

Animal health certification in Livestock Trade between the Somalia and the Middle East

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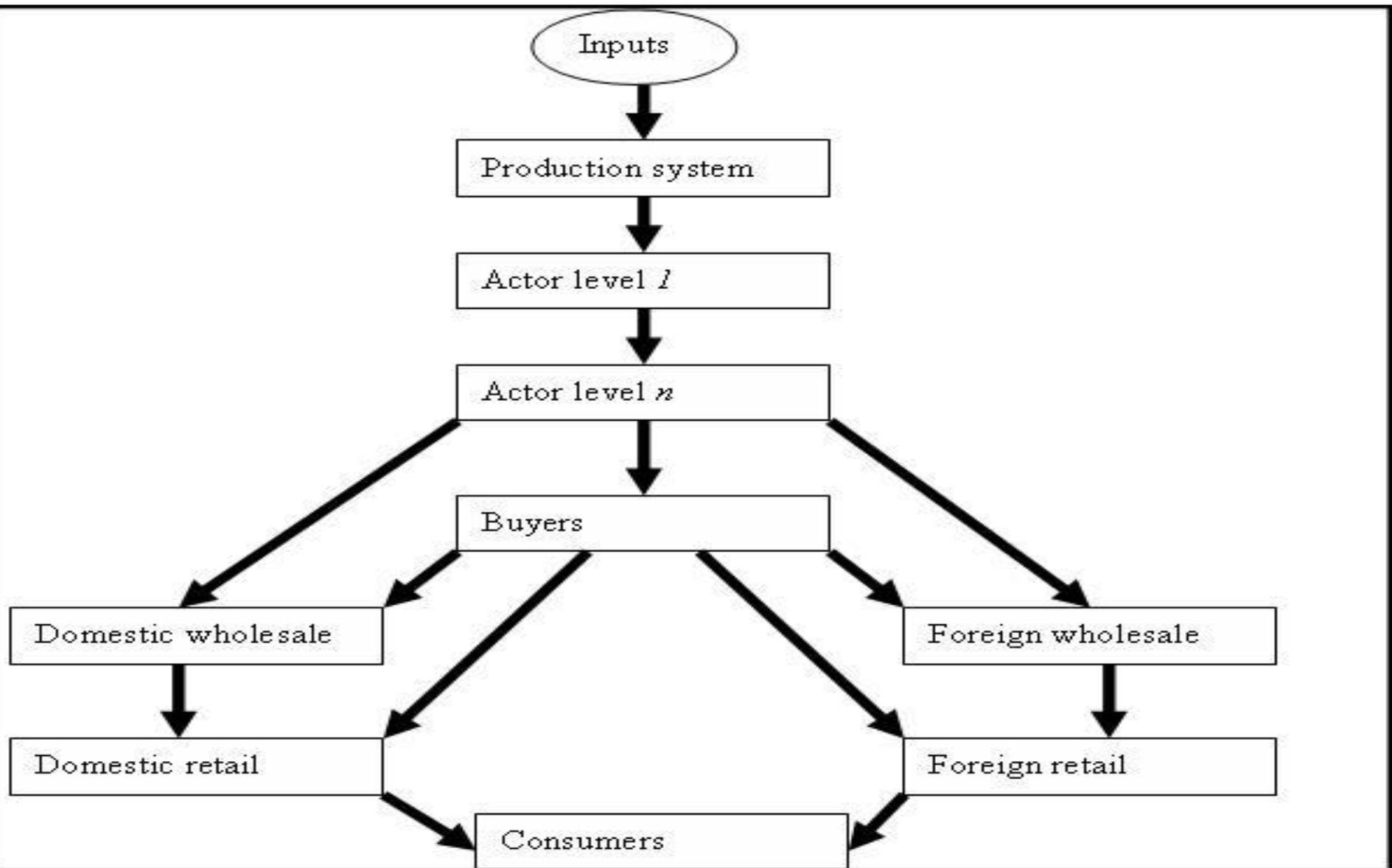
by

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Horn of Africa-Middle East livestock trade

- There is robust demand for Somalia livestock in many Middle East destinations although many of them produce their own animals domestically.
- Somalia small stock could arguably be considered organic as there is seldom any use of chemo-prophylactics or ecto-parasiticides except on a small scale in the riverine areas.
- There is a marked price differential between imported and locally produced meat



Private Sector Initiatives

- Export animals from Somalia destined for the ME market were previously processed and certified through quarantine facilities in Yemen.
- The Somali private sector has experienced phenomenal growth in the absence of effective public administration.
- A robust market economy has evolved and now directs the flow of trade in animals and products.
- Berbera and Bosasso are the key small stock export conduits from Somalia.
- Kismayu is the main port for export of cattle since the South is a predominantly cattle keeping region.
- The relative peace and order in Somaliland and Puntland confer on the ports of Berbera and Bossasso a comparative advantage.

Djibouti Export Facility

- An export quarantine facility constructed in Djibouti to provide sanitary certification for exports from the Horn of African to the Arabian Peninsula.
- The bulk of animals for export to ME through the Djibouti facility were sourced mainly from Somalia through the Bosasso and Berbera facilities.
- During Hajj season, more than a million goats and sheep are exported from Berbera and Bosaso ports of Somalia to the Gulf States through The Djibouti Livestock Export Facility.

Key Destinations

- Sheep and goats all destined to the Gulf countries
- Cattle mainly to Yemen and United Arab Emirate.
- Camels chiefly to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and sometimes Libya.

Risks to Trade

- The entry of Australia, New Zealand and Brazil into the Somalia's traditional market in the Middle East has heralded the introduction of new requirements on SPS.
- Traceability requirements, “farm to fork” and use of a bar code systems by new entrants are difficult to implement in Somalia's extensive pastoralist production system and may be regarded as **technical barriers to trade**.
- Current international concerns on animal welfare during transport of live animals by sea pose a substantial risk to future trade.

SPS- Risks to Trade

- The application of increasingly strict SPS measures has a huge cost implication
- Most developing countries have inadequate capacities for adoption of production technologies and practices
- Difficulties in policing compliance with requirements.
- These SPS measures may therefore unwittingly become technical barriers to trade against exporters from the developing countries.

Port Sanitary Measures

- At export facilities of Bossaso & Berbera, export certification endorsed by:
 - Veterinarian from the Somali Veterinary Board for each administrative area
 - Somali Port Veterinarian
 - Saudi veterinarians manning the quarantine facility
- Animals physically examined on entry into the quarantine facilities
- The quarantine facilities are segmented and animals are held for 2 to 3 weeks
- Animals are watered and fed on hay and concentrates and undergo continuous clinical monitoring.

Downstream Sanitary Measures

- There are no sanitary measures supported by the Saudi veterinarians downstream of quarantine facilities.
- Such measures may be necessary to ensure rejections are done downstream thus lowering the cost of trade.
- Pre-export animals are screened for Brucellosis using Rose Bengal and all positives are removed.
- No recourse to a confirmatory CFT is taken due to cost constraints and the abundance of replacement animals to choose from.

Syndromic Surveillance

- Syndromic surveillances and disease searches are proposed as risk mitigation surveillance activities.
- Stomatitis-enteritis syndrome or rinderpest-like conditions which include, besides rinderpest, the trade restricting diseases PPR and FMD
- A pneumonia syndrome to capture the trade restricting pleuropneumonias (CBPP and CCPP)
- An abortion syndrome to capture the trade restricting diseases brucellosis and RVF. As well as having a major constraint on export trade,

Import Conditions

- Sanitary import requirements, placement & removal of bans are prescribed through:
 - Federal laws
 - Ministerial decrees
 - Import permits
 - ad hoc announcements.
- None are issued through the WTO.
- Sanitary documents used in the export chain include;
 - monthly local inspection reports,
 - monthly export certificate reports
 - monthly regional summary report
 - Monthly national summaries.
- All these reports are part of the animal health certification process.

Diseases Stipulated for import to Middle East

New world and old world screw worm

Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia

Rift Valley Fever

Peste des Petit Ruminants

Anthrax

Sheep pox and goat Pox

Heartwater

Caprine Arthritis/ Encephalitis

Blue tongue

Maedi-Visna

CBPP

Camel Pox

Brucellosi (B abortus)

Brucellosis

Anaplasmosis

Camel mange

Babesiosis

Surra

Theillieriosis

Paratuberculosis

Haemorrhagic septicaemia

Lumpy Skin Disease

Bovine Tuberculosis

Probable Hazards of introduction from the Horn of Africa to the Middle East- OIE

- Bovine anaplasmosis
- Bovine babesiosis
- Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*)
- Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
- Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
- Echinococcosis/hydatidosis
- Heartwater
- Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)
- Theileriosis

Unlikely hazards of introduction from Horn of Africa to Middle East

- Anthrax
- Bluetongue
- BSE
- Bovine tuberculosis
- Brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*)
- Caprine arthritis/encephalitis
- Foot and mouth disease
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia
- Camel pox
- Heartwater
- Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR/IPV)
- Nairobi sheep disease
- Paratuberculosis

Unlikely hazards of introduction from Horn of Africa to Middle East

- Peste des petits ruminants
- Rabies
- Rift Valley fever
- Rinderpest
- Scrapie
- Sheep pox and goat pox
- Trypanosomosis
- Vesicular stomatitis
- Tuberculosis
- camel pox
- Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever
- LSD
- trypanosomosis.

Importing of live ruminants from RVF infected country or zones without disease

- **RVF infection free country or zone**
- According to (OIE, Terrestrial Animal Health code), a country or a zone may be considered free from RVF infection when the disease is notifiable in animals throughout the country
- and either, the country or zone lies outside the historically infected regions and is not adjacent to historically infected regions;
- or a surveillance programme has demonstrated no evidence of RVF infection in humans, animals or mosquitoes in the country or zone during the past 4 years following a RVF epidemic.

Importing of live ruminants from RVF infected country or zones without disease (2)

- Alternately, the animals should have been vaccinated against RVF with a modified live virus vaccine at least 21 days prior to shipment, or should have been held in a mosquito-proof quarantine station for at least 30 days prior to shipment, during which time the animals should not have shown any clinical signs of RVF.
- In addition, the animals should have been protected from mosquitoes between the quarantine and the place of shipment, as well as at the place of shipment and should not have transited through an infected zone with disease during transportation to the place of shipment

SPS principle on equivalence (1)

- The SPS principle of equivalence is the most valuable provision for exploitation by developing exporting countries like Somalia, which face different conditions and challenges from those in many importing countries in terms of:
 1. Climatic and geographic factors
 2. Infrastructural and physical development
 3. Technological advances
- Two SPS measures are said to be equivalent to one another when they are not identical but they yield the same level of SPS protection.
- This protects exporting countries from unjustified trade restrictions even when those products are produced under simpler and or different SPS standards.

SPS principle on equivalence (2)

- Provides that members are required to accept the SPS measures from exporting countries where these can be demonstrated to be equivalent and offer the same level of protection as the importing country.
- Concerns from developing countries that importing countries are demanding for “identical” instead of “equivalent” measures thus failing to recognize that different measures can achieve the same level of SPS protection.

- When importing live ruminants from RVF infected country or zones without disease such as Horn of Africa and ME, the requirement is that ruminants should show no evidence of RVF on the day of shipment,
- should have been in a RVF infected country/zone free of disease since birth or for the last 6 months, providing that climatic changes predisposing to outbreaks of RVF have not occurred during this time.

- Alternately the animals should have been vaccinated against RVF with a modified live virus vaccine at least 21 days prior to shipment, or should have been held in a mosquito-proof quarantine station for at least 30 days prior to shipment, during which time the animals should not have shown any clinical signs of RVF.

The SPS Principle of harmonisation

- The SPS Principle of harmonisation provides that where an SPS measure conforms to an internationally agreed standard, the measure is then consistent with the SPS Agreement.
- OIE general obligations to certification provides that to maximise harmonisation of sanitary aspects of trade, Members should base their import requirements on OIE standards.
- In such a case, the obligation to provide a risk assessment is fulfilled and the measure is judged as being non-discriminatory.

Review of current certification

- Review of international veterinary requirements for imports from Somalia reveals the frequent inclusion of diseases that are not OIE listed.
- Frequent complaints by Somalia veterinary authorities on lack of communication on imposition and lifting of bans which are sometimes only available in media articles.
- Following the Minister for Livestock's visit to Saudi Arabia, the ban from RVF was lifted but with no official communication.

Risks Analysis

Certification for live animal and meat exports is not based on risk analysis.

No risk analysis exercises have been conducted by any trading partner.

Currently the United Arab Emirate has heavily included pox diseases as they now require vaccinations for lumpy skin, camel pox and sheep and goat pox.

KSA import ban

- In February 1997 following an outbreak of Rift Valley fever (RVF) in East Africa, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), together with most other countries in the Arabian Peninsula, imposed a ban on livestock imports from all African countries.
- Ban lifted after 15 months but re-imposed in September 2000 because of RVF related human deaths and animal disease in southwestern parts of the KSA and in northwestern Yemen.
- Ban lifted in May 2001 by all countries in the region except the KSA, where it was lifted in November 2009.

OIE General Obligations

- OIE general obligations related to certification require that international veterinary certification should not include measures against pathogens or diseases which are not OIE listed unless the importing country has demonstrated through import risk analysis that the pathogen or disease pose a significant risk to the importing country.
- OIE general obligations related to certification require that communication of import requirements to persons other than the Veterinary Authority of another country, necessitates that copies of these documents are also sent to the Veterinary Authority
- Imposition and lifting not communicated through WTO or through official veterinarians may not be considered official in case of a dispute.

Middle East Importing Requirements

- Vaccination
- Screening for FMD, brucellosis, RVF and other TBDs.
- Rumored reports of export consignments of cattle shipped back due:
 - to presence of FMD antibodies
 - animal welfare considerations not clearly spelt out in the import permit since animal welfare issues are really subjective
 - Re-testing of entire consignments upon arrival for indicated diseases eg brucellosis in camels (Not spelt out in the import permit).

OIE Standards for RVF

OIE recommendations for ruminants are easily met:

1. Clinical examination on date of shipment for evidence of RVF and vaccination against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with a modified live virus vaccine are sufficient sanitary assurances against risk of introduction.
2. The level of protection arising out of OIE requirement that animals should be held in a mosquito-proof quarantine station for at least 30 days prior to shipment and transportation can be shown to be equivalent to the application of a topical suitable insect repellent with a long residual action like the Synthetic Pyrethroids.

Model export certificates

- Model international veterinary certificate and movement permits for slaughter animals moving from the Horn of Africa to the Middle East
- Designed based on OIE standards, National disease status of trading countries and risk evaluation of introduction of diseases through trade
- Model certificates designed for:
 - Sheep and goats
 - Cattle
 - Camels

Model Certificate Sections

Outline

1. Issuing Authority
2. Importer records
3. Movement records
4. Description of animals
5. Zoosanitary information

Zoosanitary information

- Provides guidelines for attestation for health and export certificate attestation for trade sensitive diseases common in the Horn of Africa that present a risk to the Middle East for cattle, sheep, goats and camels.

Model international health certificate for sheep and goats for slaughter

General attestation

- On the day of shipment the animals were examined & found free from signs of infection & contagious diseases
- The animals were treated for external parasites & were visibly free of the parasites prior to shipment
- Animals originate from areas free from OIE listed diseases to which the species is susceptible
- The area of origin is under regular disease surveillance by the official veterinary authority
- All animals for export have been individually tagged for identification purposes.
- Animals for export have been quarantined at specified facility for specified duration.

Disease Attestation- sheep & goats

1) Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia

- The animals have been vaccinated not more than 4 months prior to shipment

2) Peste des Petit Ruminants

- The animals have been vaccinated against PPR not less than 15 days and not more than 12 months prior to shipment.

3) Sheep pox and goat pox

- The animals have been vaccinated not less than 15 days and not more than 4 months prior to shipment and the vaccine virus types are indicated.

Disease Attestation- sheep & goats

4) Anthrax

The animals have been vaccinated against black quarter and anthrax not less than 21 days and not more than 6 months prior to shipment

5) Rift Valley Fever

- The animals were kept in a RVF infected country/zone free of disease since birth or for the last 6 months providing that climatic changes predisposing to outbreaks of RVF have not occurred during this time;
OR,
- The animals were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with a modified live virus vaccine;

Disease Attestation- sheep & goats

6) **Bluetongue**

- The animals have been vaccinated at least 60 days before shipment
- The animals have been protected from vectors at least 60 days prior to shipment using synthetic pyrethroids.

7) **Sheep pox and goat pox**

- The animals have been vaccinated not less than 15 days and not more than 4 months prior to shipment and the vaccine virus types are indicated.

8) **Heart water**

- The animals have been treated with a suitable acaricide prior to shipment and were completely free of ticks.

Model international health certificate for cattle for slaughter

General attestation

1. The cattle selected for export were examined before shipment and found to be clinically free from notifiable contagious/infectious diseases including;
 - Leptospirosis
 - Babesiosis
 - Heartwater
 - Bovine Viral Diarrhoea
 - Rift Valley Fever
 - Anthrax
 - Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis
 - Johne's Disease
 - Blue Tongue.

General attestation (2)

1. The animals were treated for external parasites to ensure that they were visibly free of the parasites prior to shipment
2. Animals originate from areas free from OIE listed diseases to which the species is susceptible
3. The area of origin is under regular disease surveillance by the official veterinary authority
4. All animals for export have been individually tagged for identification purposes.
5. Animals for export have been quarantined at specified facility for specified duration.

Disease Attestation- cattle

1) Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia

- The animals have been subjected to CFT on two occasions at 21 day intervals the second test being within 14 days prior to shipment

2) Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*)

- The intact bulls and breeding female bovidae are not being eliminated as part of an eradication program
- The animals have been subjected to a Rose Bengal Plate Test during the 30 days prior to shipment.

Disease Attestation- cattle

3) Brucellosis (animals for breeding)

- Were kept in a herd in which no clinical sign of bovine brucellosis was officially reported during the 6 months prior to shipment;
- Were isolated prior to shipment and were subjected to a serological test for bovine brucellosis with negative results on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 30 days between each test, the second test being performed during the 15 days prior to shipment.

Disease Attestation- cattle

5) Babesiosis/Anaplasmosis/Theileriosis/Heartwater

- The animals have been clinically free of disease prior to shipment
- The animals have been treated with a suitable acaricide during quarantine and prior to shipment and are completely free of ticks.

6) Lumpy Skin Disease

- The animals have been vaccinated against LSD not more than three months prior to shipment

Disease Attestation- cattle

7) Rift Valley Fever

- The animals were kept in a RVF infected country/zone free of disease since birth or for the last 6 months providing that climatic changes predisposing to outbreaks of RVF have not occurred during this time;
OR,
- The animals were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with a modified live virus vaccine;

Disease Attestation- cattle

8) Foot and Mouth Disease

- On the day of shipment, the animals showed no clinical sign of FMD
- The animals were kept in a zone where FMD has not occurred for the past 3 months

9) Anthrax

- The animals have been vaccinated against black quarter and anthrax not less than 21 days and not more than 6 months prior to shipment.

Model international health certificate for camels

1) Camel Pox

- The animals have been vaccinated not less than 15 days and not more than 4 months prior to shipment using vaccine virus types and strains JOUF 78 (Jordan Bio Industries).

2) Brucellosis

- The animals were tested for brucellosis usingwith negative results (state test).

3) Camel mange

- The animals have been treated with Ivermectin 30 days before shipment

Disease Attestation- camels

4) Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)

- The animals have been subjected to buffy coat microscopy with negative results

5) Anthrax

- The animals have been vaccinated against black quarter and anthrax not less than 21 days and not more than 6 months prior to shipment

Disease Attestation- camels

6) Rift Valley Fever

- The animals were kept in a RVF infected country/zone free of disease since birth or for the last 6 months providing that climatic changes predisposing to outbreaks of RVF have not occurred during this time;

OR,

- The animals were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with a modified live virus vaccine;

Certifying Veterinarian

- Veterinary certificate reference or serial number.....
- **Official veterinarian:**
- Name:.....
- Official position/designation.....
- Date of signature.....
- Official stamp of the Veterinary Services.

Additional Attestation

- The animals are transported in a ship where the holding room had been disinfected and with enough space certified by the official veterinarian.
- The official veterinarian has certified that there is enough water and feed for the camels for the period of shipment.

Recommendations

- Importing and exporting countries should domesticate the SPS principles of equivalence and harmonization in certification
- There should be greater reliance on risk analysis in the certification process
- Increased bilateral and multilateral engagements on sanitary concerns on trade in animals
- Increased technical assistance to Somalia to shore up downstream sanitary measures in Somalia
- The OIE Middle East (OIE) provides an ideal forum for clearing these issues since the exporter and importer are members of the same.

THANK YOU