or products of animal origin. The presence of functional disease surveillance systems maintained by the animal health authority and the capacity to report diseases by the private sector are relevant.

50. This general procedural structure varies depending on the type and use of the imported commodities. The importation requirements, therefore, will be designed according to the commodity, recognizing every commodity will have specific peculiarities necessitating differing depth of the control and verification activities. The development and definition of import procedures provides transparency to the CARICOM MS and other trading partners.

4.8. Definition of administrative and operational procedures to develop, operate and implement the trading process

51. This process will be essential for all CARICOM MS, as it defines the administrative and operational procedures for trade in animals and animal products. It is directly related to determining how the various activities to be implemented will be executed and by whom.

52. Operational procedures are a combination of what exists as a community entity and the contribution of each country.

53. Coordination between the parties and the greatest possible automation is sought for efficiency and efficacy.

54. The implementation of this Policy will allow for the COTED to authorize a special team led by CAHFSA to commence and finalize these procedures within the first year of implementation.

4.9. Definition and development of a standard framework - importation of goods not considered in the CARICOM TPAAP processes

55. The policy will, directly or indirectly, lead to a review of the commercial processes (import – export) of different commodities with regional or extra-regional partners.

56. The development of the CARICOM regulatory and operational structure for the importation of animals and products of animal origin, responds to the crosscutting interests of various stakeholders. *Figure2: Development of import Policy and harmonized regulations* provides the blueprint for the approach to be taken by the region in this regard.

57. The regulatory structure and minimum procedures of how the trading process is to be carried out, sets a form of work that should be maintained as a standard for the specific processes to be followed by MS, when the commodity required for importation is not among the prioritized commodities. This standard framework encourages harmonization in operational procedures for CARICOM MS and establishes the minimum conditions for intra-regional trade. All these principles have been incorporated in the Draft Protocol governing CARICOM control, analysis, and approval procedures for trade in animals and animal products (Annex II).

4.10. Development and proposal of the Policy Management structure

58. The proposed policy management structure is outlined in Figure 1: TPAAP Structure. This also outlines the various implementation governance arrangements for the TPAAP including the ability for adjustments, subject to COTED's approval. The proposed management structure utilizes the existing governance systems within the CARICOM construct and eliminates the need to create a new entity. The key stakeholders are MS, CAHFSA, The CARICOM Secretariat and the Private Sector (inclusive of livestock farmers).

59. The participation of the private sector, ideally through their associations, is very important, both in the design and implementation of regulations related to the importation of animals and animal products.

4.11. Development of an intra-Community body for Disagreements and Disputes

60. There will be a mechanism to resolve differences in the trade process, allowing for issues to be presented, analyzed, and resolved. The aim is to have issues resolved through alternative means before the need to initiative formal dispute resolution procedures as per the provisions of Article 9 of the RTC and to dissuade the use of agencies outside CARICOM. The Draft CARICOM SPS Alternative Dispute Settlement Mechanism (Annex III) will act as the main protocol document for the resolution of disputes under this policy.

61. At the CARICOM level, a group of specialists from CAHFSA and the CARICOM Committee of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCCVOs) aimed exclusively at analyzing and resolving disagreements in a timely manner will be established. This group shall continually inform the body formed for the "Management of Policy" on disagreement settlements to enable future modification and use of the rules and procedures.

62. The recommendations of the dispute resolution body will not be binding on MS without prejudice to Article 9 of the RTC and will be referred to the COTED for final endorsement and approval.

4.12. Structure of the Veterinary Service (VS), for the operation of the trading process

63. The VS and its staff are essential for the operation of the trading process. CARICOM will support and encourage MS to modify their regulatory structures to afford VS the legal powers necessary for the quarantine system (in terms of both animal health, and the inspection and control of food safety of products of animal origin) and the consolidation of those functions under a single institution where applicable. The efficiency and effectiveness of the quarantine system is greatly enhanced when health and safety management are under the same responsibility. The TPAAP allows for, where it is not possible to consolidate all the functions under a single institution, the forging of agreements among the institutions for the purpose of ensuring maximum efficiency for the entire system.

64. The TPAAP requires MS to maintain a specific programme dealing with imports and quarantine systems within the VS of each country.

4.13. Support to countries and/or establishments to export within and outside the Community

65. The TPAAP envisions the provision of additional support to MS to fulfill one of its objectives, that is, to facilitate and promote the operation of the intra- and extra-regional trading processes which enables safe exchange between countries. This provision of support is necessary to ensure the policy operates as designed, promoting intra-regional trade and possibly exports to extra-regional countries.

66. To this end, a system of technical and regulatory support will be established for countries that require it, this can be both for the development as well as for the implementation of the structures, systems and programmes outlined in the TPAAP for the improvement of their production and control systems, inspection and certification carried out by the VS.

4.14. Development and management of a system for the capture, storage and analysis of import information.

67. To support strategic, operational, and contingency decision making it is essential to have reliable information systems.

68. Since the proposed trading system seeks to standardize the processes, this work will be supported with an information capture system, which in the first phase will allow the parties to generate records for their decision-making purposes and subsequently for the purposes of improving and supporting the processes of regional risk analysis and evaluation.

69. The development of the information registration and management system has as its final goal to computerize and automate the trading process and provide the tools that will enhance and improve trade facilitation for animals and animal products.

4.15. Financing the TPAAP

70. The financing for the implementation of the TPAAP may require and/or creative combination of the following listed below:

a) Support and cooperation of international development organizations.
b) Collaboration of government institutions.
c) Direct support from Member States
d) Private Sector support for selected areas
e) Or any other appropriate funding mechanism

5. TPAAP IMPLEMENTATION (DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGULATION)

5.1 TPAAP Organization and Governance Structure

71. For the implementation of the TPAAP, three groups of personnel have been identified. The first being the Political and Technical Group (COTED), a second purely technical and legal group (CAHFSA Technical Committee) and the third

group directly related to the professionals of the VS of each country (The CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers), operating group. The activities and the conformation of each one of these groups are directly related to specific "elements of this policy", which is in general the development of the regulation and the operation of the import and export process. ***Figure1: TPAAP Structure*** outlines this structure in more details.

72. The political group will be made up of the highest authorities with Ministerial rank of each of the CARICOM MS and CARICOM as an organization, represented by COTED. Its main objective is to consider, agree to and approve the recommendations and decisions of the various working groups which have responsibility for the implementation of the TPAAP.

