

Different disciplines may use technical terms with different definitions. For the purpose of the OIE Handbook on Import Risk Analysis for Animals and Animal Products the following Glossary was produced:

Acceptable risk: Risk level judged by each OIE Member to be compatible with the protection of animal and public health within its country. The equivalent term used in the SPS Agreement is appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

Aquatic Code: The OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code.

Commodity: Live animals, products of animal origin, animal genetic material, biological products and pathological material.

Competent Authority: The Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of a Member having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Aquatic and Terrestrial Codes in the whole territory.

Consequence assessment: The process of describing the relationship between specified exposures to a biological agent and the consequences of those exposures. A causal process must exist by which exposures produce adverse health or environmental consequences, which may in turn lead to socio-economic consequences. The consequence assessment describes the consequences of a given exposure and estimates the probability of their occurring.

Entry assessment (formerly known as release assessment): The process of describing the biological pathway(s) necessary for an importation activity to 'release' (that is, introduce) pathogenic agents into a particular environment, and estimating the probability, either qualitatively or quantitatively, of that complete process occurring [The terms 'likelihood' and 'probability' may be used interchangeably. There is a tendency to use the term 'probability' when referring to quantified risk, and 'likelihood' when risk has been assessed qualitatively. However, both terms are correct]

Exposure assessment: The process of describing the biological pathway(s) necessary for exposure of animals and humans in the importing country to the hazards (in this case the pathogenic agents) released from a given risk source, and estimating the probability of the exposure(s) occurring, either qualitatively or quantitatively.

Hazard: a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of, an animal or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

Hazard identification: The process of identifying the pathogenic agents that could potentially be introduced in the commodity considered for importation.

Qualitative risk assessment: An assessment where the outputs on the likelihood of the outcome or the magnitude of the consequences are expressed in qualitative terms such as high, medium, low or negligible.

Quantitative risk assessment: An assessment where the outputs of the risk assessment are expressed numerically.

Risk: The likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of the biological and economic consequences of an adverse event or effect to animal or human health.

Risk analysis: The process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Risk assessment: The evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of the entry, establishment, and spread of a hazard within the territory of an importing country.

Risk communication: The interactive transmission and exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions among risk assessors, risk managers, risk communicators, the general public and other interested parties.

Risk estimation: The process of integrating the results from the entry assessment, exposure assessment, and consequence assessment to produce overall measures of risks associated with the hazards identified at the outset.

Risk evaluation: The process of comparing the risk estimated in the risk assessment with the Member's appropriate level of protection.

Risk management: The process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk.

Sanitary measure: A measure, such as those described in various chapters of the Aquatic and Terrestrial Codes, destined to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the OIE Member from risks arising from the entry, establishment and/or spread of a hazard.

Terrestrial Code: The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Transparency: The comprehensive documentation of all data, information, assumptions, methods, results, discussion and conclusions used in the risk analysis. Conclusions should be supported by an objective and logical discussion, and the document should be fully referenced.

Uncertainty: The lack of precise knowledge of the input values which is due to measurement error or to lack of knowledge of the steps required, and the pathways from hazard to risk, when building the scenario being assessed.

Variability: A real-world complexity in which the value of an input is not the same for each case due to natural diversity in a given population.

Veterinary Authority: The Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Aquatic and Terrestrial Codes in the whole territory.

Veterinary Services: The governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Aquatic and Terrestrial Codes in the territory. The Veterinary Services are under the overall control and direction of the Veterinary Authority. Private-sector organisations, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the Veterinary Authority to deliver the delegated functions.