A3.1 Position Statements Introduction

A. 2000 – 2002 Position Statements

1. **Initial Position Statement**
   This chapter sums up why and how we have assembled this document. We have tried to explain the purpose and make-up of the document so there is as little confusion as possible. We had to recognize there was no way to please everyone, when so many people with differing needs and wants will use the document. We have done our best to provide what we believe is the best possible document at this time. We have adhered very closely to OIE guidelines to make this document as useful as possible for international trade inspections. We are hopeful this document will continue to grow and evolve. Individual jurisdictions are likely to require different criteria for an aquatic animal health inspection and those criteria shall supersede the recommendations set forth in this chapter.

B. 2002 – 2003 Position Statements

No changes or reviews requested.

C. 2003 – 2004 Position Statements

No changes or reviews requested.

D. 2004-2005 Position Statements

1. **Clarify the intended use of the Inspection Manual.**
   It appears that some states are referring to the inspection manual as a policy document rather than as a collection of standardized procedures. This has resulted in requirements for screening for certain pathogen in geographic areas where the pathogen's life cycle could not even be completed. The Oversight Committee agreed to amend Section 1.1 in the Introduction; Section 2.1 in the Sampling chapter; Table 2.1 in Section 2.2 to clarify the purpose of the inspection manual.

2. Does the term "carrier state" exist for all pathogens included in the inspection manual?
The Oversight Committee agreed to review all cases where "carrier state" is used in the inspection manual and replace the phrase with "subclinical" where appropriate

E. 2006 – 2007 Position Statements

No changes or reviews requested. Updated editions and titles of manuals referred to.

F. 2008-2010 Position Statements

No changes or reviews requested.

A3.1 Position Statements Introduction

G. 2011-2012 Position Statements

1. Two thirds of the Review and Oversight Committee must be present to vote on significant changes to the Handbook.

   The Review and Oversight Committee as a whole voted approval for the number of committee members who must be present either by e-mail or conference call to vote on a significant change in procedural matters or how the committee functions. At least 2/3 of the ten members on the committee must be present to make official decisions in regards to significant changes in the Handbook.

2. The Review and Oversight Committee agreed that the current 1-year revision cycle of the Inspection Manual did not accurately reflect the operation of the committee.

   Appendix 1.1 was amended by the Review and Oversight Committee to officially adopt a 2-year (even year) revision cycle for the Inspection Manual of the AFS Blue Book. Appendix 1.2 was changed to reflect quarterly conference call meetings (February, May, August, November). Appendix 1.3 was changed to update the locations where the notice to solicit changes to the manual are published for comment and submitted requests for changes to the manual are given a much longer time period for consideration by the committee. The flow chart of procedures to handle requests to change the manual in Appendix 1.3 was adapted to reflect the changes to the update cycle.

3. The Review and Oversight Committee agreed that a fixed transportation temperature of 4.0 ^{0}C for shipping fish tissue samples to a fish health diagnostic laboratory did not reflect the true ambient temperature of the inside of a shipping container.

   Text within the Sampling Chapter of the Inspection Manual under section A (Guidelines for Preparation of a Fish Health Inspection) and section E (Sample Collection) which states; "Samples must be shipped and stored at greater than 0 ^{0}C, but less than 4^{0}C" will be replaced in three places of these two sections with "Greater than 0^{0}C, but less than 10^{0}C with a target temperature of 4^{0}C".