73. The technical and legal working group (CAHFSA Technical Advisory Committee) will be established. This group along with CAHFSA acting as the Secretariat will be responsible for coordinating and providing the necessary communication to the MS.

74. The Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee will be responsible for directing and coordinating each of the activities to be carried out. The Animal Health Specialist within CAHFSA will be the Coordinator for the TPAAP. The main role of the Coordinator will be the linking of the **Technical *Advisory Committee the*** CCCVOs, with the sub-committees generated for the development and implementation of the policy and the with the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) with respect to the whole process.

75. For the development of the work, five (5) Sub committees will be constituted, to oversee the different activities of the TPAAP:

    a) The Standards Subcommittee - for the development of general and specific standards.
    b) The Management Subcommittee - for the management of the process both general and commodity regulations.
    c) The Alternative Dispute Resolution Sub Committee - for analysis and resolution of any trade disputes/differences that may exist among CARICOM Member States.
    d) The Country Technical Support Subcommittee - to establish policy to support countries needing assistance.
    e) The Risk Assessment Subcommittee - for the evaluation of countries interested in participating in intra-regional trade in animals and animal products.

76. For each of the policy and technical bodies, CARICOM will establish a mechanism for the involvement of private sector organizations for the implementation of the TPAAP. Additionally, private sector participation will be important for the review and adjustment of the TPAAP.

5.2 Implementation by component for the TPAAP.

5.2.1 For the definition, prioritization and classification of commodities of interest to the community for which the TPAAP policy would apply

77. A T**echnical *ad hoc* group** will be formed as part of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which will be made up of all VS of each country (it will be the power of the GROUP to determine the numbers required to function) and coordinated by CAHFSA. Matters which are to consider by the TAC shall be based on the following, inter alia:

a. A list of priority commodities must be generated.
b. The commodities have to be identified according to customs and trade data.
c. The classification of animals and commodities of animal origin must be done according to their presentation and use.
d. Within each category, there may be subcategories, such as live animals and genetic material; products of animal origin and by-products of animal origin; food for human consumption and biological material, among others.
e. Classification of the commodity based on their risks and their importance, either by the quantity or by frequency of trade (import and export).
f. There will be a list of hazards for each commodity, diseases, and contaminant hazards.
g. The list of commodities will be complemented to the extent that regulations and procedures for trading are generated (and in the interest of countries).
h. The group will meet periodically to discuss when appropriate the incorporation of new commodities (a specific procedure can be developed for this).

i. Political-technical groups will rely on international organizations with industries, importers, and references, and will establish agreements with countries with which they have cooperation agreements.

78. Once the commodities outlined above have been agreed upon, they will be submitted to the COTED for its consideration and approval.

5.2.2 Community definition of the main diseases of interest for animal populations and pathogens and of concern for the health of the population.

79. This activity to be developed by the Technical *ad hoc* group, coordinated by CAHFSA. The group shall consider:

a. To establish a list of exotic and prevalent animal diseases, with their causative agents, as well as the pathogens and residues of interest to CARICOM. This list will be reviewed and updated as the need arises.
b. Exotic diseases of commercial interest and support of condition before the OIE will be prioritized.
c. The list of diseases will be prioritized according to the probability of entry and impact they could generate, both dynamic situations that require permanent evaluation.
d. Require that each MS must keep their diseases status and condition updated as required under the various regional and international agreements.
e. CARICOM will monitor and support MS to ensure that they fulfill their obligations regarding the updating of the sanitary condition of their terrestrial and aquatic animal populations.
f. Require each MS to have maintained and updated records of population censuses and establishments of the livestock and aquaculture industry, as well as the maintenance and information on aspects of food safety.

80. The main animal health guidelines for risk and regulatory considerations of diseases of commercial interest will be developed and defined based on guidelines detailed in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. For the purposes of general regulatory operational systems, the guidelines, and the principles of the SPSA of the WTO and OIE has to be considered in animal health matters.

5.2.3 Definition and development of a standard framework for the individual application of the members, when they must import goods that are not considered in the CARICOM TPAAP processes

81. The **Technical *ad hoc* group** in coordination with the CAHFSA Secretariat must generate a specific regulation when there are commodities that have not been accounted for under this policy. The Technical Group will determine if it is necessary to generate a risk analysis process. The Draft Protocol governing CARICOM control, analysis, and approval procedures for trade in animals and animal products, which is to be approved by COTED, will provide the basis on which these principles will be established and agreed on.

82. The Technical Group will also develop the instrument, at the appropriate legal level, which explicitly states that the general and specific regulations and import procedures developed for the operation will be the framework for reference to be used.

83. The CVO of each of the Member States that make up this *ad hoc* group, will be responsible for proposing modifications to the regulations and adequacy of the procedures that require updating in each of their countries, so that it is tentative legally and procedurally applicable in each of CARICOM's Member States.

84. Each CVO shall inform of the need to adapt or revise any procedure or regulation based on any specific need and its application. The CARICOM secretariat and CAHFSA shall determine whether the Technical *ad hoc* group is required, or whether it is possible to resolve this request through utilizing other options.

5.2.4 Management Structure of the TPAAP.

85. The **Technical *ad hoc* group** will define a Management Subcommittee that will be supported by the Coordinator, and consists of the CAHFSA and the requisite CVO's from MS. The objective of this group is to continuously monitor all processes involved in the implementation of the TPAAP and the operation of animal and animal products trading procedures in CARICOM. The **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** will receive complaints and improvement suggestions in the implementation of the TPAAP.

86. A Monitoring and Evaluation System will be developed to guide the accountability framework for the TPAAP. Tracking of activities and verification of activity execution will be carried out using Gantt charts and indicator verification systems.

87. Preparation of reports or reporting with observations or non-conformances of the system (according to non-conformity detection plan). The reports will be sent to the Chair of the Technical ad hoc group, who will evaluate with the Coordinator for the next steps to be taken. Reports will be forwarded to each of the specific sub-committees which have been established for the implementation of the policy.

88. The corrective measures developed by the relevant sub-committee should be reported to the Coordinator and later sent to the Technical ad hoc group (or specific group) for formal incorporation into the relevant documentation. The CAHFSA Secretariat will ensure proper documentation in relation to the measures taken.

5.2.5 Support to countries and/or establishments for export within and outside the community

89. It is envisioned that for the policy to effectively work, the structure of the VS or the CA must have the necessary expertise in the areas of animal health and food safety. This requires exposure to general SPS training, WTO SPS guidelines, training in risk assessment and OIE regulations. To this end, a series of capacity building and training will have to be implemented in the various MS.

90. The system of support to countries to improve their capability to facilitate intra or extra-regional trade will be targeted through the subcommittee of the TAC that deals with assistance to MS. For its implementation, the following activities should be considered:

- Preparation of a procedure for the establishment of minimum conditions for the support system that includes:
    - Formal request for support for improvement in the export system of any MS. (Information is available on CAHFSA website for this purpose).

- Preparation of an agreement for applicant countries where it commits to finance the expenses required by the support process to improve trade skills.

- Develop a minimum characteristics profile to be eligible as a country (VS or other state institution) to be part of the support group of trading systems in countries that require this service.

- A general template will be developed where the minimum characteristics (legal and professional to be part of the support group) develop specific profiles according to the specificity of the system to be evaluated.
- Formal evaluation of skills and the trading system is required as a minimum to be applied in the applicant country.
- Develop general evaluation questionnaire.
- Develop general and specific evaluation guidelines.
- Support Group raises observations and gaps and prepares reports with corrective action plan for submission for approval; study should include cost assessment of proposed plan.
- The second part of the support plan is the responsibility of the VS of each country; this is the implementation of the proposed corrective measures.

91. Preparation of an agreement between CARICOM and the applicant country, where the agreement of the requesting country is established, to finance, either with own resources or with resources of third parties, the various activities defined in this process. For its part, CARICOM will be responsible for coordinating the activities, determining the technical group according to the type of requirement monitoring and communicating the activities.

92. The defined **technical group** shall:

a) Carry out an evaluation the MS which is to be supported.
b) Determine existing gaps, develop improvement plan, implementation timelines and progress indicators.
c) Develop cost benefit studies and submit improvement plan for stakeholder review.
d) Country and stakeholders if they agree on a plan of improvements should commit resources for their implementation.
e) Improvement plan and economic study is submitted to the TAC for review.
f) Review and evaluate national and international financing lines for implementation of improvement plan, if requested for this type of support.

5.2.6 Development of an intra-community alternate dispute settlement mechanism in the TPAAP Process,

93. As outlined in paragraph 27, an alternate dispute settlement mechanism will be established to address various disputes which may arise in relation to the trade in animal and animal products within the Community. This Mechanism however will not apply for extra regional trade situations; these are resolved according to the system outlined by the WTO or the OIE Regulations. The general purposes of this mechanism are as follows:

- Provide an avenue for trade disputes/disagreements relating to SPS between MS to be resolved and adjudicated in keeping with the spirit of the RTC.
- Provide technical guidance to the interpretation and implementation of the TPAAP.
- Advise COTED as to the actions that can be taken when there are disputes between MS in relation to trading in animals and animal products.
- Ensure that there is no bias between MS in the implementation of the TPAAP subject to the provisions of the RTC.

5.2.7 Standardization of terms and their definitions within the community

94. A specific committee will be established to manage this process. This committee will be known as the Standards Sub-Committee. The Standards Subcommittee will carry out specific regulation by commodity. The process of development of general regulations by the Standards Subcommittee will consider incorporating into those regulations the minimum elements as required according to international best practices (as established by the OIE, CODEX)

95. The activities of standardization of terms and their definitions within the Community will be carried out by the Sub-committee on Standards. The Technical *ad hoc* group will define the composition of this group, with a minimum of seven of the Member States, five of these with competences in animal health and food safety and international trade legislation and two of these, must be lawyers or similar professions with experience in international

regulations, WTO, OIE and *Codex alimentarius*. All must belong to the VS or the Ministry of Agriculture of each of the selected countries.

- CAHFSA will provide technical and administrative support to this Committee.

5.2.8 Identification, evaluation and development general community legislation and standardized development of TPAAP regulations

96. The process for the development of regulations shall entail the following:

a. The Secretary should ensure that there is training of all members in the evaluation and regulatory review processes. If there are comments, they should be referred to the **Standards Subcommittee.** If appropriate (the CAHFSA Secretariat must develop digital formulas to enable and facilitate the process of evaluating and submitting observations of the proposed regulations for approval).
b. The Subcommittee of standards, guided by CAHFSA Coordination and Secretariat, may require the opinion of experts in matters that it deems relevant.
c. The process of consultation of national or international experts will be coordinated by the CAHFSA Secretariat, and Coordination, subject to approval by the Technical *ad hoc* group.
d. Consultation with international agencies and partner countries will be solicited only in qualified and special cases and will be seen as consultation with private experts. The financing of the activity will be from the budget set aside for this purpose.
e. The system of generating standards must incorporate as a transversal element in the development of any type of regulation the concept of equivalence. So that, when CARICOM or a Member State considers that it necessary, it can be applied.
f. The application of CA evaluation processes, sanitary status, and establishment authorization) must respond to the risk of the commodity to be imported, a concession that is in the table of commodities.
g. The CAHFSA will be responsible for keeping up-to-update on its website the lists and standards that are generated on the different commodities.
h. Once developed and approved, regulations must be implemented in all CARICOM MS.

97. CARICOM MS may require that, animals and product of animal origin come only from countries in which the Community has carried out a risk assessment and the community has delivered results in accordance. The process must consider the following aspects, in the order indicated:
Evaluation of the technical, operational, and financial capacity of the CA (generally VS, but not always). The following must be carried out in coordination with CAHFSA

a. The evaluation of CA is carried out in general in two stages. The first documentary and the second in the field, to verify that the information provided relates to the action of CA. Specific questions and evaluation guidelines for field inspections should be developed, in addition to type of report formats based on information gathered in the evaluation guidelines.
b. System of official approval or rejection and generation of consolidated lists with VS evaluated on CAHFSA website.
c. Establish procedural evaluation guidelines PVS, OIE and others as EU evaluation systems.
d. Legislation should consider that the assessment of the CA might not be carried out, either if a country or a group of countries considers that there is sufficient knowledge of this either by historical precedence of the exported products, the prior approval of these products or if this is established in bilateral or regional agreements.
e. MS reserves the right to demand that animals and animal products come from countries whose animal health status about the properties of interest for trade in these commodities is controlled and the CA can demonstrate this situation. It must be established at least the following:
    - The principles of free country, free zone and constitution must be incorporated, in accordance with the OIE guidelines.
    - Regulation must be in tune with the principles set out in the OIE Sanitary Code for Terrestrial animals.

