

APPLICATION FOR DISEASE FREE STATUS

Model for submissions of applications for and declarations of disease-free status

Requirements/information needed	Information/further explanation and justification
1. Identification of the programme	
1.1. Declaring Member State	Belgium
1.2. Competent authority (address, fax, e-mail)	Agence fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire, DG Politique de Contrôle, CA-Botanique, Food Safety Center, Boulevard du Jardin botanique 55, B-1000 Bruxelles. Tel : +32 (0)2 211 85 85 Fax : +32 (0)2 211 86 30 Mail : chantal.rettigner@afsca.be
1.3. Reference of this document	PISCIVAIR- La Girgaine / Agrément
1.4. Date sent to the Commission	26/09/2012
2. Type of communication	
2.1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration of disease-free status	
2.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Submission of application for disease free status	
3. National legislation¹	Arrêté royal du 9 novembre 2009 relatif aux conditions de police sanitaire applicable aux animaux et aux produits d'aquaculture, et relative à la prévention de certaines maladies chez les animaux aquatiques et aux mesures de lutte contre ces maladies (Royal Decree 09/11/2009).

¹ National legislation in force applicable to the declaration of and application for disease-free status.

4. Diseases	
4.1. Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VHS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IHN <input type="checkbox"/> ISA <input type="checkbox"/> KHV
4.2. Molluscs	<input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Marteilia refringens</i> <input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Bonamia ostreae</i>
4.3. Crustaceans	<input type="checkbox"/> White spot disease
5. Grounds for disease free-status	
5.1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No susceptibles ²	
5.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogen not viable ³	
5.3. <input type="checkbox"/> Historic free status ⁴	
5.4. <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted surveillance ⁵	

² Applicable if none of the species susceptible to the disease(s) in question is present in the Member State, zone or compartment, and where relevant in its water source.

³ Applicable if the pathogen is known not to be able to survive in the Member State, zone or compartment, and where relevant in its water source. Provide the scientific information supporting the inability of the pathogen to survive in the Member State, zone or compartment.

⁴ Applicable if susceptible species are present, but where there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least a period of 10 years before the date of declaration of or application for the disease-free status, despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, and if it complies *mutatis mutandis* with the requirements laid down in Part I.1. of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC. This ground for disease-free status must be declared of or applied for by 1 November 2008. Provide detailed information on the compliance with Part I.1. of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC.

6. General information	
6.1. Competent authority ⁶	The competent authority for aquaculture animal health is the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC), DG Control Policy, Direction Animal Health and Security of Animal products. The direction is responsible for policy on aquaculture animal health and the development of legislation. In the field, controls and sampling are performed by the Provincial Control Unit (PCU, belonging to FASFC) and the laboratory acting on behalf of the Belgian Reference Laboratory, the CER Groupe, Biotechnology department, Fish pathologies.
6.2. Organisation, supervision of all stakeholders involved in the programme to achieve disease free status ⁷	<p>One farm is concerned by the declaration of free status. The farm rears only non susceptible species (<i>Gabio gabio</i> and <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>). The fish are sold to wholesalers and retail shops to be used as bait for fishing. Fish are also used for restocking. The farm breeds its own broodstock, there is no introduction of <i>G. Gabio</i> and <i>P. Phoxinus</i>. Fish are kept in earth ponds and concrete basins.</p> <p>Broodstocks are reared in basins in the hatchery which is a facility separated from the earth ponds.</p> <p>The hatchery is supplied with water from a borehole.</p> <p>Once at the “swim up stage”, the fry is then reared in earth ponds. Metal grids prevent wild fish to enter the ponds through water supply channel. Water level in ponds are regulated through wooden monk outlets that prevent the entry of wild fish.</p> <p>The fish “ready to be placed on the market” are kept in basins supplying in water by a borehole until they are sold.</p> <p>Some herbivorous carps are kept in ponds to clean them. When carps are introduced into the farm, they are kept in separate ponds supplying by a borehole for 15 days before being introduced in ponds with other species.</p>

⁵ Applicable if targeted surveillance complying with Community requirements has been in place for at least a period of two years without the detection of the disease agent on farm, or in mollusc farming areas that rears any of the susceptible species.

Where there are parts of the Member State, zone or compartment in which the number of farms or mollusc farming areas is limited, but in which there are wild populations of susceptible species, information on the targeted surveillance in those wild populations shall be given.

Describe diagnostic methods and sampling schemes. When OIE or EU standards are applied, reference must be made to them. If not, describe them. Name the laboratories involved in the programme (National reference laboratory or designated laboratories).

⁶ A description shall be provided of the structure, competencies, duties and powers of the competent authority involved.

⁷ A description shall be provided of the competent authority in charge of the supervision and coordination of the programme and the different operators involved.

	The farm undergoes official controls from PCU regarding health and traceability requirements at least once a year.
6.3. An overview of the structure of the aquaculture industry in the area in question (disease-free Member State, zone or compartment) including types of production and species kept	<p>There was only one farm downstream from Piscivair-La Girgaine on the “Ruisseau des Alleines”. Until end 2010, this farm reared VHS and IHN susceptible species and respected mandatory sampling for research of IHN and VHS twice a year since 2001, all results were negative. The farm rears now carps for private purpose.</p> <p>Restocking with fario trouts occurs from time to time upstream and downstream from Piscivair-La Girgaine.</p> <p>Each restocking with VHS and IHN susceptible species in Wallonia (south part of Belgium, including the “Ruisseau des Alleines”) must be performed using fish from farms known as not infected by VHS and IHN (proof of negative results from 2 samplings in the last 12 months).</p> <p>Each restocking in natural water must be authorised by the competent authority in charge of management of natural water in Wallonia (Service de la pêche de la Région wallonne).</p> <p>One farm is located upstream from Piscivair-La Girgaine, this farm reared only <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>.</p> <p>Three private ponds (carps, other non susceptible species) are located approximately 800 meters upstream from Piscivair-La Girgaine.</p>
6.4. The notification to the competent authority of the suspicion and confirmation of the disease(s) in question has been compulsory since when (date)?	VHS and IHN are compulsory notifiable since 7 th September 1995. KHV is notifiable since 9 th November 2009.

6.5. Early detection system in place throughout the Member State, enabling the competent authority to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting since when (date)? ⁸	Early detection system for VHS and IHN is in place since 7 th September 1995 by virtue of the “Arrêté ministériel du 7 septembre 1995 établissant des mesures de lute contre certaines maladies des poissons” which provided that each suspicion of VHS or IHN must be notify to the competent authority. This decree was replaced by the Royal Decree 09/11/2009 entered into force on 9 th November 2009 which makes mandatory notification of any suspicion of diseases or increase of mortality.
6.6. Source of aquaculture animals of species susceptible to the disease in question entering in the Member State, zone or compartments for farming.	There is no susceptible species reared in the farm concerned by the request for heath status free from VHS and IHN.
6.7. Guidelines on good hygiene practice ⁹	The farm is authorised and subjected to animal health surveillance scheme (Royal Decree 09/11/2009) and good hygiene practice (Royal Decree 09/11/2009). The guidelines on good hygiene practise are those set by the Regulation (EC) N° 852/2004. Minimum requirements are detailed on FASFC website : http://www.favvafsc.fgov.be/productionanimale/animaux/circulaires/_documents/2011_12_01_Circulaire_Aquaculture_27_10_11.pdf
7. Area covered	
7.1. <input type="checkbox"/> Member State	

⁸ The early detection systems shall in particular ensure the rapid recognition of any clinical signs consistent with the suspicion of a disease, emerging disease, or unexplained mortality in farms or mollusc farming areas, and in the wild, and the rapid communication of the event to the competent authority with the aim to activating diagnostic investigation with minimum delay. The early detection system shall include at least the following:

- (a) broad awareness, among the personnel employed in aquaculture businesses or involved in the processing of aquaculture animals, of any signs consistent with the presence of a disease, and training of veterinarians of aquatic animals health specialists in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence;
- (b) veterinarians or aquatic animal health specialists trained in recognising and reporting suspicious disease occurrence;
- (c) access by the competent authority to laboratories with the facilities for diagnosing and differentiating listed and emerging diseases.

⁹ A description shall be provided in accordance with Article 9 of Directive 2006/88/EC.

7.2. Zone (entire water catchment area) ¹⁰	
7.3. Zone (part of water catchment area) ¹¹ Identify and describe the artificial or natural barrier that delimits the zone and justify its capability to prevent the upward migration of aquatic animals from the lower stretches of the water catchment area.	
7.4. Zone (more than one water catchment area) ¹²	

¹⁰ An entire water catchment area from its sources to its estuary.

¹¹ Part of a water catchment area from the source(s) to a natural or artificial barrier that prevents the upward migration of aquatic animals from the lower stretches of the water catchment area.

¹² More than one water catchment area, including their estuaries, due to the epidemiological link between the catchment areas through the estuary.

7.5. <input type="checkbox"/> Compartment independent of the surrounding health status¹³		
Identify and describe for each farm the water supply ¹⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Well, borehole or spring <input type="checkbox"/> Water treatment plant inactivating the relevant pathogen¹⁵	
Identify and describe for each farm natural or artificial barriers and justify its capability to prevent that aquatic animals enter each farm in a compartment from the surrounding watercourses.		
Identify and describe for each farm the protection against flooding and infiltration of water from the surrounding		
7.6. X Compartment dependent on the surrounding health status ¹⁶		
Piscivair-La Girgaine is located on 2 brooks : one “Ruisseau des Alleines” and the other supplying by a borehole “Source de Renaumont”. The “Ruisseau des Alleines” is a tributary of the river “La Semois” raising in Belgium. “La Semois” is a tributary of the river “La Meuse”, it reaches “La Meuse” in France. “La Meuse” raises in France and ends up in the Netherlands.		
X One epidemiological unit due to geographical localisation and distance from other farms/farming areas ¹⁷	A private pond with carps is located approximately 4 km downstream.	

¹³ Compartments comprising one or more farms or mollusc farming areas where the health status regarding a specific disease is independent of the health status regarding that disease of surrounding natural waters.

¹⁴ A compartment which is independent of the health status of surrounding waters, shall be supplied with water:

- (a) through a water treatment plant inactivating the relevant pathogen in order to reduce the risk of the introduction of the disease to an acceptable level; or
- (b) directly from a well, a borehole or a spring. Where such water supply is situated outside the premises of the farm, the water shall be supplied directly to the farm, and be channelled through a pipe.

¹⁵ Provide technical information to demonstrate that the relevant pathogen is inactivated in order to reduce the risk of the introduction of the disease to an acceptable level.

¹⁶ Compartments comprising one or more farms or mollusc farming areas where the health status regarding a specific disease is dependent on the health status of surrounding natural waters regarding that disease.

¹⁷ A description shall be provided of the geographical localisation and the distance from other farms/farming areas that makes it possible to consider the compartment as one epidemiological unit.

	<p>A farm rearing <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i> is located upstream.</p> <p>Three private ponds (carps and other non susceptible species) are located approximately 1 km upstream.</p>
<p>☐ All farms comprising the compartment fall within a common biosecurity system.¹⁸</p>	
<p>☐ Any additional requirements¹⁹</p>	

¹⁸ A description shall be provided of the common biosecurity system.

¹⁹ Each farm or mollusc farming area in a compartment which is dependent on the health status of surrounding waters shall be subject to additional measures imposed by the competent authority, when considered necessary to prevent the introduction of diseases. Such measures may include the establishment of a buffer zone around the compartment in which a monitoring programme is carried out, and the establishment of additional protection against the intrusion of possible pathogen carriers or vectors.

8. Geographical demarcation ²⁰		
8.1. Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation)		Registration numbers : 2 051 632 251 Geographical position : 49.861427 5.211618
8.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-free buffer zone ²¹	Geographical demarcation ²⁶	
	Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers, geographical situation and health status ²²)	
	Type of health surveillance	
8.3. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-free zones or compartments ²²	Geographical demarcation ²⁶	
	Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers geographical situation and health status ²²)	
8.4. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of disease free zone to other Member States ²⁴	Geographical demarcation ²⁶	

²⁰ The geographical demarcation shall be clearly described and identified on a map, which must be attached as an Annex to the declaration/application. Any substantial modification in the geographical demarcation of the zone or compartment to be declared free must be subjected to a new application.

²¹ In connection with a zone or a compartment dependent on the health status of surrounding waters, a buffer zone in which a monitoring programme is carried out shall be established, as appropriate. The demarcation of the buffer zones shall be such that it protects the disease-free zone from passive introduction of the disease. (Part II.1.5 of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC).

²² Health status in accordance with Part A of Annex III to Directive 2006/88/EC.

²³ Relevant in cases of declaration of disease-free Member States, where minor areas of the Member State are not considered disease-free.

²⁴ Where a zone extends to more than one Member State, it may not be declared a disease-free zone unless the conditions set out in points 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5 of Part II of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC apply to all areas of that zone. In that case both Member States concerned shall apply for approval for the part of the zone situated in their territory.

8.5. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing disease free zones/ compartments in the vicinity.	Geographical demarcation ²⁶	
	Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation)	
9. Farms or mollusc farming areas which commence or recommence their activities²⁵		
9.1. <input type="checkbox"/> New farm		
9.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Recommencing farm	<input type="checkbox"/> Health history of farm known to Competent authority	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not subject to animal health measures in respect of listed diseases	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm cleaned, disinfected and, as necessary, fallowed	

²⁵ In accordance with Part II.4 of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC.