



VIII CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

DECREE-LAW No 41/2023

ANIMAL HEALTH AND QUARANTINE

The legal framework for animal health is established in Decree-Law No. 21/2003, of December 31, on the Legal Quarantine Regime for the Importation and Exportation of Goods and the Sanitary Control of International Shipping. This decree-law adopts a biosafety approach combining plants, animals and their products in a unique legal instrument.

As the Democratic Republic of East Timor moves towards greater integration into the international trading system, it deals with the increased flow of goods to and from the country and places greater emphasis on food security, livestock production and trade and trade in products of aquatic origin, this decree-law aims to provide an improved and more effective framework to define mechanisms for the protection of animal health and for the trade of animal-origin product , in order to align procedures with international trade standards .

Thus, this decree-law provides a legal regime for the trade in animals and animal-origin product, different from that applicable to plants and products of plant origin, and also provides a comprehensive system that responds to animal health and quarantine risks in East Timor's territory.

These decree-law main objectives are to protect animal health and ensure the safety of animal-origin products, free of diseases that could threaten these resources, thus ensuring the economy and food security protection. Its objectives are also to provide a clear, efficient and conducive framework for trade and business activities, facilitate private sector activities, empower public officials, support livestock production activities and prevent animal disease and quarantine risks to public health and food security.

This decree establishes, on the one hand, the legal foundations for the import and export of animals, animal-origin product and related articles, and general animal health measures. On the other hand, this decree contains provisions relating to animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty against animals, defines specific rules within the scope of aquaculture and the health of aquatic animals, establishes functions for matters of veterinary public health, creates a framework for disease control and response, regulates veterinary medicines and provides a system for animal identification and traceability. It also establishes that the ministry with attributions in agriculture and fisheries has the responsibility and competence to ensure or supervise the application of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other rules and recommendations throughout the territory of East Timor.

The framework established in this decree-law will be developed through regulations, which will define procedures and other technical details.

Thus, the Government decrees, under the terms of paragraph o) of No. 1 of Article No. 115 and paragraph d) of Article No. 116 of the Constitution of the Republic, to be valid as law, the following:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article No. 1

Object

The purpose of this decree is to establish the framework for animal health and welfare, prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases in East Timor, control the spread and eradication of animal diseases, control the movement of animals, animal products, animal origin and related items, on entering and leaving East Timor, facilitate trade, allow animal welfare, protect veterinary public health, regulate veterinary products and create an animal identification system.

Article No. 2

Scope

This decree applies to the entire national territory.

Article No. 3

Objectives

The objectives of this decree are:

- a) Protect and promote the health of terrestrial and aquatic animals and ensure biosafety to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases;
- b) Facilitate trade, particularly the import and export of animals and animal products;
- c) Serve as a basis for carrying out epidemiological surveillance, control and eradication of diseases of great economic importance and/or for public health;
- d) Serve as a basis for animal diseases losses compensation;
- e) Serve as a basis for the animal welfare conditions observance;
- f) Protect veterinary public health.

Article No. 4

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this law, it is understood by:

- a) «AIFAESA», the Authority for Inspection and Supervision of Economic, Sanitary and Food Activity, IP, as established under the terms of Decree-Law No. 26/2016, of 29 June;
- b) «Hazard analysis» means the process of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and communication in accordance with internationally accepted procedures and standards;
- c) «Stray animals» means an animal which is not under the direct control or is a property of a person or which is not prevented from roaming freely;
- d) «Animal» means a terrestrial animal or an aquatic animal;
- e) «Terrestrial animal» means a mammal, bird or bee;
- f) «Aquatic animal» means all life stages, including eggs and gametes, of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians from aquaculture facilities or wild, for the purpose of rearing, release into the aquatic environment or human consumption;
- g) «Related articles» means parts of animals, by-animal-origin product, fodder for animals, litter, animal waste and any packaging, containers, equipment or other devices used on animals, as well as any object or material that may contain or spread animal diseases;
- h) «Risk assessment» means the processes of identifying and assessing the risks associated with the importation of a good and assessing the biological and economic consequences of those risks;
- i) «Bed», straw or any other substance commonly used as bedding for animals or used in connection with them;
- j) «Aquatic animal health certificate» means the certificate issued pursuant to the Aquatic Animal Health Code;
- k) «Veterinary certificate» means the certificate describing the animal health or public health requirements that are met by goods exported;
- l) «National Chief Veterinary Officer» means the person appointed by the Minister under the terms of Paragraph No. 2 of Article No. 9;
- m) «Compartment» means the animal sub-population contained in one or more establishments under a standard biosafety management system with separate health status concerning a specific disease or diseases for which surveillance, control and biosafety measures have been applied for international trade;
- n) «Free compartment» means the compartment where the absence of the animal pathogen responsible for the disease in question has been demonstrated through compliance with all requirements specified by WOA;H;
- o) «Disinfection» is the application, after rigorous cleaning, of procedures aimed at eliminating infectious or parasitic agents of animal diseases, including zoonoses,

applying to installations, vehicles and various objects that may have been directly or indirectly contaminated;

- p) «Disease» is the clinical or pathological manifestation of an infection or infestation;
- q) «Compulsory notifiable disease» means the disease listed by the Ministry, through a ministerial order, which, as soon as it is detected or about which there is a suspicion, must be brought to the attention of the Ministry, in accordance with this decree;
- r) «Emerging disease» means a new infection resulting from an evolution or change of an existing pathogen or parasite, which results in a change in host range, vector, pathogenicity or strain or the occurrence of a previously unrecognized infection or disease;
- s) «Packaging» means any container, box, covering, wrapping or other things in which animals or related articles are, have been or are likely to be imported, kept or transported from one point to another;
- t) «Establishment» means premises where animals are reared, kept or slaughtered;
- u) «Aquaculture establishment» means the installation where aquatic animals for breeding, or commercialization are raised or kept for exploitation, release into the aquatic environment or human consumption;
- v) «Quarantine station» means the establishment under the control of the Ministry where the animals are kept in isolation without any direct or indirect contact with other animals to ensure that there is no transmission of the specified pathogen outside the establishment while the animals are observed for a specified period and, where appropriate, tested and treated;
- w) «Zoosanitary status» means the status of a country or zone in relation to an animal disease, in accordance with the criteria set out in the WOAHP Code relating to that disease;
- x) «Stipulated», that stipulated by this decree or by any implementing regulations;
- y) «Exporter» means the person who removes or for whom any animal, animal-origin product or related article is removed from East Timor, including the owner, the holder of the good, who has control over the good or who is the beneficiary with interest in that good, at the time or after the export declaration and before its exportation;
- z) «Regular working hours» means the hours of work established as stipulated;
- aa) «Animal identification» means the combination of the identification and registration of any animal, individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively, by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier;
- bb) «Importer» means any person by or for whom any animal, animal-origin product, or related article is landed or likely to be landed in East Timor from a point outside East Timor, which includes the shipper, consignee, broker or agent, or a person who owns, becomes the owner of, or is entitled to possess or who is beneficially interested in that, a -origin product, or related article at the time and from the time of importation until completion of the import formalities;

- cc) «Import», bring to East Timor by any means;
- dd) «Inspection» is the official visual examination of any animal, animal-origin product or related article to determine compliance with this law, which includes documentary inspections of documents accompanying that animal, a -origin product or related article;
- ee) «Premises» means any building, tent or other structure, whether permanent or not, including the land on which it is located and any adjoining land used in connection with it, for activities carried out in relation to animals, animal-origin product or related articles;
- ff) «Veterinary medicinal products» means any product, including veterinary medicinal or biological products, which are proven to have a prophylactic, therapeutic, diagnostic effect or to modify physiological functions when administered or applied to an animal;
- gg) «Ministry», the ministry responsible for agriculture and fisheries;
- hh) «Minister», the minister responsible for agriculture and fisheries;
- ii) «WOAH Standards» means the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, the Aquatic Animal Health Code and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals, adopted and published by WOA;H;
- jj) «Occupant», in relation to any land or building, the person who effectively occupies it or, failing that, the owner of the land or building;
- kk) «WOAH» means the World Organization for Animal Health;
- ll) «Animal parts» means any part of an animal that has been separated from the carcass and is not intended for human consumption;
- mm) «Person» means a natural or legal person;
- nn) «Animal products»:
 - i. Concerning terrestrial animals, animal derivatives for human or animal consumption or pharmaceutical, agricultural, industrial or domestic use;
 - ii. Concerning aquatic animals, products derived from aquatic animals, namely fresh fish, processed whole fish or edible fish products, have undergone treatment such as cooking, drying, brining, smoking or freezing.
- oo) «Pre-approval» means the veterinary certification or verification in the country of origin carried out by or under regular supervision of the Ministry;
- pp) «Official control programme» is the program approved and managed or supervised by the Ministry to control a vector, pathogenic agent or disease through specific measures applied throughout the national territory or within a zone or compartment in East Timor;
- qq) «Owner» means, concerning anything; any person currently in possession, custody or control of it;
- rr) «Animal traceability» means the ability to follow any animal or group of animals through all stages of their life until slaughter or death;

- ss) «SERVE», the Business Registration and Verification Service, IP, created by Decree-Law No. 7/2017, of 22 March;
- tt) «Early detection system», the system under the control of the Ministry for the timely detection and identification of any incursion or appearance of diseases or infections in the Country in an area or a compartment;
- uu) «Animal by-products» means any animal parts not intended for human consumption which have been separated from the carcass;
- vv) «Vehicle» means an aircraft, train, seagoing vessel, motor vehicle or other thing used to transport animals, animal-origin product or related articles from one place to another;
- ww) «Sell», offer, advertise, hold, store, display, transmit, ship, deliver or offer for sale, exchange or dispose of to any person in any way, whether or not for consideration, having the expressions "sold", "for sale" and "sale" corresponding meanings;
- xx) «Zone»:
- i. Concerning terrestrial animals, a clearly defined part of a territory that contains a subpopulation of animals with distinct health statuses for a specific disease, in which surveillance, control and biosafety measures have been applied for international trade;
 - ii. Concerning aquatic animals, a part of one or more countries consisting of:
 - i. An entire hydrographic basin, from the source of a waterway to the estuary or lake;
 - ii. More than a watershed;
 - iii. Part of a watershed, from the source of a waterway to a barrier that prevents the introduction of a specific disease or diseases;
 - iv. Part of a coastal area with a precise geographical boundary;
 - v. An estuary with a precise geographic delimitation.
- yy) «Aquatic zone» means that part of the aquatic environment of East Timor which is clearly defined and which contains a subpopulation of aquatic animals with a distinct health status concerning a specific disease to which, due surveillance, control and animal health measures, including aquaculture facilities and sites;
- zz) «Containment zone» means the zone defined around the place where control measures have been applied to prevent the spread of infection, including suspected or infected establishments, taking into account epidemiological factors and the results of investigations;
- aaa) «Free zone» means the zone in which the absence of the disease in question has been demonstrated through compliance with all requirements specified by WOAHP;
- bbb) «Zoonosis» means a disease or infection naturally transmissible from animals to humans;

ccc) «Zoosanitary» relates to the preservation and protection of animals and fauna in general and/or the inspection of the transit of animals or products and by-animal-origin product.

2. The definitions in this Article shall be interpreted per the glossaries of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the WOAHP Aquatic Animal Health Code, as amended.

Article No. 5

Assignments

The General Directorate of Quarantine and Biosafety, in conjunction with the other Ministry services with related attributions, guarantees the application of the rules of this decree.

Article No. 6

Executing Entities

1. The implementation of this decree is the responsibility of the General Directorate of Quarantine and Biosafety, from now on referred to as DGQB, in articulation and collaboration with the relevant national departments of the Ministry with attributions in terms of animal health.
2. Entities at the local level, including the counties, to which powers have been delegated, act on behalf of the DGQB.
3. DGQB may revoke or suspend the effectiveness of a decision taken or instruction transmitted by the entity at a local level, including the counties to which competence has been delegated under the terms of this decree.

Article No. 7

DGQB competences

DGQB is responsible for:

- a) Delegate competences to Ministry entities at local level;
- b) Ensure the protection of East Timor's animal resources to establish veterinary and administrative standards that must be observed for the import, export and cultivation of products subject to control;
- c) Draw up programs and adopt rules conduct the surveillance, control and eradication of animal diseases;
- d) Establish control measures in infected areas;
- e) Define, coordinate and evaluate the application of rules inherent to surveillance, control and eradication programs for infectious, contagious and parasitic animal diseases;
- f) Maintain and develop the epidemiological information system;

- g) Establish the List of Mandatory Notifiable Diseases;
- h) Establish cooperation with other countries in regional or international animal health activities;
- i) Promote the dissemination of this decree.

Article No. 8

Responsibilities of local authorities

1. Local authorities, including municipalities, must provide the DGQB with all the necessary collaboration and support to comply with this decree.
2. Local authorities, including municipalities, must notify the DGQB of any change in the state of health of animals in their area of jurisdiction.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH MATTERS

SECTION I

FUNCTIONS RELATED TO ANIMAL HEALTH

Article No. 9

Animal health administration

1. The DGQB, in collaboration with the other relevant services of the Ministry, is responsible for implementing the animal health functions established in the following article and the Minister, through a ministerial order, lists the competent national directorates in matters of health of terrestrial animals and animals water resources to implement this decree.
2. The National Veterinary Chief, appointed under the terms of the Minister's law, under whose direct supervision he is responsible for coordinating animal health and quarantine.

Article No. 10

Animal health functions

1. DGQB, within the scope of its competencies and under instructions from the Minister, in conjunction with the different national departments of the Ministry, coordinates the following functions:
 - a) Prevent the introduction and entry into East Timor of notifiable animal diseases;
 - b) Prevent the establishment or spread of animal diseases in East Timor and eradicate animal diseases in East Timor;

- c) Develop policies and programs for the prevention and control of animal diseases in all or part of the territory;
- d) Propose, review, prepare, implement and enforce the animal health measures established by the Minister under this decree;
- e) Allow public consultation during the development of animal health measures;
- f) Carry out risk analyses and assessments;
- g) Inspect and test any animal, animal product or *item* relating to animals to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases;
- h) Conduct surveillance and activities to detect animal diseases and maintain up-to-date information on the animal health status of East Timor;
- i) Develop and update list of notifiable diseases for East Timor;
- j) Establish control measures for infected areas;
- k) Based on disease surveillance and control activities, establish free zones, free compartments, aquatic zones and containment zones;
- l) Establish an early detection system;
- m) Undertake emergency actions for disease and pathogen outbreaks;
- n) Disseminate information to farmers, fishermen, owners of aquaculture facilities and the public about notifiable animal diseases and the means of their prevention and control;
- o) Protect the veterinary public health in collaboration with the ministry responsible for public health and AIFAESA;
- p) Issue importation licenses;
- q) Inspect and control animals' importation, animal products and animal-related articles;
- r) Conduct pre-approval inspections, whenever requested;
- s) Conduct inspections and certification of animals, animal products and animal-related articles intended for exportation and issue a health certificate or a certification of any period of quarantine of any animal in East Timor and any other information required by any country importing an animal, animal product or animal-related article from East Timor;
- t) Issue transit permits;
- u) Provide information regarding current import and export regulations and technical requirements for animals and animal-related articles upon request by any interested organization or person;
- v) Ensure the disinfection, when appropriate, of animals shipments or animal-origin product intended for import or export from East Timor, as well as their containers, packaging, storage places and transport facilities;
- w) Through inspections and sanitary measures, ensure that waste from vehicles, planes arriving in East Timor, ships or other vessels arriving at maritime ports in East Timor or

from facilities where imported animals or animal products are processed, handled or stored do not pose a risk to human or animal health;

- x) Notify WOAHA of reportable disease outbreaks and comply with other international reporting requirements under regional and international bodies;
 - y) Participate in the work of WOAHA and its subsidiary bodies through the National Veterinary Chief and other international, non-governmental and regional animal health entities;
 - z) Inform and collaborate with the ministry responsible for human health and AIFAESA on any necessary actions whenever an animal disease or other hazard may pose a risk to human health;
 - aa) Develop capabilities for diagnosing and animal health analysis;
 - bb) Supervise the training and development of the veterinary inspectors and assist in the selection, training and equipping of animal health technicians and other professional veterinarians in disease surveillance, control and reporting roles and ensure their continued professional development;
 - cc) Develop manuals, standard operating procedures and other guidelines for the effective implementation of Ministry functions;
 - dd) Supervise and control quarantine stations and related quarantine activities;
 - ee) Communicate and coordinate with local and regional authorities and community leaders, as necessary, and provide them with the technical assistance and training necessary to apply this decree at the local level;
 - ff) Perform any other function that the Minister deems necessary for the purposes of this statute.
2. The national directorates referred to in Paragraph 1 of Article No. 6 are responsible for implementing the rules in Chapter VIII of this decree within the scope of their competencies.

Article No. 11

Coordination and information

The Minister must establish, by ministerial order, a clear and efficient line of coordination and information for risk detection, response and control of animal health, including veterinary certification.

Article No. 12

Delegation of functions

1. By contract or written agreement, the Minister may appoint any public or private veterinarian, any professional veterinarian, or any other person or entity with the stipulated

qualifications and who does not have a conflict of interest with the matters object of the delegation, to perform any of the functions provided for in Article No. 10.

2. Whenever necessary, the National Chief Veterinary Officer must develop training actions to ensure that the people who perform the delegated functions have the necessary skills to perform their functions efficiently.
3. The Minister can not delegate the following functions:
 - a) Official liaison responsibilities or any reporting responsibilities to other ministries or foreign authorities;
 - b) Approval of animal health measures or requirements;
 - c) Other functions, as stipulated in the regulation.

Article No. 13

Delegation agreement or contract

The delegation agreement or contract established under the terms of the previous Article between the Ministry and the public or private person with the delegated functions must specify those functions, comply with the applicable legislation, in East Timor, in terms of contracts and include at least the following aspects:

- a) The duration;
- b) The specific tasks covered by the delegation and any specific methodologies to be used where necessary;
- c) The mechanisms for controlling and supervising the delegated functions;
- d) The value corresponding to the performance of the delegated functions;
- e) The skills and capabilities required of the person or entity to whom the function has been delegated;
- f) The conditions for revocation of delegated functions.

SECTION II

PERSONAL

Article No. 14

Ministerial oversight and powers

Upon recommendation of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Minister shall:

- a) Designate entry and exit points for the purposes of this decree;
- b) Designate official and reference laboratories and quarantine stations;
- c) Declare animal health emergencies;

- d) Designate the free zones and compartments.

Article No. 15

Chief Veterinary Officer

1. The National Chief Veterinary Officer appointed by the Minister pursuant to Paragraph No. 2 of Article No. 9 must have qualifications and specialized knowledge in veterinary medicine.
2. The Chief Veterinary Officer, hereinafter referred to as CVN, must:
 - a) Advise the Minister on matters of animal and veterinary health;
 - b) Only in terms of animal and veterinary health, supervise, coordinate and give technical instructions to the national directorates referred to in Paragraph No. 1 of Article No. 6 to ensure a seamless and coordinated animal health system for East Timor;
 - c) Establish minimum qualifications for developing veterinary inspectors and others involved in animal health and veterinary affairs, and oversee their training.
3. The CVN shall liaise with the general directorates and national directorates referred to in Paragraph No. 1 of Article No. 6 to ensure that national directorates collaborate effectively with each other and with other ministries and bodies in order to promote harmonious performance, unitary, integrated and coherent of animal health functions.
4. The CVN is responsible for proposing work agreements, contracts or other cooperation mechanisms between the Ministry and other entities for the Minister approval.
5. It is incumbent upon the CVN to serve as a WOAHA delegate, being responsible for establishing mechanisms for participation and cooperation with the WOAHA.
6. CVN, with the support of the Ministry, is responsible for:
 - a) In cooperation with other relevant authorities, negotiate bilateral agreements on matters relating to animal health and trade in animals, animal products and animal-related articles;
 - b) Provide information on animal health measures and the animal health situation in East Timor to other countries under international obligations;
 - c) Notify trading partners of relevant cases of non-compliance with import requirements that may be established;
 - d) Recommend to the Minister the quarantine posts, entry and exit posts and official and reference laboratories to be used for this decree and establish procedures for them.