f. The assessment of the animal health condition of a country, zone or compartment is carried out in two stages. The first documentary and the second in the field, to verify that the information provided relates to what the CA has indicated.
g. The assessment should be allowed to question the documentary stage, although these follow the same structure the content varies since the

evaluation of one disease versus another differs according to the host agent, transmission systems, and diagnostics among others.

h. The assessment should be developed in the same way as the questionnaires, checklist for field evaluation and model report formats based on information gathered in the evaluation and verification guidelines.
i. System of official approval or rejection and generation of consolidated lists with sanitary conditions, zones or compartments evaluated favorably are placed on the CAHFSA website.
j. Consider OIE references, for the construction of specific guidelines of the system surveillance system and disease control. In terms of disease, diagnostics and laboratory capacity should be used as a reference in the OIE Diagnostic Test Manual.
k. Legislation should consider that the assessment of the animal health condition may not be carried out, if a country or a group of countries considers there is sufficient knowledge about the behavior of the diseases of interest in the country, zone, or compartment. Acceptance of animal health status should also be considered if there are bilateral or regional agreements establishing this consideration.
l. Other important aspects in the development of the general legislation are the possibility for Member States to verify on the spot the decision and compliance with the rules established by the CA in the state(s) that wishes to export to the Community. The regulations should define in general when authorization of establishments will be required. For this, it must establish a list of the type of dependencies that need to be evaluated prior to authorizing the export of animal either or animal products. The procedure required to carry out the authorization of an establishment must be defined:

- Application format must be developed to perform the requirements.
- Identify official contact point for coordination.
- Payment system, inspection, and verification for authorization.
- System of official approval or rejection and generation of consolidated lists with approved establishments and country of origin for export published on CAHFSA website.

98. Another element which will be included in the development of general regulations is the risk assessment of commodities that according to their characteristics, having been subjected to industrial processes, that does not require exposure Assessment. Nevertheless, it is recommended to use the conditions on which the entrance is allowed, and this is by verification of the accompanying documents that stipulates the guarantees of compliance and

application of mitigation measures. Such regulation should be considered clear identification and listing of commodities requiring evaluation or definition of groups of commodities (e.g., meat preservatives). Description of documentation required for evaluation are as follows:

a. Explicit identification of commodities requiring evaluation or definition of groups of goods (e.g., meat preservatives)
b. Description of documentation required for Official Free Sale certificate.
c. Technical specification of the product.
d. Outline of process verified by the CA.
e. CA certified microbiologic or chemical analysis or both as appropriate.

99. Finally, as General Rules, the framework on which inspection will be carried out at the ports for the entry of animals and commodities should be developed. This relates to the **general inspection process** and its consequences, approval of entry, rejection, re-export. The general rule on the import process should consider:

- Inspection (verification of) all animals and animal products.
- Physical verification of conditions of transport, warranty seals, backup sanitary certification, other certifications.
- Taking prior to authorizing entry, to verify organoleptic, microbiologic, and chemical conditions.
- Path that the commodity follows if they are not authorized for entry at the time of the inspection:
    - This may be retention awaiting new redirection pending sampling results.
    - Rejection
    - Destruction or return.

100. Proceedings for the withdrawal and collection of products that may have been granted entry and which were subsequently determined to be dangerous. Regulations for Recall.

The **SPECIFIC REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT** process is carried out by the **Standards Subcommittee.** This Sub Committee may request specialists (inside and outside CARICOM) or create *ad hoc* risk analysis groups when it deems appropriate to support its work to develop these commodity-specific standards.

101. It should consider as a minimum the following as listed:

- Elaboration of specific requirements according to the list of commodities already defined. The development of each of these regulations will deliver the specific items that must be demanded by each of the countries, thus establishing a standard trade system for the Community. The specification of each commodity requires that general and elements must be considered.
- The CA of origin must state explicitly that the VS and sanitary status (where applicable according to commodity) has been evaluated favorably.
- Sanitary condition of animals at source of origin.
- Slaughterhouse condition and authorization process.
- Specific diagnostic requirements according to animal species and according to diseases defined as risk (OIE diagnostic tests manual).
- Specific microorganism tests, physical contaminants and chemicals by commodity and their risks associated with quarantine´s origin of animal.

    - Quarantine duration at source.
    - Office supervision by the CA.
    - Minimal biosecurity measures in premises of origin
    - Sampling time and specific diagnostic techniques required during the quarantine period origin.
    - Post-import quarantine time.
    - Sampling time and specific diagnostic techniques required during income quarterly.
    - Description Transport System, among other Risk Mitigation Processes for Certified Animal Origin Products.
    - Existing export sanitary veterinary approved certificates in the country-of-origin transport conditions.

5.2.9 General and specific procedures for the trade of animals and products of animal origin (pre-border, border, and post-border).

102. The following elements should be considered:

a. Expert support from countries with cooperation agreements that have a trade system implemented in this order must be considered.
b. Transversal cooperation is incorporated throughout the process in the pre-border and border processes. This is a process of document evaluation and inspection within the Community.
c. In the evaluation and inspection systems, multidisciplinary teams from the countries are included.

d. The efficient use of resources is incorporated into the whole process; therefore, a third party is accepted for the evaluation carried out by a member country.
e. A community quarantine station is considered and included.

Figure 1: TPAAP Structure

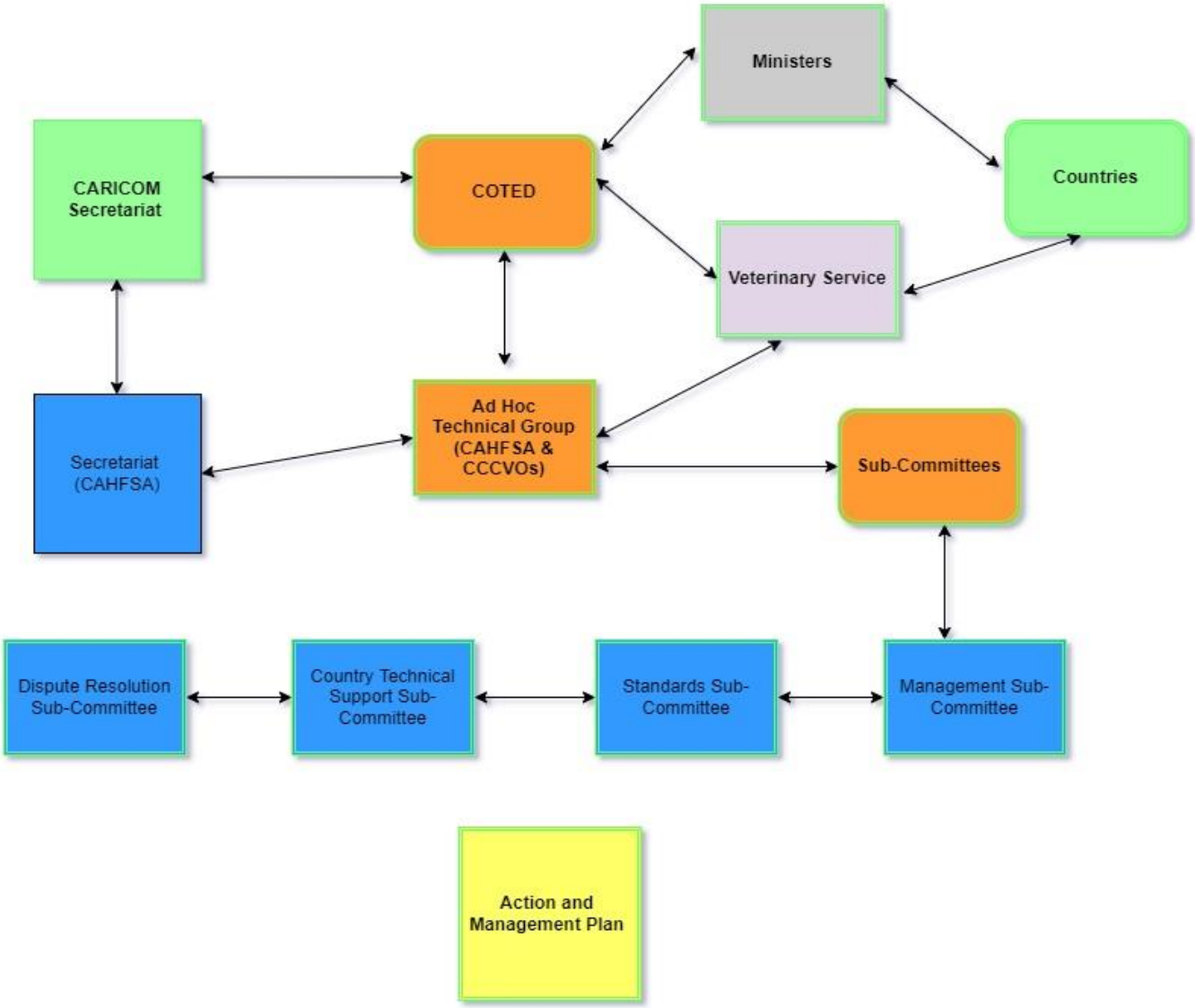
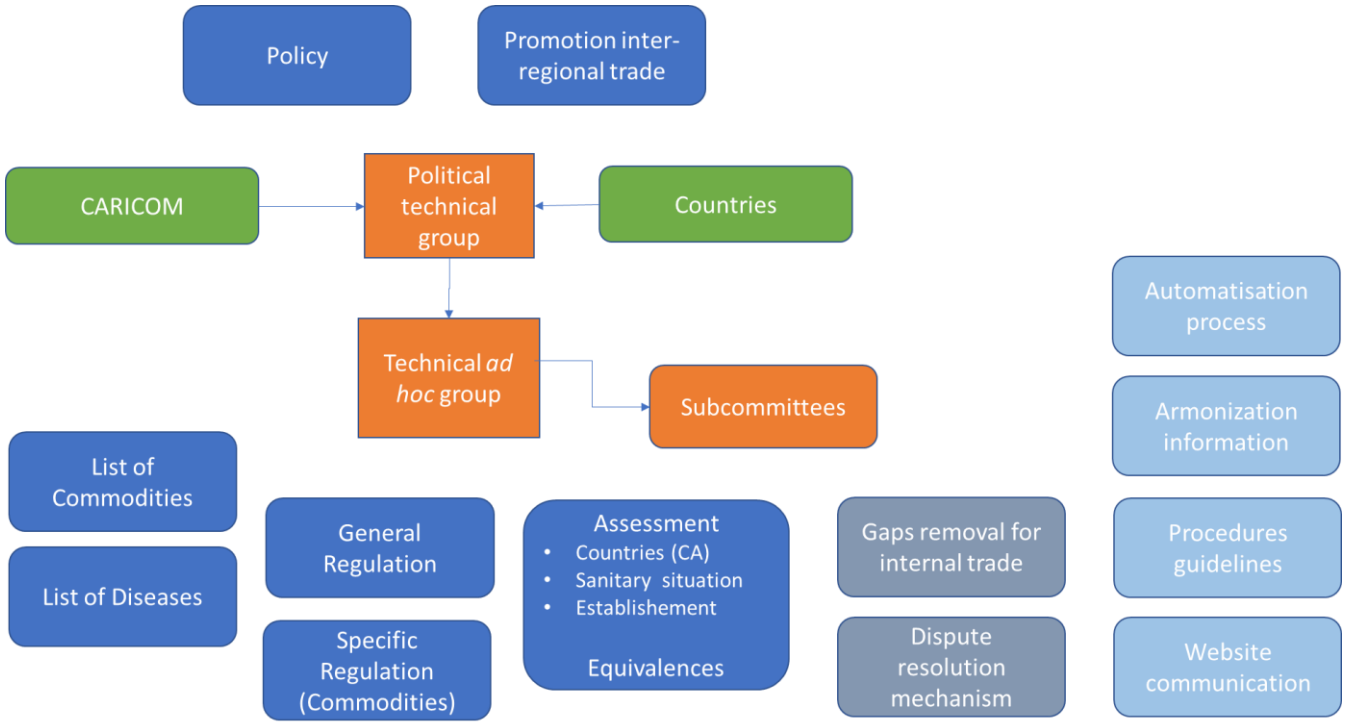


Figure 2: Development of trade policy and harmonized regulation



6 TPAAP IMPLEMENTATION (OPERATION)

6.2 General and specific procedures for the trade of animals and products of animal origin (Pre-border, border and post-border).

103. The procedures for the operation of import systems should be in line with the objectives set out in the TPAAP. Therefore, these must facilitate the operation of the intra and extra-regional trade process, first to promote and enable safe exchange between countries and second, to ensure that import procedures can be applied in each MS. All these principles are further elaborated in the draft Protocol governing CARICOM control, analysis and approval procedures for trade in animals and animal products.

104. The entire process and operation must be carried out by the CA of each of the MS. The CA will outline the following procedures which will be used to assess the exporting country:

- Evaluation of the CA or VS.
- Animal health condition assessment, country, zone or compartment.
- Approval of establishments for export.

6.2.1 Risk assessment of commodities subject to industrial processes, whether carried out by the Risk Assessment Subcommittee.

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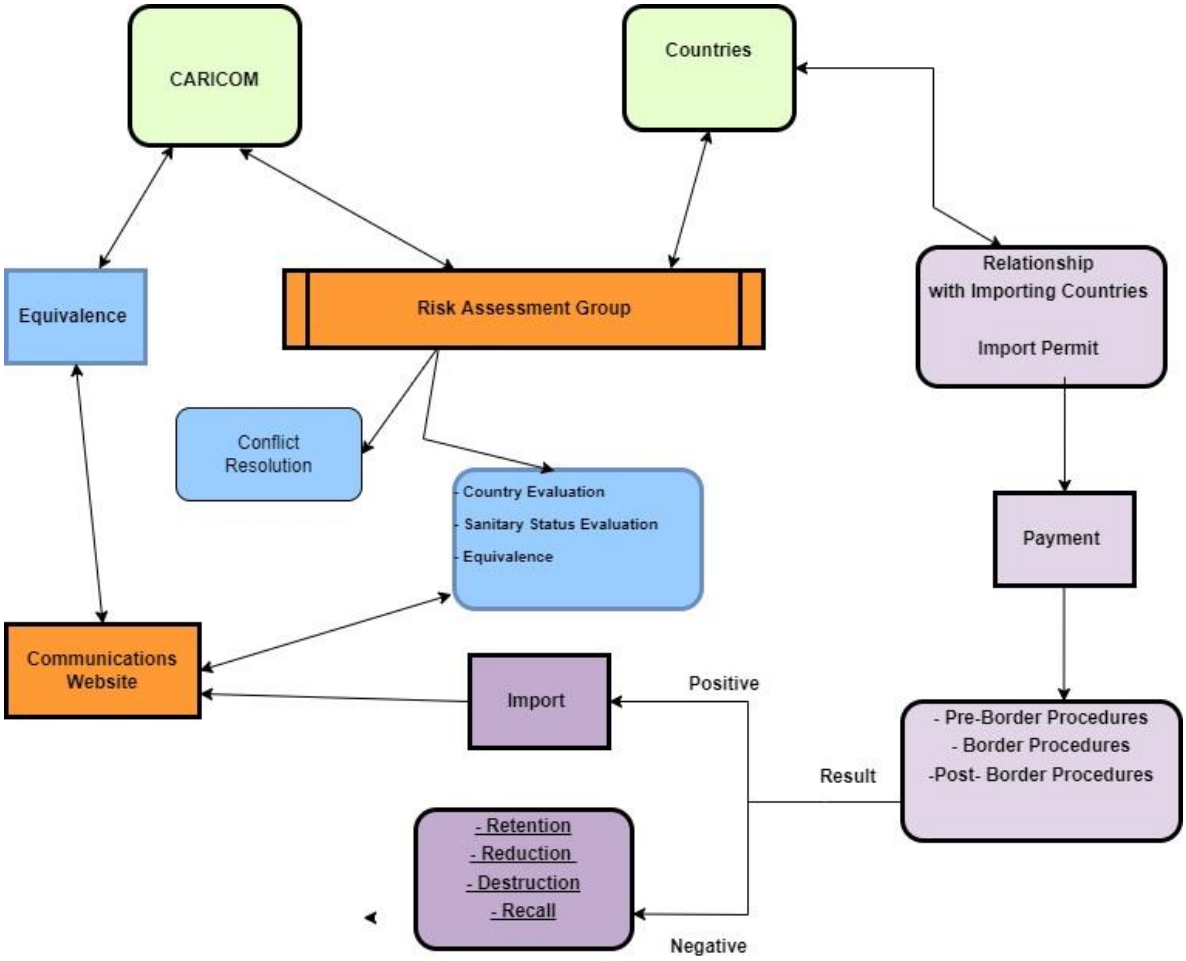
105. The main function of the Risk Assessment Subcommittee will be to act on behalf of all CARICOM MS, to implement each of the aspects set out in the general rules of the points/conditions. These include: (Assessment of the CA; Animal health Condition Assessment; Approval of Establishments; Evaluation of industrial commodities).

106. The outcome of the CA evaluation process, animal health condition, approval of establishments of commodities, shall be valid for all MS once it has been accepted and approved by COTED. This is articulated in *Figure 3: Operation of import process* in relation to the TPAAP.

Figure 3: Operation of Import Process



6.3 Pre-border operation:

107. Application for export or import, of animals or products, by a third party or by the official authority of a country, from within CARICOM will undergo the process as outline below. A Standard application form and other relevant information will be placed on the CAHFSA website for each CARICOM country. VS of the country that corresponds receives and processes the application in the following sequence:

a) Confirms that the commodity comes from a country which its CA has evaluated and approved as suitable for export. (Consultation

must be done on the CAHFSA website to verify that the CA or VS has evaluated and approved as suitable for export).

b) Confirms the condition of the country, zone or compartment of diseases defined as priority according to the commodity and has been evaluated and approved. (Consultation must be done on the CAFHSA website to verify that the animal health condition of the country, zone or compartment has been evaluated and approved.).

c) Verify that the exporting establishment for animals or products is approved. (Verify that the approved exporting establishments are on the CAFHSA website).

d) Review whether the commodity corresponds to those defined as low risk and have been subjected to industrial process. Information should be found on the approved list of products for importation. (Verification must be done by consulting the CAHFSA website).

108. If the requirements referred to in the previous point are met, the VS of the country, draws up the **import permit**, in accordance with the regulations established for the corresponding commodity. The specific regulations according to commodity will be published on the CAHFSA website and that of each of the member countries.

109. If one of the conditions referred to above is not met, the CAHFSA Secretariat is informed for the convening of the Risk Assessment Subcommittee.

