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Equivalence

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Chapter 5.3.

OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization

Chapter 5 – Articles 5.3.2 – 5.3.6



Equivalence

General considerations (Art. 5.3.3.)

- In most cases, the risk management measures adopted will rely in part on judgements made about the animal health management and animal production systems in the exporting country and the effectiveness of sanitary measures applied there.
- Differences may be in infrastructure, policies or operating procedures, laboratory systems, approaches to control of diseases, infections and infestations present, border security and internal movement controls.

OIE standards

Categorization of sanitary measures (Art. 5.3.4)

1. Infrastructure: including the legislative base (e.g. animal health law) and administrative systems (e.g. organisation of Veterinary Services);
2. Programme design and implementation: including documentation of systems, performance and decision criteria, laboratory capability, and provisions for certification, audit and enforcement.
3. Specific technical requirement: including requirements applicable to the use of secure facilities, treatment (e.g. retorting of cans), specific test (e.g. ELISA) and procedures (e.g. pre-export inspection);

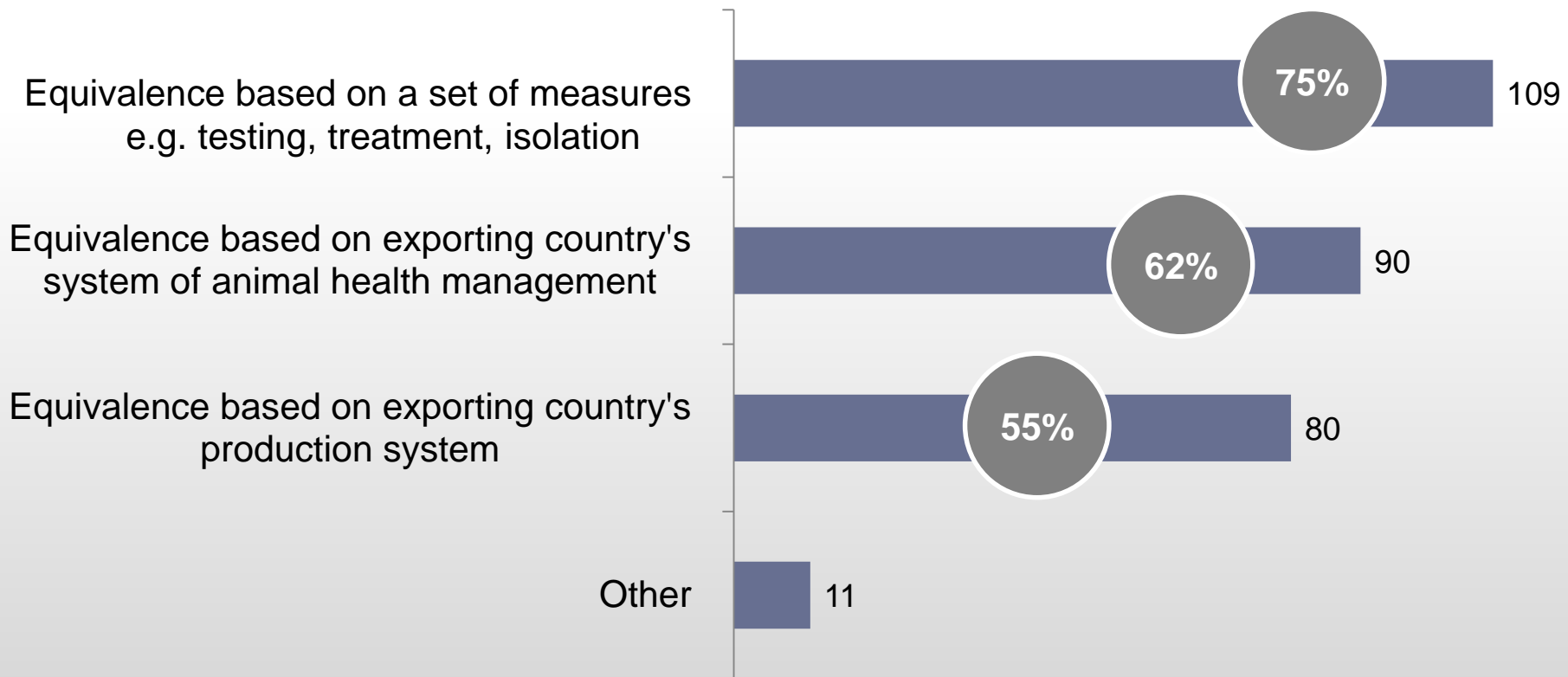
From the perspective of exporting countries

When they are negotiating access to export markets, countries reported that **determination of equivalence** occurred:

- **Regularly (24%)**
- **Occasionally (41%)**
- **Never (31%)**

From the perspective of importing countries (2)

Equivalence is a complex concept that is interpreted in various ways.