Article No. 16

Laboratories and analysts appointment

1. It is incumbent upon the Minister, upon recommendation of the CVN, to designate the following:

- a) Any diagnostic, research or other laboratory, such as a reference laboratory or official laboratory;
 - b) Any analyst as official analyst.
2. Any laboratory or analyst designated under this Article must meet the requirements stipulated in a ministerial order, including the requirements of impartiality and independence.
 3. The conditions for the classification, approval, operations and supervision of laboratories are defined by ministerial order.

Article No. 17

Animal health technicians

1. Animal health technicians are coordinated and trained by the Ministry and must be provided with the materials, means and equipment necessary to carry out their functions, including transportation and communication.
2. Animal health technicians:
 - a) They treat animals for payment in accordance with the stipulated guidelines;
 - b) Collect census and survey data;
 - c) Collect and transmit epidemiological data to regional and local authorities for the surveillance system;
 - d) Inform about occurrences of animal diseases;
 - e) Disseminate information regarding awareness and recognition of notifiable diseases in communities;
 - f) Assist in the animals identification;
 - g) Conduct diagnoses and initial control of the main notifiable animal diseases;
 - h) Perform the other functions conferred by the Ministry in order to achieve the objectives of this decree.

SECTION III

COORDINATION, CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION

Article No. 18

Duty to help and cooperate

1. Ministries and other entities responsible for customs, ports and airports, airlines and shipping companies, post offices, police, regional and local authorities, public health and the environment, and other relevant public authorities must assist the DGQB in performing

its functions and in the exercise of its powers under the present decree, providing the necessary facilities and assistance, as requested by the Ministry.

2. Customs and other border authorities must cooperate with the DGQB concerning border controls. They must inform it whenever any shipment containing animals, animal-origin product or related articles arrives at the border for importation or exportation.

Article No. 19

Collaboration and working agreements with AIFAESA, Ministry of Health and Customs Authority

1. The CVN shall ensure collaboration, through operational working arrangements and other coordination mechanisms, with the following:
 - a) AIFAESA, in accordance with Articles No. 6, No. 7, No. 29 and No. 31 of Decree-Law No. 26/2016, of 29 June, in particular:
 - i) In the border;
 - ii) In slaughterhouses;
 - iii) In aquaculture facilities;
 - iv) In the disposal of carcasses and animal waste;
 - iv) During food production and preparation, transportation and sale of meat.
 - b) The ministry responsible for public health, with regard to food safety and zoonoses and other intersections of animal health and public health; and
 - c) The authority responsible for customs, with regard to biosafety and border controls.
2. DGQB ensures that technical direction on animal health matters and a line of coordination are maintained, especially in response to animal health emergencies.

Article No. 20

Advisory Committee for the Terrestrial Animal Health

1. The Consultative Committee for the Health of Terrestrial Animals was established, composed of members appointed by Government resolution, to ensure a broad and representative inclusion of the public and private sectors.
2. The CVN chairs the Terrestrial Animal Health Advisory Committee.
3. The Terrestrial Animal Health Advisory Committee defines its operational and procedural rules.
4. The Terrestrial Animal Health Advisory Committee is an advisory body of the Ministry responsible for:
 - a) Serve as a mechanism for regular and periodic consultation on matters relating to animal health policy and regulation, international trade and other matters related to this decree, and may, for this purpose, invite other interested parties who are not part of it;

- b) Serve as a mechanism for coordinating stakeholders and Committee members;
- c) Provide advice on animal health policies, programs and requirements, in particular on:
 - i. The development and testing of the animal identification and traceability system and the surveillance system;
 - ii. Information campaigns to raise awareness about animal diseases;
 - iii. The design of training programs on initial response and disease communication at the village level;
 - iv. The drafting of priority implementing regulations;
 - v. Any other animal health and welfare matters.

Article No. 21

Working Group on Animal Health Biosafety

1. The Working Group on Animal Health Biosafety, starting now referred to as GTBSA, was created.
2. The GTBSA is composed of the following:
 - a) CVN and National Phytosanitary Chief;
 - b) DGQB officials, appointed by the CVN;
 - c) Focal points of ministry services with attributions on the matter;
 - d) AIFAESA representatives, Customs Authority officials, members of the private sector and other ministries or individuals, whenever necessary.
3. The GTBSA's role is to develop and adopt:
 - a) Work plans, strategies and mechanisms for coordination and implementation of the functions described in Article No. 10, to be proposed to the CVN for the Minister approval;
 - b) Strategies and best practices for efficient and effective border control and inspections in East Timor.

Article No. 22

Duties of the postal authorities and the express remittance operator

1. Any postal service employee or employee of an express delivery operator who is aware of or suspects the arrival or importation of any animal product or related item into East Timor must notify the veterinary inspector.
2. The postal service employee must seize the animal, animal product or related item for inspection by the veterinary inspector and not release or dispose of it unless authorized by a veterinary inspector.

3. The seizure conduct under the previous number is considered an action that was taken by or by the delegation of the DGQB.

SECTION IV

DGQB DOCUMENTATION, REQUIREMENTS AND MEASURES

Article No. 23

Principles for approving and implementing animal health measures

Animal health measures approved by the DGQB must:

- a) Be in harmony with international standards, in particular WOAHP standards;
- b) Be based on a risk analysis or assessment, as well as a scientific basis;
- c) Be the least restrictive option that achieves East Timor's adequate level of animal health protection;
- d) Be necessary to achieve East Timor's adequate level of animal health protection;
- e) Be proportionate to the risk to animal health.

Article No. 24

Review and amendment of animal health measures and standards

1. The CVN must develop periodic reviews of any measures, requirements and regulations and recommend changes to the Minister when:
 - a) New facts emerge;
 - b) There are changes to international standards and requirements;
 - c) There is a risk analysis that requires it; or
 - d) Conditions change, forcing a change.
2. The DGQB must publicize and disseminate the proposed amendments to this law or the corresponding implementing regulations through the Consultative Committee for the Health of Terrestrial Animals by placing them on the Ministry's *websites* and other means.
3. Except in cases of emergency or provisional measures before the approval of the proposed measure or legislation, the Ministry must reserve at least 60 days for interested parties to submit comments on proposed amendments.
4. The Minister must promote the publication, in *Journal of the Republic*, of any amendments to animal health measures and regulations, as well as their wide dissemination by the Ministry.

Article No. 25

Dissemination and publication of animal health regulations

1. At the request of interested parties, the DGQB must provide, free of charge, any information relating to this decree or the rest of the legislation issued under it and establish contact points to respond to queries relating to legislation on animal health.
2. The DGQB must widely disseminate the regulations on animal health, including the forms and notifications relating to this matter and whose publication is promoted by the Minister in the *Journal of the Republic*, must allow for wide dissemination by stakeholders and the general public, and must share regulations with business partners as stipulated.
3. The DGQB must ensure that all animal health regulations, including forms and notifications, are quickly and freely made available through *websites* or other electronic means.

Article No. 26

Technical review and audit

1. The CVN must ensure the periodic review and technical audit of the services conducted under this decree and the measures' effectiveness.
2. The CVN must monitor and evaluate the implementation of this decree and prepare an annual report on it, which it submits to the Minister.

Article No. 27

Manuals

The DGQB, in conjunction with the relevant Ministry services responsible for animal health, must develop detailed guidelines in manuals and standard operating procedures that define the actions, measures, and procedures to be taken by the DGQB in the execution of this decree.

Article No. 28

Records

1. DGQB shall keep all records regarding imports, exports and animal health incidents that may be necessary to manage the state of animal health in East Timor efficiently.
2. For this article, DGQB may use and have access to registration systems established by other government bodies and may enter into information-sharing agreements with these bodies and define mechanisms to guarantee the protection, confidentiality and security of related information with the importation, exportation or transit of animals, animal-origin products and related articles.

Article No. 29

Confidentiality

Without prejudice to the restrictions on the disclosure provided for by law, the DGQB may disclose confidential information:

- a) To a court, when authorized or directed by a judge, in connection with a lawsuit;
- b) To the competent authority of the Government of East Timor for the purposes of:
 - i. Prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of offences;
 - ii. Protection of public health and safety;
 - iii. Protection of animal health;
 - iv. Border security.
- c) To the competent authority of a foreign country, under an international agreement or treaty;
- d) To a border authority, to fulfil that authority's functions related to the processing of the import, export or transit of goods, per the procedures and conditions agreed between the Ministry and that border authority to ensure the safety and security of the information.

CHAPTER III

IMPORTATIONS

SECTION I

IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS, RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

Article No. 30

Equivalence agreements and other animal health matters

Without prejudice to the powers of the ministry responsible for foreign affairs, the DGQB may negotiate bilateral and multilateral agreements:

- a) For the evaluation and, when possible, for the acceptance of alternative animal health measures proposed by the veterinary authority of an exporting country as equivalent to the animal health measures required of East Timor under the present decree; and
- b) Within the scope of other matters related to animal health and trade in animals and animal-origin product .

Article No. 31

Importation requirements

1. Any animal, animal product or related article may be imported into East Timor only through a designated point of entry.

2. The minister must approve the list of designated entry points for the animals, animal-origin product and related items importation.
3. The CVN must, in articulation and collaboration with the relevant Ministry services responsible for animal health, approve a list of all animals and animal-origin product that require an international veterinary certificate, an aquatic animal health certificate or an import authorization.
4. The CVN must approve the list of all animals and animal-origin products requiring prior authorization from the DGQB. Regarding other animal articles that do not require prior approval, the importer must submit them directly for inspection at the entry point.
5. Any person may import an animal or animal-origin product into East Timor only when:
 - a) Possess, when necessary, an importation license, granted under this decree;
 - b) Possess, when necessary, a veterinary certificate, aquatic animal health certificate or other certificate issued by the country of exportation;
 - c) Possess any other document stipulated by this decree, by the applicable regulations or in any other commercial or customs legislation;
 - d) All stipulated requirements are fulfilled.
6. The DGQB may require that the animal-origin product be sent to post-entry quarantine establishments that meet the prescribed requirements and have been approved by the DGQB.
7. The DGQB should not include requirements for excluding animal pathogens or animal diseases present in East Timor and is not subject to any official control program.
8. Measures imposed on imports to manage the risks posed by a specific animal pathogen or animal disease should be moderate to those applied as part of the official control program on national territory.
9. Customs or other border authorities must notify the DGQB when it receives information that a shipment containing an animal, animal product or related article has arrived or will arrive at a point of entry.
10. DGQB and customs must ensure an effective collaboration process for this decree.

Article No. 32

Importation restrictions and prohibitions

1. Anyone who does not meet the requirements of this decree cannot import any animal, animal-origin product or related item.
2. The importation into East Timor of any animal, animal-origin product or related article that does not comply with the requirements established by the DGQB.
3. Whenever it is necessary to adopt temporary measures, declare an animal health emergency or take any other necessary measures to prevent the introduction or spread of a notifiable disease, after consulting the CVN and based on a risk analysis or assessment,

the Minister may prohibit or restrict the entry of any animal, animal product or related Article.

4. After an opinion from the CVN, the Minister must publish, by ministerial order, a specific regime for importing certain stipulated goods, including the post-entry quarantine or pre-release quarantine requirements and a list of prohibited products.

Article No. 33

Special importations

Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous article, in the event of a natural disaster and for humanitarian purposes or research, educational, experimental or other stipulated purposes and upon the advice of the CVN, the Minister may authorize the importation of any animal, animal-origin product or related article, in the stipulated quantities and subject to any conditions and safeguards stipulated as necessary.

Article No. 34

Related articles

1. The veterinary inspector may prohibit the importation of any item that has been used on any animal and which, in the inspector's opinion, may conduct a notifiable disease or any other infectious or contagious disease that affects animals.
2. Whenever the veterinary inspector is convinced that a related article can be disinfected, the inspector may authorize its entry under the conditions and guidelines he defines in writing.
3. DGQB may require the related article to be shipped to establishments approved or supervised by the DGQB.
4. Whenever a related article departs in violation of this article or any condition or guidance imposed, the article may be seized by the veterinary inspector and retained, destroyed or disposed of, as determined by the DGQB.

Article No. 35

Importation license

1. Any person intending to import an animal, animal-origin product or related article must apply for an importation license issued by the DGQB.
2. Whenever, pursuant to this article, an importation license is required, the importer must submit an application, in a model approved by ministerial order, to the DGQB and pay the applicable fee.
3. When evaluating the application for granting an importation license, the DGQB must apply the international standards in force and carry out a risk analysis or assessment.

4. In both cases, the DGQB must approve the application when it complies with the prescribed requirements or reject it when it does not comply with them, informing the applicant in writing.
5. DGQB may include any conditions it deems necessary in the importation license.
6. Whenever this is justified due to the risk and when there is information that the importation of a consignment presents a risk to animal health that exceeds the level of protection for East Timor, DGQB may review, modify or revoke the importation license of any animals or animal-origin product stipulated.

Article No. 36

Border inspection posts

When requested in writing by DGQB, the owner or operator of any border inspection post at a designated point of entry shall make available and maintain suitable areas, offices and other facilities, including buildings, furniture and fittings, for inspection or for any other related purposes. with the application of this decree.

SECTION II

IMPORTS INSPECTION

Article No. 37

Arrival and inspection

1. The importer must notify the arrival of animals, animal-origin product or articles related to the DGQB using the form stipulated for this purpose.
2. Any animal, animal-origin product, or related article imported into East Timor may be subject to documentary or physical inspection by a veterinary inspector. Where necessary, samples may be taken for testing purposes per procedures and methodologies stipulated sample sizes.
3. All imports of animals, animal-origin product or related articles are in the custody of the DGQB until official clearance by the DGQB.

Article No. 38

Place and time

1. Veterinary inspectors must conduct any import inspection at the designated entry point, transshipment points, quarantine stations, or other facilities approved by the DGQB.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous number, import inspections must be conducted at the final destination, upon request by the importer and payment of the stipulated fee and per the stipulated biosafety and procedural conditions.

3. Importation inspections must be conducted during regular working hours, except when the animal-origin product is highly perishable or when its entry has been delayed, in which case, at the request of the importer and upon payment of the stipulated fee, the DGQB may agree to have the inspection carried out outside regular working hours.
4. DGQB can enter into bilateral agreements or other types of agreements with commercial partners in order to conduct pre-shipment inspections in the country of origin.

SECTION III

ANIMAL HEALTH ACTIONS IN IMPORTATIONS

Article No. 39

Non-compliance measures

1. When following an inspection, the veterinary inspector determines that the stipulated documentation does not accompany the animal, animal-origin product or related article or presents some risk of introducing or spreading disease, the veterinary inspector must seize the article and, as prescribed by the inspection manual and CVN instructions, perform or order any of the following actions:
 - a) Require the importer to present the correct documentation within the stipulated period;
 - b) Conduct tests;
 - c) Treat or disinfect the article in order to remove the risk;
 - d) Transfer the item to a quarantine station or other approved facility;
 - e) Resend the item to the country of exportation;
 - f) Destroy the article.
2. The methods and procedures to be adopted for actions in the field of animal health must be stipulated by the DGQB, under the terms of the law.
3. When, upon entry into East Timor or after treatment, any animal, animal product or related article remains unclaimed for a stipulated period, the Ministry may take steps to dispose of it.

Article No. 40

Notification

1. Under the provisions of the previous article, any non-compliance measure adopted by a veterinary inspector must be preceded by a written notification to the importer, which contains the grounds for applying the chosen measure.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous number, when the veterinary inspector considers that the disposal of the animal, animal-origin product or related item is urgent

or when notification is impracticable, the veterinary inspector may not notify the importer and take any of the non-compliance measures.

Article No. 41

Notification of non-compliance to the country of exportation

Any situation of non-compliance is notified to the country of exportation by the DGQB.

Article No. 42

Costs and liability

1. Whenever non-compliance measures are adopted, the method used to calculate the costs charged must be in accordance with the stipulated procedure and be used only to recover them.
2. The importer bears the costs and responsibility for any measures taken under this section.
3. The confiscation, disposal or destruction of any animal, animal-origin product or related item under the provisions of this decree does not generate responsibility for the State.

Article No. 43

Importation clearance

Whenever the veterinary inspector determines that the imported animal, animal-origin product or related article does not present any risk of introducing and spreading diseases and complies with this decree's requirements, he may release the shipment upon official communication to the importer.

SECTION IV

ANIMAL HEALTH CONTROLS FOR RISKS FROM ABROAD

Article No. 44

Vehicles

Any road vehicle, watercraft or aircraft may be subject to sanitary measures as determined by the DGQB under the terms of the law.

Article No. 45

Duty to declare

1. Whoever arrives in East Timor with an animal, animal-origin product, or related item must declare it upon arrival to a customs official or the DGQB. When this declaration is made to a customs official, he transmits the information to the DGQB in the stipulated way.
2. Before arrival at an entry point, any commercial flight, vessel or other means of transport entering East Timor must inform the passengers and crew of their duty to declare any animal, animal-origin product or related item on arrival.

Article No. 46

Designated points

1. After an opinion from the CVN, the Minister must designate, from the list of entry and exit points established by the customs authority, by ministerial order, the entry and exit points of animals, animal-origin products or related articles that require a veterinary certificate or an aquatic animal health certificate or for which inspections or treatment is required.
2. The designated entry and exit points must be equipped with the stipulated facilities and equipment.
3. DGQB must display veterinary importation requirements at designated entry points.

Article No. 47

Emergency landing

1. When, for reasons beyond the control of its captain, a vehicle disembarks or lands anywhere other than at a designated entry point or is forced to land or enter a port in East Timor even though it has no intention of doing so, due to an emergency, the vehicle captain must immediately notify the nearest port authority.
2. Animals or persons on board the vehicle and any accompanying equipment, bedding, animal feed or packaging materials are only allowed to leave the vicinity of the docks or the landing site once the measures stipulated by the DGQB have been conducted.
3. When the DGQB considers that the risk has been reduced to an acceptable level, the CVN may authorize the vehicle to proceed to the port where it was originally intended to land or disembark or to an alternative entry-point.
4. The vehicle captain must take all necessary measures to maintain the health and safety of passengers, crew, attendants and animals on board.

CHAPTER IV

QUARANTINE

Article No. 48

Quarantine stations and other facilities

1. DGQB may designate certain facilities as quarantine stations where animals, animal-origin products or related articles may be held for observation, isolation, investigation, inspection, testing, treatment, seizure or disposal.
2. Any quarantine station designated under this decree must comply with the standards stipulated for the reception and quarantine of the terrestrial animals sheltered, including those relating to food and drink, and must have a veterinary inspector or a veterinarian authorized by the DGQB who provides daily veterinary care at the station.
3. Quarantine stations are established for international trade related quarantine as well as domestic quarantine.
4. DGQB may designate certain places for inspection purposes and may approve facilities owned and operated by third parties, public or private, to be used for inspections under its supervision.

Article No. 49

Quarantine of terrestrial animals

1. DGQB must place any terrestrial animal in quarantine during the period and subject to the stipulated conditions, in the following cases:
 - a) When necessary for pre-exportation isolation;
 - b) When disembarked for import, unless waived in writing in the importation license issued by DGQB;
 - c) If a veterinary inspector suspects that a terrestrial animal has been exposed to a contagious or infectious disease from another known animal or is suspected of carrying a notifiable disease, they will take necessary action.
2. DGQB shall establish regulations for the care and isolation of animals undergoing quarantine. These regulations will outline when and why various animal health measures may be necessary to prevent the spreading of disease in East Timor.
3. Any terrestrial animal taken out of quarantine without written authorization from the DGQB may be confiscated, retained, destroyed or disposed of by a veterinary inspector, as decided by the DGQB.

Article No. 50

Aquatic animal quarantine

DGQB shall set guidelines for how aquatic animals should be cared for and contained in quarantine facilities. They will also outline the situations and reasons that may require different health measures to be taken to prevent the spreading of disease in East Timor.

CHAPTER V

EXPORTATION AND TRANSIT

SECTION I EXPORTATION

Article No. 51

Order

1. Whenever the importing country requires the issuance of a veterinary certificate, health certificate for an aquatic animal, treatment or tests, the exporter must apply to the DGQB for an exportation certificate relating to the animal, animal-origin product or part of an animal that the certificate must cover.
2. The exporter must submit the application to DGQB in the stipulated form, including all required documentation, and pay the established fee.

Article No. 52

Inspection

To ensure compliance, the exporter must grant access to inspect the animal, animal-origin product, or related article. Once an export order is received, the DGQB will promptly inspect the shipment.

Article No. 53

Issuance of veterinary certificate

1. All exportations or re-exportations must be certified in accordance with the importing country requirements.
2. To obtain a veterinary or aquatic animal health certificate and meet the importing country's standards, the veterinary inspector might need to treat the animal, animal product, or animal part accordingly.
3. Whenever the animal, animal-origin product or animal part complies with the documentary or animal health requirements of the importing country and whenever the exporter satisfies the other requirements of the applicable legislation, the veterinary inspector must issue the veterinary certificate or animal health certificate aquatic animal in the stipulated form.
4. The veterinary inspector must reject the issuance of the veterinary certificate or the aquatic animal health certificate when the animal, animal-origin product or animal part does not comply with the import requirements of the importing country or when the exporter does not satisfy the other requirements of the applicable legislation .
5. After issuing the international veterinary certificate or aquatic animal health certificate, the exporter exports the consignment in accordance with any DGQB instructions regarding handling and transport after certification and prior to export.

Article No. 54

Designated departure points

1. According to the CVN's opinion, the Minister is required to select the exit points for animals, animal-origin products, or related articles from the customs' list of designated points. This selection will be made through a ministerial order.
2. Designated exit points must be equipped with the stipulated facilities and equipment.

SECTION II

TRANSIT

Article No. 55

Remittance transit order

If any person plans on passing through East Timor with an animal, animal product, or related item. In that case, this person must fill out an application in the required format and pay the necessary fee to the Ministry.

Article No. 56

Issuance of transit authorization

The DGQB will approve a transit request if it meets all the necessary requirements. On the other hand, if the request does not meet the requirements, it will be rejected. The transit authorization form may include any necessary transit conditions.

Article No. 57

Animal health measures for shipments in transit

1. The veterinary inspector holds the power to examine animals, animal-origin products, and related articles at any entry point. In the event of detecting or suspecting a notifiable disease, the inspector has the right to notify and seek CVN approval for:
 - a) Refuse entry or transit;
 - b) Withholding or confiscating the animal, animal-origin product or related item;
 - c) Apply treatment;
 - d) Destroy the shipment.
2. In order to ensure compliance with the regulations established by the DGQB, it is imperative that when transporting animals or animal-related products through East Timor's ports or airports, one adheres to the conditions stipulated by law for transit to other countries.
3. When transporting goods through East Timor, it is important to follow the designated entry point and timeline directed by the DGQB to comply with regulations. Please be aware that a veterinary inspector's approval is required before the consignment can leave the country.
4. There is no payment for any actions carried out in accordance with this Article.

CHAPTER VI

ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOZOSES CONTROL

SECTION I

CONTROL MEASURES

Article No. 58

General animal health measures

The DGQB holds the power of:

- a) Prohibit or regulate the movement of animals, animal-origin products, related articles, people and vehicles inside, into or out of infected areas or zones, aquatic zones, free zones or confinement zones;

- b) Establish compartments and diverse control measures for each compartment.
- c) Confiscate, process, destroy, or dispose of animals, animal products, or related items, including ordering confiscation, treatment, or disposal, while also prioritizing the welfare of any confiscated or removed animals.
- d) Separate, isolate, observe or quarantine any animal infected or suspected of being infected;
- e) Treat, clean or disinfect facilities, equipment and means of transport, whether or not they are infected;
- f) Prohibit animal feeding practices that may spread disease;
- g) Implement any disinfection measures, eradication measures, vaccination regimes or official control and eradication programs;
- h) Carry out any other measures necessary for the control or eradication of animal diseases, as well as to prevent their introduction or spread.

Article No. 59

Disinfection

1. When it comes to animal diseases that need to be reported or new ones that are emerging, the DGQB is responsible for deciding which disinfectants and disinfection methods to use. Considering the cause of the infection as well as the type of facilities, vehicles, and objects that need to be treated.
2. When it comes to aquatic animals, disinfection is an important part of a biosafety plan that helps manage disease in aquaculture establishments.

Article No. 60

Lists of notifiable diseases

1. The DGQB shall work together with the relevant Ministry services responsible for animal health to develop lists of notifiable diseases for both terrestrial and aquatic animals. These lists should be based on a risk analysis and reviewed on a regular basis.
2. DGQB shall publish and communicate the lists, as well as any subsequent amendments, in the stipulated manner, to East Timor's trading partners, the WOA and relevant international organizations.
3. The CVN provides the lists of notifiable diseases to the Minister, who orders them to be published by ministerial order.

SECTION II

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Article No. 61

Surveillance and zoosanitary status

1. The DGQB, along with the relevant Ministry services responsible for animal health, should establish a surveillance system to collect, transmit, and utilize epidemiological data on notifiable diseases and other animal diseases that affect susceptible species in a country. This system would help determine the presence or absence of these diseases.
2. DGQB must ensure transparency in the planning and execution of surveillance activities and in the analysis and availability of data and information.
3. DGQB determines the zoosanitary status of East Timor with regard to notifiable diseases.
4. DGQB's surveillance system is coordinated with the Ministry of Health in epidemiological surveillance activities and data collection methodologies. It has the collaboration of community health centres and health posts of the Ministry of Health throughout the national territory.

Article No. 62

Emerging diseases

DGQB monitors and responds to emerging diseases in East Timor.

Article No. 63

Early detection system

1. The DGQB must establish:
 - a) An early detection system to detect animal diseases or animal health hazards;
 - b) Reporting requirements and guidelines for detecting, responding, and reporting terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases and risks to animal health.
2. The DGQB, in cooperation with the relevant Ministry services responsible for animal health, should create a training program to teach veterinarians, veterinary technicians, livestock owners, and other individuals who handle land animals how to recognize and report unusual animal health incidents.
3. DGQB should establish a training program that educates fish inspectors and other aquatic animal handlers on how to recognize and report unusual incidents related to animal health.

Article No. 64

Duty to notify the DGQB

1. Anyone with the knowledge or suspicion of an animal infected with a notifiable disease must promptly inform the nearest agricultural authority, the DGQB, or the person in charge of the closest police station.
2. When the person notified under the previous number is not a DGQB employee, that person must immediately transmit the information to the DGQB.
3. If a veterinarian or animal owner suspects that an animal has a notifiable disease, they must report it immediately to the veterinary inspector or the nearest regional or local authorities.

SECTION III

DECLARATION OF INFECTED AREA

Article No. 65

Suspected presence of notifiable or emerging disease

1. Suppose anyone suspects a notifiable or emerging disease among their animals. In that case, whether the owner or an animal health technician, they must separate the affected animals and take the necessary measures as outlined in the previous article.
2. Whenever, following an inspection, after notification under the terms of the previous article or due to surveillance or other data, a veterinary inspector has reason to suspect that a notifiable disease, emerging disease or other, which poses a severe threat to the animal, human or environmental health, may be present in any area or premises, the inspector shall, as appropriate:
 - a) Enter that area or facility;
 - b) Inspect the premises and examine any animals that may be affected by the disease;
 - c) Collect samples;
 - d) Confiscate any animal or order its removal to a quarantine station for the purpose of observing or treating it;
 - e) Provide all necessary instructions to the owner or person in charge of the animals to stop the spread of the disease;
 - f) Take necessary measures to maintain animal health and prevent the spread of diseases as required.
3. The veterinary inspector must promptly notify the CVN and ensure the sample is quickly transported to the laboratory for analysis.

4. Until the disease is confirmed, the CVN may instruct the veterinary inspector to implement any provisional and interim animal health measures, for a specified period, in order to prevent its possible spread.

Article No. 66

Declaration of infected area

1. Suppose the DGQB confirms the existence of a notifiable or emerging disease in a particular area or location. In that case, the Minister must declare the area infected by ministerial order after consulting with the CVN.
2. When declaring an infected area, it's essential to clearly define the affected species, geographical scope, and containment zone. Additionally, it's important to outline the duration of the quarantine, animal health measures to prevent the spread of the disease, renewal conditions, and any other required details.
3. DGQB is responsible for developing operational plans to control or eliminate any diseases that are reportable or emerging. These plans will outline the criteria for lifting restrictions.
4. The CVN should work together with the Ministry services responsible for animal health to review and update the declaration requirements. They will advise the Minister on any necessary revisions, which may include modifying measures, extending deadlines, or revoking certain requirements.
5. DGQB notifies the measures in force, orally and in writing, to owners of affected animals in the area covered by the declaration.

Article No. 67

Procedures of response to notifiable or emerging disease

1. DGQB establishes the following procedures:
 - a) By veterinary inspectors, when there is suspicion or confirmation of a notifiable or emerging disease;
 - b) For actions to be taken in containment zones.
2. If a mandatory notifiable disease is suspected in an animal or facility, a veterinary inspectors are required to notify the owner or person in charge in writing. This notification should state that the area or zone is under containment and specify which animals, animal-origin products, or related articles are affected by the disease.
 - a) The precise demarcation of the infected zone;
 - b) Identification of the notifiable disease and the animal species, animal-origin product or related items affected;
 - c) The owner or occupant needs to take certain measures to control or eliminate the disease.

- d) Define what restrictions, bans, or other measures will be implemented in the infected zone.
 - e) The duration of the measures that must be taken.
3. If the owner or occupant of a property doesn't respond to a notification within the given time, the CVN can allow a veterinary inspector to enter the property and take steps to control or eliminate a disease that is dangerous or new.
4. Regarding the affected region, the CVN can, as appropriate:
- a) Inform the veterinary authority of trading partners, neighbouring countries, WOA, and any relevant international organizations if necessary.
 - b) Review any veterinary certificates or aquatic animal health certificates that have been recently issued from the infected zone. This is necessary to determine if they meet the requirements of the countries that East Timor exports to.
 - c) Suspend exportation certification if deemed necessary.

Article No. 68

Revocation of infected area declaration

1. Once the DGQB confirms that the notifiable disease has been eradicated or if it is no longer necessary to maintain the declaration for a specific area or premises, the CVN will inform the Minister to revoke the infected area declaration.
2. The CVN will notify all animal owners or tenants of the premises in writing when the declaration of an infected area is revoked. They will also notify the relevant veterinary authority, neighboring countries, the WOA, and any other international organizations if necessary. This will inform them of the change in status and the revocation of the declaration.

SECTION IV

CONFINATION ZONES AND FREE ZONES AND COMPARTMENTS

Article No. 69

Confinement zone declaration

The Minister can declare any land, premises, area, or place as a containment zone based on advice from the CVN to prevent, control, or eradicate a notifiable animal disease. The Minister can also specify prohibitions, restrictions, and requirements that will apply in the containment zone.

Article No. 70

Free zones and compartments

Whenever the DGQB, in articulation and collaboration with the relevant Ministry services responsible for animal health, establish the necessary measures to maintain the status of disease-free zones and compartments.

SECTION V

DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES

Article No. 71

Circulation control

1. In situations such as emergencies, infected areas, compartments, containment zones, or other designated areas, the Ministry has the authority to impose restrictions or prohibitions on the movement of animals, animal products, or related items. This may also apply during official disease control programs.
2. Any movement restrictions must be justified based on a risk assessment.
3. Where a prohibition under Paragraph No. 1 is in force, no one shall:
 - a) move any animal, animal-derived product, or related item into or out of an infected or containment zone without written permission from a veterinary inspector, in accordance with the restrictions and bans outlined in this statute.
 - b) Leaving the infected area without having taken such reasonable precautions as may be required by the veterinary inspector to prevent the spread of animal disease.
4. Whenever the veterinary inspector reasonably believes that an animal, animal product, or related item has been moved against the rules in this article, the inspector can:
 - a) If there is a potential harm to animal health, take hold of the article;
 - b) Return it to, remove it from or take it anywhere or require the owner to do so, specifying the period for such action;
 - c) Postpone the move for a specified period;
 - d) Take any other health measures that are necessary.
5. To ensure clarity and compliance, all communication regarding animals, animal-origin products, or related articles must be provided in writing and delivered in person. Additionally, oral communication may be necessary to aid the understanding of the requirements by the owner or responsible party.
6. DGQB may request the assistance and cooperation of the police, coastal authorities and local authorities to implement movement restrictions.

Article No. 72

Segregation of sick animals

If an animal owner suspects or confirms that their animal has a notifiable disease, they must separate the infected animal from healthy animals and ensure it is securely tethered, confined, or placed in a pen.

Article No. 73

Notification of sick animals

1. Any owner of an animal infected or suspected of being infected with a notifiable disease must immediately report the suspected case of infection to the nearest animal health technician or competent regional, local or agricultural authority.
2. The person to whom the report is made must, if not a veterinary inspector, immediately notify the DGQB.

Article No. 74

Slaughter of animals infected with a notifiable disease

If authorized by the CVN, an inspector can examine any animal that has a notifiable disease or has been in contact with an infected animal. The inspector must follow animal welfare standards while conducting the examination.

Article No. 75

Disposal of dead animals

1. In accordance with the guidelines issued by the DGQB, any animal that is slaughtered for disease control or dies due to a notifiable disease must be disposed of promptly to prevent the spread of harmful pathogens. This can be done through proper burial or destruction.
2. DGQB shall collaborate with public health and environmental authorities and with other authorities, where necessary, with regard to the disposal of dead animals.

SECTION VI

ANIMAL DISEASE EMERGENCY

Article No. 76

Emergency response plan

1. DGQB shall create an emergency response plan for notifiable diseases based on advice from the Terrestrial Animal Health Advisory Committee. The plan will include the following minimum requirements:

- a) The structure for managing and communicating during disease outbreaks, which includes organizing the administrative and logistical responsibilities of the individuals and institutions involved;
 - b) Specific disease considerations for key susceptible species;
 - c) Special and temporary measures necessary to respond to risks to human or animal health.
2. The DGQB must prepare the emergency response plan with input from regional and local authorities as well as community leaders. This plan should be updated every year.
 3. In order to ensure readiness for unexpected situations, DGQB must ensure the necessary training programs that focus on the upkeep of field skills, administrative duties, and diagnostic procedures.

Article No. 77

Animal health emergency declaration

1. Whenever the CVN confirms that an outbreak of any notifiable disease has occurred and that such an outbreak constitutes a serious threat, it shall recommend to the Minister to declare an animal disease emergency.
2. After an opinion from the CVN, the Minister must declare the animal disease emergency and publish it, by ministerial order, within 24 hours.
3. Upon declaration of animal disease, DGQB shall implement the animal disease emergency response plan. This involves coordinating emergency assistance and response from other relevant ministries, departments, and individuals as outlined in the plan.
4. The CVN should coordinate the response through the Terrestrial Animal Health Advisory Committee.
5. As per the recommendations of the CVN, the Minister has the right to ask for and receive assistance from various government ministries, including those responsible for health, environment, trade, disaster prevention and response, civil protection, and security forces. This cooperation is necessary for responding to animal disease emergencies, and the Ministry provides technical instructions for such responses.
6. Any statement made pursuant to this Article must be time-bound, assess the level of risk, ensure it is appropriate, and limit it to only what is necessary to reduce the threat.
7. The declaration must be subject to periodic review and evaluation by the Minister.
8. It is the responsibility of the Minister to ensure that information regarding the declaration of an animal disease emergency and the necessary measures to be taken are disseminated widely to the public, regional and local authorities, animal health practitioners, and other relevant ministries.

Article No. 78

Revocation of the animal health emergency declaration

The CVN advises the Minister to revoke the state of emergency declaration for animal disease when the DGQB decides it's no longer necessary. This happens when the circumstances that led to the declaration no longer pose a threat. The revocation is done through a ministerial order.

Article No. 79

Operating budget for emergency response

According to this statute, the Ministry allocates a budget specifically for animal health emergencies. This budget is only used after an animal health emergency has been declared.

CHAPTER VII

HEALTH CONTROL DURING ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL WELFARE

SECTION I

PRODUCTION

Article No. 80

Biosafety plan for livestock and aquaculture establishments

DGQB will establish biosafety requirements and disease prevention protocols for livestock and aquaculture establishments based on a risk assessment.

Article No. 81

Biosafety for animal production

1. DGQB is responsible for working with other relevant services of the Ministry to ensure biosafety and control of animal health throughout the production process. This includes:
 - a) Develop an animal identification and traceability system;
 - b) Develop animal welfare for the purposes of preventing cruelty and promoting animal health and welfare;
 - c) The use of veterinary medical products to protect animal health;
 - d) The control of animal diseases in slaughterhouses.
2. DGQB should collaborate with the relevant Ministry services to establish clear guidelines for handling by-animal-origin products, including their collection, preparation, treatment, processing, use, and disposal.

Article No. 82

Animal markets and other groupings

DGQB must establish a system of veterinary controls to ensure the health and safety of animal markets and other groups of animals that are commercially or epidemiologically significant. Additionally, cleaning and disinfection procedures must be put in place, along with measures to protect animal welfare.

Article No. 83

Veterinary drugs

1. In East Timor, veterinary medicinal products can only be imported, sold, or distributed if registered as required. However, the DGQB may allow exceptions for specific quantities and conditions under the following circumstances:
 - a) To respond to animal health emergencies;
 - b) When DGQB determines that there is insufficient availability or accessibility of registered veterinary products to satisfy a veterinary need;
 - c) For research or testing purposes.
2. The registration requirement does not apply to traditional animal medicines produced and administered in small quantities in line with customary use.
3. The DGQB has the authority to ban the use of ingredients and substances that can be utilized for the production of veterinary drugs. Additionally, the DGQB can restrict or prohibit non-therapeutic uses of antimicrobials when necessary.
4. In order to ensure proper registration and labeling of veterinary products, as well as establish safe withdrawal periods and maximum residue limits (MRL) for these products in food and animal feed, the DGQB will work closely with the Ministry responsible for health.
5. The DGQB shall define the following:
 - a) The professionals who have the right to issue prescriptions for veterinary medicines, as well as the conditions and forms to be used for veterinary prescriptions;
 - b) The permitted uses, especially regarding minimizing or phasing out non-therapeutic use;
 - c) Data collection, record keeping and documentation obligations and communication regarding prescribing and use of antimicrobial agents;
 - d) Labeling, packaging and advertising of veterinary drugs;
 - e) The sale and distribution of veterinary drugs and animal feed containing veterinary drugs, with special attention to antimicrobials, especially those used in human medicine.
6. The DGQB must regulate the use of coccidiostats, antibiotics, growth promoters, hormones and other drugs and therapeutic substances in animal feed.

SECTION II

ANIMAL WELFARE

Article No. 84

Control of stray terrestrial animals and management of abandoned animals

1. To promote the health and safety of both animals and humans, it is necessary for the DGQB to work closely with relevant Ministry services responsible for animal health. Collaborative efforts should be made to implement control and prevention measures for stray terrestrial animals, with the aim of preventing the spread of animal diseases and zoonoses while ensuring public safety.
2. The apprehension and, where necessary, the slaughter of any animal under this article shall be carried out in accordance with the stipulated procedures and methods.
3. DGQB shall collaborate with the authority responsible for public health, security forces, regional and local authorities, private sector veterinarians and other stakeholders in the application of this section.

CHAPTER VIII

EXECUTION

SECTION I

POWERS OF VETERINARY INSPECTORS

Article No. 85

Conduct, rights and obligations

1. The veterinary inspector must conduct his duties in accordance with the legislation applicable to civil servants.
2. When carrying out their duties under this law, the veterinary inspector is required to confirm their identity by presenting their identification card or any other proof of their appointment or designation.
3. If a veterinary inspector suspects that the regulations of this decree are being violated, they have the authority to conduct investigations and request information or documentation.
4. When carrying out their duties under this law, the veterinary inspector has the right to ask for help from the police and other security forces as needed to ensure they can perform their duties effectively.
5. The veterinary inspector can be accompanied by a dog or bring and use any object that helps the exercise of inspection power.
6. It is not allowed for anyone to obstruct or hinder the veterinary inspector's work. If you are being inspected or own something that is being inspected, it is your responsibility to provide full assistance and cooperation to the veterinary inspector.

7. The owner or person in charge of the animals, related items, or establishments may be asked by the veterinary inspector to provide any necessary support or follow specific instructions to ensure their duties are carried out smoothly and the provisions of this statute are applied appropriately.
8. When granted permission by the CVN, the veterinary inspector is able to deliver important announcements, provide valuable information regarding veterinary matters, as well as issue necessary warnings.
9. The veterinary inspector must carry out inspections promptly, without delay and in a manner that facilitates the conduct of business and trade.
10. Without the owner's consent or a court order, the veterinary inspector is not allowed to enter a dwelling.

Article No. 86

Notification of animal health measures

1. In accordance with this decree, any veterinary inspector who takes actions relating to the seizure, retention, elimination or destruction of any animal, animal-origin product or related item must provide written notification to the owner or responsible person. This notification, which must be signed by the notified person, will include a detailed description of the measures taken or to be taken, or a description of the prohibited activity and its corresponding grounds.
2. Whenever necessary, in addition to the notification provided for in the previous number, the inspector must orally communicate its content to the notified person, in order to facilitate their understanding.
3. When the owner or responsible person is not present on the premises, the veterinary inspector must post the notification in a visible place and as soon as possible proceed with the personal notification.
4. In cases where it is not possible to provide a reason for confiscating an animal, or when immediate action is necessary, the veterinary inspector may not inform the owner at the time of seizure. However, the owner or responsible person must be notified within 48 hours of the seizure.
5. The veterinary inspector may notify in writing the owner of any areas, facilities or of any animal, animal-origin product or related item of the obligation to implement one or more animal health measures within the scope of this statute, within a defined period of time .
6. If the owner doesn't follow the rules in the written notification, the veterinary inspector can go onto the property to make sure the rules are followed. If necessary, they can also take steps to prevent the spread of disease among the animals.
7. The veterinary inspector is required to send a copy of any written notification to the DGQB within 72 hours of issuing it.

Article No. 87

Rights during inspection

1. During an inspection, individuals who are subject to it or who own/responsible for the premises being inspected have the right to accompany the veterinary inspector throughout the process.
2. Individuals who own or are accountable for an animal, animal product, or any related item are entitled to receive information regarding the grounds for inspection.

Article No. 88

Documentary inspection

During an inspection, the veterinary inspector has the authority to request information related to the animals, animal-origin products, or related articles from the owner or person in charge of the area or premises. This may include official documents, photographs, or copies of any books, statements, or other documents found on the premises. The inspector may also ask the owner or responsible person for an explanation of any information contained in these documents.

SECTION II

IMPLEMENTING MEASURES

Article No. 89

Sampling and animal health measures

1. In order to prevent the introduction or spread of disease, the veterinary inspector can perform any stipulated animal health measures as prescribed in the inspection manual and CVN instructions.
2. The veterinary inspector has the authority to inspect any area or establishment where animals, animal products, or related items are stored or transported. They can inspect consignments for importation, transit, or exportation and also:
 - a) Inspect, examine and take samples from any animal, animal-origin product or related article, and may send these samples to be analysed in an official laboratory;
 - b) Carry out the animal health measures defined in the inspection manuals or in accordance with CVN instructions.
3. According to this decree, a veterinary inspector cannot enter a home unless they have the owner's permission or a warrant signed by a judge.
4. If an individual has possession of any animal, animal-related item, or animal-origin product and wishes to request a second test of a sample collected under this statute, the veterinary inspector will ensure that the confiscated samples or items are kept under the custody of the DGQB or are stored or quarantined, as outlined by the Ministry, until the results of the second test are available.

5. According to this Article, the owner of the sampled or confiscated animal, animal product or related article is responsible for paying for any testing, maintenance, quarantine or storage costs that may arise.

Article No. 90

Seizure of objects, disposal and other subsequent measures

1. The veterinary inspector may seize any animal, animal-origin product or related article, electronic devices, documents or other objects that seem to serve as proof of violation of the provisions of this decree and must immediately notify, in writing, the owner, who signs the notification.
2. If a veterinary inspector takes possession of a document under the aforementioned terms, it is required that a certified copy of the document is created with the competent authority in accordance with applicable legislation. This certified copy should be recognized as a faithful copy, and all copies that have been certified in this manner are admissible as evidence in all courts, just as if they were the original document.
3. If an animal, animal-origin product or related article is apprehended, DGQB may take measures to store, treat, quarantine or dispose of it at the place of apprehension or move it to another location for these purposes. This will be done in accordance with the procedures established by DGQB. Alternatively, the owner or responsible person may be asked to take specific action.
4. The animal, animal-origin product , related article or other thing confiscated and seized under this decree shall not be seized, after determined by the DGQB that the animal, animal-origin product, related article, or other item is in compliance with the regulations outlined in this decree, it will no longer be subject to confiscation.
5. The CVN may order the destruction and disposal of any animal, animal product, animal-related article or other thing or require its owner or responsible person to dispose of it, when the animal, animal product, animal-related article or:
 - a) Has been in contact with or in close proximity to another animal, animal-origin product , related article or otherwise or is suspected of having been infected or contaminated by a notifiable disease, -causing agent or toxic substance at any time during contact or proximity;
 - b) Holds or suspicion of infection or contamination by a disease or toxic substance;
 - c) Holds or suspicion of being a vector of a pathogen, disease-causing agent or toxic substance.
6. According to this article, the DGQB may have to either get rid of the animal to prevent its suffering or take actions to make sure it is being properly taken care of.
7. No person may remove or interfere in any way with any animal, animal product, related item or other thing seized and held under this statute.

Article No. 91

Vehicle stop and inspection

1. If there is reason to suspect a violation of this law, the veterinary inspector has the authority to conduct a search of any vehicle.
2. In cases where the veterinary inspector determines that the driver or captain of a vehicle has not fulfilled a requirement or condition under this decree and such non-compliance poses a risk to veterinary health, appropriate action may be taken by the inspector.
 - a) Accompanied by a customs inspector, detain or stop the vehicle for a maximum period of four hours, immediately requesting confirmation of this measure from the CVN;
 - b) Notify the detention in writing to the driver or captain of the vehicle, justifying the non-compliance.
3. After receiving the communication from the veterinary inspector, the CVN will promptly initiate an investigation and ensure that the vehicle remains detained or stopped for the necessary duration required to implement any animal health measures required.

Article No. 92

Disruption of distribution

1. In the event that the veterinary inspector determines it to be necessary to halt distribution, in order to prevent the spread of illness or a breach of the regulations outlined in this law, a request must be submitted to the CVN. The CVN will then issue a written notification to suspend the distribution, sale or use of any animal, animal product or related article for a specified duration.
2. The CVN has the authority to request the Minister to ban the sale or distribution of any animal, animal-origin product, or related item if it is deemed necessary for the protection of animal health.
3. After an opinion from the CVN, the Minister may notify the owner or person in charge in writing to immediately cease the distribution of animals, animal-origin product or related articles, the notification must contain the reasons for the cessation.

Article No. 93

Confiscation and Disposal of Unclaimed Items

1. DGQB may confiscate or dispose of any animal, animal product or related article which, after its entry into East Timor, remains unclaimed for a stipulated period of time.
2. For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, the DGQB must notify the owner or responsible person in writing of the reasons for confiscation and destruction.
3. DGQB shall claim the costs of measures taken under this article from the owner or person responsible for the unclaimed animal, animal-origin product or related item.

Article No. 94

Issue of DGQB decisions

1. In accordance with this decree, all requested documentation and any samples or other elements related to the application must be submitted when applying to the DGQB.
2. If the DGQB requests additional information in writing regarding an application submitted under the terms specified earlier, the applicant should kindly comply within the timeframe indicated in the written request from the DGQB.
3. The DGQB aims to promptly review requests in accordance with established deadlines set forth in applicable rules. As per the law, all required documents must be submitted and, upon receipt, the DGQB will make a decision within 30 days.
4. If the DGQB fails to follow the rules from the previous section, they must notify the applicant in writing before the deadline. They must explain why the extension is necessary and provide a new deadline for the decision.
5. Prior to the decision by the DGQB, the applicant must be notified in writing for a prior hearing.
6. Whenever an application is rejected, the applicant must be notified in writing and the notification must contain the reasons for the rejection and mention of the right of appeal.
7. Without prejudice to urgent measures that, for reasons of animal health, may be necessary, the DGQB's decision takes effect after the end of the appeal period, under the terms of this decree.

Article No. 95

Administrative resource

1. If anyone has been harmed by a decision or action taken by a veterinary inspector or an official analyst under this statute, they may appeal to the CVN within 15 days of the decision or action, following the prescribed procedure.
2. If someone disagrees with a decision made by the CVN within 30 days, they can file an appeal with the Minister by following the established procedure and within the specified timeframe.
3. The Minister decides on the appeal within the stipulated period.
4. The Minister's decision is final on technical matters, without prejudice to the right of appeal to the courts.
5. The right to appeal administratively does not remove the DGQB's right to take urgent measures in the field of animal health, whenever necessary.

Article No. 96

Protection of DGQB employees

The Ministry must, under this decree, guarantee the protection of DGQB employees and agents in the exercise of their official duties.

SECTION III
INFRINGEMENTS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

Article No. 97

Serious Infringements

1. Committing this offence can result in a significant misdemeanour charge, with a fine ranging from US\$1,000 to US\$50,000.
 - a) Failure to comply with any legal order or directive issued under the terms of this decree;
 - b) Import any animal, animal product or related article in violation of any stipulated requirement;
 - c) Export any animal or animal-origin products, except as stipulated;
 - d) Not allow the search, inspection or collection of any sample authorized under the terms of this law;
 - e) Breaking the seal of a sealed container containing any animal, animal-origin product or related article, except in the presence of a veterinary inspector or when breaking is done by a customs official, in accordance with the provisions of applicable law;
 - f) Consciously or unconsciously, providing false information for the purpose of obtaining any document under this decree;
 - g) Change, forge, deform or destroy any document issued under this law.
2. If there is a recurrence within a year (12 months), the limits mentioned in the previous point will be doubled, both the minimum and maximum.

Article No. 98

Serious Infringements

1. It constitutes a very serious infringement, punishable by a fine of US\$1,000 to US\$75,000:
 - a) Sell, offer for sale, transport or otherwise distribute any animal, animal product or related article knowing that it is infected with an animal disease;
 - b) Intentionally permitting, introducing or causing the introduction or spread of a notifiable disease;
 - c) Moving an animal or distributing a animal-origin product or article that has been placed under escrow or following an administrative offence or an inspection that has prohibited the distribution or movement of the animal, animal-origin product or related article;
 - d) Aggressing, resisting, intimidating, threatening, abusing in any way or obstructing a veterinary inspector from exercising his legal powers under this law.

2. If there is a recurrence within a year (12 months), the limits mentioned in the previous point will be doubled, both the minimum and maximum.

Article No. 99

Notification of fixed fine for minor offences

Any minor offences that are not covered in the previous articles will result in a fine of US\$100. This penalty is in addition to any other fines that may be applicable in case the offence persists.

Article No. 100

Suspension and revocation of licenses and authorizations

1. The CVN may suspend or revoke any license or other authorization issued under this decree.
2. If there are serious or repeated violations, the CVN may suggest to SERVE or other relevant authorities that the commercial license be revoked and the establishment be closed. Similarly, the DGQB may take action to close the establishment if no license is required.
3. After receiving the recommendation mentioned in the previous issue, the authority responsible for granting the commercial or operating license must cancel it within three days.

Article No. 101

Offence by public official

1. A veterinary inspector, official analyst or other DGQB personnel commits an infraction when:
 - a) Ask for or receive, directly or indirectly, any personal payment or other reward in connection with any official functions;
 - b) Agree to do, refrain from doing, authorize, hide or collaborate in any act or thing contrary to the correct performance of their official duties under the terms of this decree or other applicable legislation;
 - c) Disclose any information obtained in the performance of their official duties relating to any person, company or business, except as required by their supervisor in the exercise of official duties, including for the purposes of cross-border cooperation, by court order or pursuant to Article No. 30;
 - d) Abuse of its powers granted under this law.
2. If found guilty by a court under this article, the veterinary inspector, official analyst or other DGQB staff may be dismissed or discharged, may no longer be reappointed and is subject to the other sanctions applicable to public officials.

SECTION IV

SANCTION PROCEDURE

Article No. 102

Decision and procedure of the penalty for infringement

1. If a veterinary inspector suspects a potential violation of the regulations stated in this decree, they must report this information to the CVN. The CVN will then evaluate this information in accordance with the guidance provided by the legal support unit. This process will determine the following:
 - a) The infraction may be considered a criminal offence if it is severe enough. In such a case, it will be reported to the appropriate authority for legal action.
 - b) To comply with Articles No. 97 to No. 101 and the subsequent number, an administrative sanction should be implemented; or
 - c) It is possible to consider the application of both options.
2. In terms of fines, it is within the veterinary inspector's authority to issue a fine to the violator at the time of violation. This means that the violator has the option to either follow the necessary procedures and appear before the contracting authority after being notified, or pay the fine to the designated authority.
3. Whenever the offender does not pay the fine within the stipulated period, the CVN must decide whether:
 - a) Gives the offender more time to pay the fine;
 - b) Increases the fine amount to be paid, upon written notification, which defines a new deadline for payment; or
 - c) Refer the case to the contracting authority.

Article No. 103

Criteria for determining sanctions

When considering the seriousness of the offence and the sanction to be applied, the CVN must consider, supported by an opinion issued by the respective legal support unit:

- a) The harm or threat of harm caused by the breach;
- b) Intent or negligence;
- c) The economic situation of the offender;
- d) The benefit that the offender derived from the offence;
- e) The recurrence.

Article No. 104

Confiscation

1. In the event of a conviction for an offence under this decree, the contracting authority has the option to confiscate any *item* utilized in the commission of a said offence, in favour of the Government, in addition to any other penalties imposed.
2. Suppose the court does not order the confiscation of an animal, animal-origin product, related article, or any product derived from its disposal. In that case, it will be returned to the owner or person responsible at the time of seizure, as long as it does not pose any risk to animal health. However, the object will be destroyed if there is a risk.
3. According to the present decree, the CVN is responsible for deciding how to take care of any animal, animal-origin product, or related article that is seized or confiscated. The owner will be responsible for the costs of custody until the contracting authority decides how to proceed with the items.
4. It is imperative that the CVN takes into consideration the potential risks of disease entry or spread when making decisions under this Article. If such risks are identified, the relevant measures outlined in Article No. 90 must be implemented to address them appropriately.
5. Suppose the decision is only appealed after it takes effect. In that case, any animal, animal product, or related item confiscated will be destroyed, sold, rented out, or donated to charity after the offender has been convicted.
6. Proceeds from any sale of any item confiscated in accordance with this section shall be deposited with the Banco Nacional do Comércio de Timor-Leste, SA (BNCTL).

CHAPTER IX

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Article No. 105

Cost of animal health measures

1. The owner of an animal, animal-origin product, or related article, as well as facilities for animals or animal-origin products, are responsible for paying any expenses related to measures taken on their property or facilities. The only exception is when the Minister, based on an opinion of the CVN, decides that the government needs to take responsibility for costs that are specified in the reasons.
2. The regulations define the costs and calculation method related to animal health measures covered by this decree.

Article No. 106

Indemnity

1. Upon CVN recommendation, the Minister may determine the payment of an indemnity in the following cases:
 - a) In infected areas or containment zones or during an emergency declaration or when the owners of the animal, animal product or related article are affected by disease control measures;
 - b) If the affected person's economic circumstances and means of subsistence require the Government to compensate the owner of the facilities or the affected animal for disease control measures taken under this decree.
2. The compensation tables and values are established in a ministerial order and include a reference to the following:
 - a) Which animals should be slaughtered and in which area or areas;
 - b) Copy of the payment table;
 - c) Disposal certificate form.
3. When compensation is authorized by the Minister, the following steps must be followed at the time of slaughter:
 - a) A sample claim form is provided to each owner, along with a copy of the pay table;
 - b) Owners indicate their agreement or disagreement with the amount of compensation in the respective compensation claim form, provided that the lack of agreement on the amount does not stop or delay the slaughter of the animals in question or the disposal of the carcasses.
4. Without prejudice to receiving the amount of compensation provided for in the defined period of time, owners who dispute the amount of compensation may appeal against the decision under the terms of Article No. 95.^o.
5. Only by court order the DGQB can be subject to the additional payment of compensation for the mandatory culling.
6. In adherence to this law, compensation cannot be granted to individuals who have violated it and subsequently claim compensation for any amenities or items involved in the breach.
7. The amount of compensation given for an animal that has been destroyed will not be more than what it was worth in the market before it was destroyed.

Article No. 107

Fees collection

1. Based on the applicable law regarding cost recovery, the DGQB has the authority to assess fees for various services, including inspections, sampling and analysis, license processing and issuance, and other Ministry services, as outlined in this decree. The fees charged must be solely based on actual cost recovery.
2. The Minister, by order, must publish the costs foreseen value in this decree and respective regulations.

Article No. 108

Documents and declarations

1. Any document or declaration that must be produced under the present law or any regulation may be provided in electronic format as stipulated under the rules that govern electronic transactions and that are defined by the Minister in a ministerial order, in consultation with the Information and Communication Technologies Agency, IP - ICT TIMOR.
2. The DGQB must establish the requirements regarding the creation, receipt, storage, sharing and sending of certificates and other documents in electronic format.

Article No. 109

Regulation

1. Unless otherwise provided, all regulations provided for in this decree must be approved by the Minister, through a ministerial order.
2. When the DGQB is assigned the responsibility of approving technical rules by law, they are duly published in the official gazette, as per the Minister's order.
3. All approved legislation and regulations must be publicized through the *website* of the Ministry.

Article No. 110

Transitional rule

Until legislation on veterinary products is passed, the Article No. 83 applies.

Article No. 111

Revocatory rule

Are revoked:

- a) Decree-Law No. 21/2003, of December 31, on the legal regime of quarantine on the importation and exportation of goods and on the sanitary control of international shipping;
- b) Government Decree No. 1/2006, of September 20, on the General Quarantine Regulation.

Article No. 112

Effective Date

This decree comes into force three months after its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on March 15, 2023.

The Prime Minister,

Taur Matan Ruak

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries,

Pedro dos Reis

Enacted on

To be published.

The President of the Republic,

José Ramos-Horta