6.3.1 Activate "competent authority assessment" process to the country that requires export

110. This process includes at least:

- Communicate the need for assessment of the CA to the applicant.
- Submit questionnaire corresponding to the CA.
- Evaluation of the completed questionnaire and new requirements or clarifications if applicable. Acceptance according to questionnaire responses and new backgrounds if required.
- Request for visit for on-site verification of technical, legal and economic competencies of the CA of the country interested in exporting.
- Verification visit (Application of instruments developed for CA evaluation (considers assessment of non-conformities, depending on their severity).
- Share the Final report, questionnaire and verification visit findings.
- If non-conformities are very severe, CA is assessed unfavorably.
- The country interested in exporting must solve list of non-conformities and request a new verification visit. If the observations do not reach the level of very serious, the country concerned must demonstrate with sufficient technical information as it relates to the listing of non-conformities there is compliance and reporting. If the evaluation is satisfactory, the approval process is followed. If observations of non- conformities are maintained, the approval remains pending until the observation's ceases.

- If there are no, or minimal observations because of the visit, the CA is assessed as compliant.
- CAHFSA publishes CA's compliant approval on its website.

6.3.2 Activation of the animal health condition assessment process to the country that seeks to export.

111. This process includes:

- Communicate to the CA the need for animal health condition assessment (independent of the person who has made the request, the communications of the Risk Assessment Subcommittee are solely and exclusively with the CA of the country that requested market access).
- Submit corresponding questionnaire of defined risk diseases for animals or products for which trade is being requested.
- Evaluation questionnaire and new requirements or clarifications if applicable.
- Acceptance according to responses in questionnaires and new background if requested for a visit as required for an on-site verification of the animal health condition of the country, area or geographical location of the country interested in exporting.
- Verification visit (Application of instruments developed for animal health condition assessment that considers assessment of non-conformities, according to their severity).
- Final report, questionnaire relationship and verification visit findings.

112. If non-conformities exist, the following s must be followed:

- If non-conformities are very severe, the animal health condition for the disease evaluated is assessed adversely. The country interested in exporting must resolve non-conformities and request a new verification visit.

- If the observations do not reach the level of very serious, the Country concerned must through the application of sufficient technical background resolve the non- compliance and reporting. If the evaluation is sufficient, the approval process is followed.

- If observations are maintained, the approval remains pending until the observations are listed. If there is no observation or minimal because of the visit, the animal health condition is assessed accordingly for the diseases evaluated.

- CAHFSA publishes compliant approval of the health condition for diseases evaluated in the nominee for these purposes on its website.

6.3.3 Activate evaluation process for the approval of establishments in the country of origin of commodities that require establishment approval.

113. This process includes:

- Communicate to the CA need for evaluation for the approval of establishments (independent of who has the Risk Assessment Sub-committee is solely and exclusively with the CA of the country requiring export).
- To submit a questionnaire regarding the operation and official control of the establishments exporting animals or products for, which trade is being requested.
- Evaluate questionnaire and new requirements or clarifications if it is appropriate to accept as answers contained in questionnaires and new background information if they were required.
- Request visit for on-site verification of the conditions of operation and official control of the exporting establishments of animals or products.
- Verification visit (Application of instruments developed for operational evaluation and official control of the exporting establishment(s) of animals or animal products (considered valuation of non-conformities, depending on their severity).
- Final report, including the answers in questionnaire concurrence with verification visit findings. If non-conformities are very serious, exporting establishments are assessed adversely. The country interested in exporting must list non-conformities and request a new verification visit.

If the observations do not reach the level of very serious, the country concerned must resolve with sufficient technical background the listing of non-conformities and submit a new report.

- If the evaluation is sufficient, the approval process is followed.

- If observations are maintained, the approval remains pending until the observations are listed.

If there is no observation or minimal because of the visit, the animal or good exporting establishment(s) is assessed accordingly.

- CAHFSA publishes approval of the compliant animal or animal products exporting establishment(s) for this purpose on its WEBSITE.

6.3.4 Activate risk mitigation assessment of commodities subject to industrial processes.

114. This includes at a minimum:

- Communicate to the CA the need for risk mitigation processes for commodities (regardless of who has made the request, the communications of the Risk Assessment Subcommittee are only with the CA of the country that is required to export).
- Send a list of required for evaluation (this list of requirements must be, along with the evaluation procedure published on the CAHFSA website) includes at least: Official Health Certificate of Consumer Aptness (where applicable).
- CA verifies technical profile by way of a product data sheet.
- Certificates of microbiological or chemical analysis or both as appropriate others according to type of commodity.
- Background assessment reports acceptance according to or requires higher background.

115. If CA does not respond to new approval requirements, it remains pending until these are received and certified as complaint.

116. If the result of the evaluation is compliant, CAHFSA publishes approval of the approved commodity, in the list for these purposes on its website.

6.3.5 Preparation import permits.

117. As already noted, whether the general rules are in conformity with the VS of the country, to which the entry of the animals or animal products is being applied for, draws up the corresponding requirements sheet based on the regulations established for this purpose. Some elements to be considered are:

118. **In the case of application for entry of animals**:

a. Set in detailed the condition/conditions and the process of quarantine in the country of origin to capture the following:
    i. Identification and location

ii. Biosecurity Requirements
iii. Control of access in and out of facilities of materials and people.
iv. Procedures for handling food and livestock inputs.
v. Procedures for taking samples and shipping.
vi. Interpretation of results.
vii. Contingency plans, among others.

119. Set detailed inspection conditions at point of entry:

I. Indicate entry point is exclusive to the entry of animals to facilitate their control and facilitate transfer to an authorized quarantine place.
II. Establish review only of original documentation.
III. Accompany entry with Veterinary Health Certificate.
IV. Accompanying annexed documents,
V. Establishing conditions of transport.

6.3.6 Aspects indicated in the specific regulation.

120. In the case of product application:

- Set in detail inspection conditions at point of entry.
- Indicate approved points of entry for commodities.
- Establish review only of original documentation.
- Accompany internment with Veterinary Health Certificate.
- Accompany annexed documents where appropriate.
- Establish conditions of carriage and official seals.
- Sampling where appropriate as established in the specific legislation.
- Transfer/in-transit mechanisms, among others.

6.4 Border operation

121. The professionals and technicians of each of the VS of MS will carry out the inspection of animals and products.

122. Entry points for the inspection of animals or products must have minimum conditions to perform these activities correctly, within them:

- Establishment where the condition of imported products is safeguarded.
- Exclusive dependence to maintain cold chain when the commodity to be inspected requires it. If there is no possibility to maintain the cold chain, establish inspection in destination warehouses, with the corresponding biosecurity and load control measures.
- Exclusive units for the inspection of animals of different species.
- Facilities with enough space and infrastructure for animal maintenance if their entry is not granted.
- Equipment and materials at the various facilities which are used for safeguarding samples and conditions of transporting the samples.

123. The establishment of quarantine for animals, although it may be placed in a location other than the point of entry, is considered as an extension of the point of inspection since the animals may only be officially entering the country after the period established in the specific regulation according to the animal species. The minimum requirements for animal quarantine should include:

- High-level biosecurity parameters.
- Perimeters access control procedures for entry and exit of materials and people.
- Procedures for handling feed and inputs.
- Procedures for taking samples and sending them to the laboratory.
- Infrastructure to respond to the requirements of the maintenance of the animal for long periods.
- Official record keeping system.
- Procedures for diagnostics, applications of drugs or revealing evidence.
- Contingency plan.
- Others.

124. Continuous training for professionals and technicians responsible for inspection in import standards and procedures and quarantine system are required.

125. Materials and equipment for the registration of imports and tracking (traceability) of all these, regardless of their condition (entered, retained, rejected).

126. Available facilities for maintaining detained or rejected items.

6.5 Post-border operation

127. Post-border activities for the operation of trade systems are the responsibility of both the VS and the private sector that carries out the import. Activities and functions to be exercised by the VS to safeguard the operation of the import system once animals or products have entered the country:

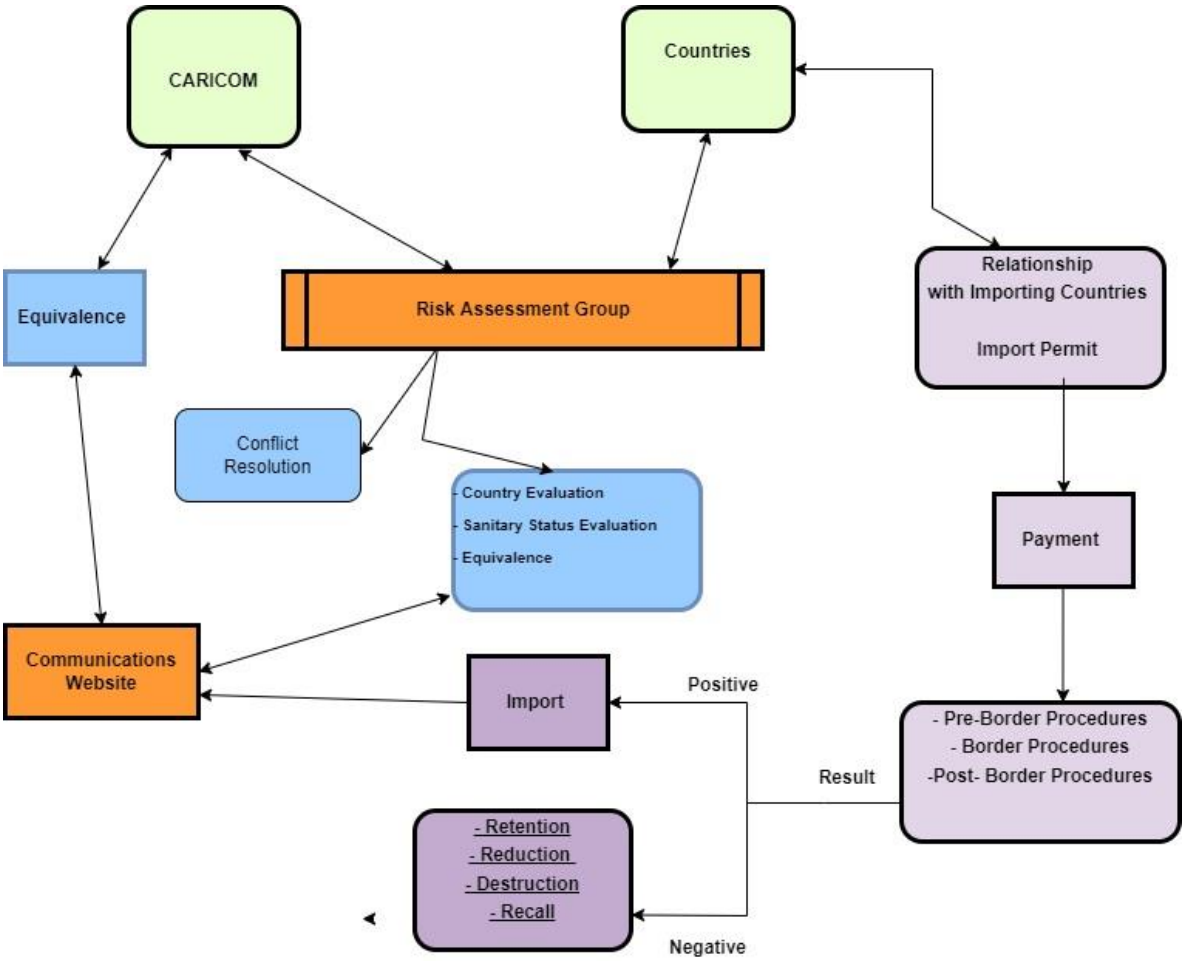
- System of identification, recording and control of movements for the traceability of life of animals. Established from a monitoring program for late-presenting diseases where appropriate (e.g., Scrapie). Active and passive surveillance system operating efficiently, of the main diseases defined as being of interest.
- Delivery of information and training of major producers of imported animal species, on characteristic (signs) of defined diseases of interest and the importance of reporting (reporting) disease situations to CA.
- Delivery of information and training to importers of commodities on major defined risks of interest.
- Traceability for commodities of animal origin post-entry. This is relevant to be able to recall products of animal origin in case chemical or microbiological contaminants are detected under headings of the same exporting establishment.
- Microbiological and chemical monitoring system of the main microorganisms and defined analysis of interest to ensure the safety of goods of animal origin.
- Official diagnostic laboratory or agreements with third parties to carry out the required tests Registration and analysis monitoring information.

128. Private sector activities and functions aimed at safeguarding the operation of the import system once the animals or products have entered the country:

- Inform the CA, about any situation in the animal health of its animal populations that departs from what is known to it as "normal".
- Maintain the identification, recording and movement control of imported animals to enable traceability.
- Report private diagnostic results when related to the detection of diseases defined as of related interest to animals.

- Participate in the animal health and food safety training activities delivered by the CA. Maintain the identification and traceability of imported products along the entire distribution chain to allow recall. Perform the activities that are defined by the CA.

Figure 3. Operation of the import process



7 ANNEXES

ANNEX I	OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
ANNEX II	Draft Protocol Governing CARICOM Control, Analysis and approval procedure for trade in Animals and Animal Products
ANNEX III	Draft Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism