





Royal Government of Bhutan Ministry of Agriculture and Forests Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA)

PROTOCOL FOR IMPORTATION OF ORNAMENTSL FISHES INTO BHUTAN

Any individual, agency or company wishing to import ornamental fishes into Bhutan should apply for import permit to the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. The application for import permit should reach the office of BAFRA at least 4 weeks before the scheduled date of entry of such fishes into Bhutan. The application for import permit must provide full details of the consignment as requested in the application form (Application for import of ornamental fishes). The importer must meet the following conditions at the time of importation.

- 1. Ornamental fishes originate from a reputed farm or source subjected to official health surveillance.
- 2. The consignment should be accompanied by zoosanitary certificate certified by authorized official of exporting country stating that farms are free of OIE listed notifiable diseases under the article 1.2.3.1 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code that are relevant to imported fishes.
- 3. The consignment is examined by the authorized official of exporting country not more than 24 hours before the time of departure and certified free of clinical signs of diseases and are fit for transportation.
- 4. Import of endangered and protected species must be accompanied with CITES or other conservation related document from a competent authority of the exporting country or other recognized international body (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species -CITES)
- 5. Ornamental fishes from one species only must be grouped in individual each container.
- 6. The consignment should be shipped in vehicles and containers designed, constructed and fitted in such manner as to withstand the weight of the fishes and water and to ensure their safety and welfare during transportation. In addition, no water or materials in contact with fishes should escape from vehicle or container during the transport. Vehicles and containers should be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before and after use.
- 7. Any signs of diseases in imported fishes must be reported to the nearest local BAFRA office or Department of Livestock office immediately.
- 8. The consignments shall be carried directly from the farm or establishment of origin to farm destination.
- 9. Upon entry of such animals into Bhutan, they must be immediately presented to the BAFRA Officials for inspection.
- 10. These requirements will be amended as and when deemed necessary depending on the risk associated with the animals and the disease status of the exporting country.