From the perspective of importing countries (1)

- Countries **generally have the authority** to use equivalence as the basis for setting sanitary measures for the importation of commodities (92%), **by law (52%) or policy (40%)**



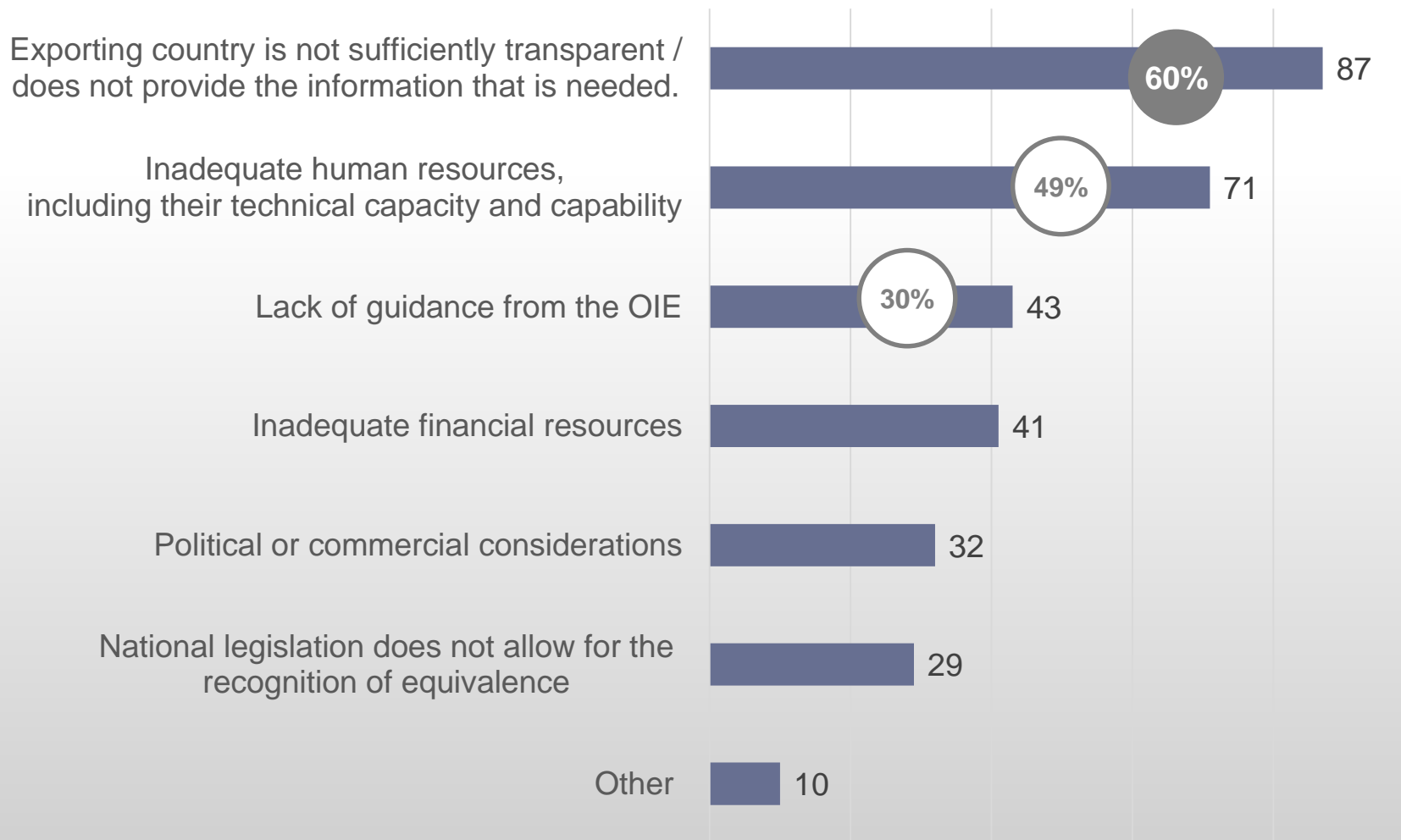
Formal policies or procedures for determining equivalence



Processes for determining equivalence conform with OIE recommendations

- **Transparency** : countries reported that information on equivalence agreements is made available to trading partners on a national website (26%) or on request (40%).

What challenges does your country face when deciding on the equivalence of sanitary measures applied by an exporting country?



Thank you for your attention



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