



優質養魚場計劃手冊

Accredited Fish Farm Scheme Manual



漁農自然護理署
Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department



Accredited Fish Farm Scheme

Preface

This aquaculture manual is prepared by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for aquaculture farms (farms) participating in the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme (AFFS). It provides information on the AFFS, farm management, good aquaculture practices, and technical support from the AFCD for reference and adoption by farms.

This manual is issued by the AFCD for the reference of farms participating in the AFFS. If found, please return to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, 5/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Edition	Period of Use	Key Updates / Notes
1st Edition	2005–2006	Initial version
1st Edition, Revised and Expanded	2007–2018	Revised and expanded
2nd Edition	2018–2020	New edition
2nd Edition Revised and Expanded	2020–2024	Added <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix I: Hairy Carb
3rd Edition	2024– June 2025	Added <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 on “Sales Through the AFFS Brand” and updated terminology
3rd Edition Revised and Expanded	From July 2025 onwards	Added <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.8 Processing Requirements and Quality Inspection of Aquaculture Products • Appendix IV: Biotoxins detection items

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Chapter 1 Basic Requirements for Joining the AFFS

- 1.1 The AFFS accepts applications made in a personal capacity or in the name of a company:
 - 1.1.1 Individual applicants must hold a valid Hong Kong permanent identity card or a valid Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) passport.
 - 1.1.2 If the application is made by a legal entity, the entity must be a company incorporated in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) with close ties to Hong Kong, or a body corporate incorporated in Hong Kong under other ordinances of the HKSAR, including local registered fisheries co-operatives, non-profit fisheries organisations and non-governmental organisations.
 - 1.1.3 For farms engaging in marine aquaculture, applicants/legal entities must hold a valid marine fish culture licence.
 - 1.1.4 For farms engaging in pond or indoor aquaculture production, applicants/legal entities must simultaneously apply for the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Local Pond Fish Farms.
- 1.2 Farms that have registered to join the AFFS (registered farms) must comply with the requirements specified in this manual.
- 1.3 Registered farms must co-operate and allow the AFCD officers or its appointed officers to enter the farm for inspection from time to time.
- 1.4 Registered farms must allow the AFCD officers or its appointed officers to collect samples of feed, drugs, water and other environmental samples for testing. The frequency, type and quantity of samples collected will be determined by the AFCD but will not exceed what is necessary for monitoring and testing.
- 1.5 Registered farms must allow the AFCD officers or its appointed officers to collect samples of aquatic products on-site for testing. The frequency, type and quantity of samples collected will be determined by the AFCD but will not exceed what is necessary for monitoring and testing.

- 1.6 Aquatic products can only be put on the market for sale after passing the sampling tests. Aquatic products from farms that are authorised to use the AFFS brand may be marketed through the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) or sold directly by the farms. All aquatic products sold under the AFFS brand must bear a fish tag with the AFFS quick response (QR) code; otherwise, they shall not be sold under the brand. Retailers supplying AFFS aquatic products directly from farms must apply to and obtain approval from the AFCD before displaying the AFFS trademark at their retail points.
- 1.7 If production processes do not meet the requirements or if aquatic products fail the relevant tests, registered farms must comply with the instructions given by the AFCD to suspend the sale of aquatic products under the AFFS brand.
- 1.8 If a registered farm violates any requirements set out in this manual, the AFCD will issue a first advisory letter and provide technical support and/or improvement suggestions, and will inspect the farm within 14 days to one month from the date of the letter. If the farm fails to make improvements without reasonable explanations, the AFCD will issue a second advisory letter, requiring the farm to make improvements and/or provide reasonable explanations within 14 days from the date of the letter. If the farm fails to make improvements within the specified time or if the explanations provided are not accepted by the AFCD, the AFCD may, by notice in writing, deregister the farm. Deregistered farms shall not sell their aquatic products under the AFFS brand nor re-register to join the AFFS again within one year. (Note: The deregistration of a farm may have an implication on its marine fish culture licence.)

Chapter 2 Implementation Details of the AFFS

- 2.1 AFCD will assess farms and conduct long-term monitoring of farmed aquatic products based on farm management, aquaculture practices and food safety of aquatic products. Farms producing hairy crabs under the AFFS must also comply with the additional requirements set out in **Enclosure 1**.

2.2 **Farm Registration System**

- 2.2.1 Farms wishing to participate in the AFFS must first meet the requirements on farm operation and hygiene laid down in paragraph 3.1 of this manual. The AFCD will deploy its staff to the farm to conduct on-site assessments. Farms must pass the assessments and meet the said requirements before they are confirmed to be successfully registered as accredited fish farms. The relevant procedures are set out in Figure 1 in **Enclosure 2**.
- 2.2.2 If an accredited fish farm violates the requirements set out in this manual, the AFCD will initiate the procedures as outlined in Figure 2 to deregister the farm.
- 2.2.3 If an accredited fish farm repeatedly violates the requirements set out in this manual, or under other special circumstances, the AFCD may consider deregistering the farm immediately and notify the farm of the reasons for deregistration in writing.

2.3 **Aquatic Fry Registration System**

- 2.3.1 Registered farms must notify the AFCD for inspection within 14 days of stocking aquatic fry other than hairy crab fry or on the first inspection day after obtaining the fry (whichever occurs first), and provide receipts for the fry or a declaration regarding the source of the fry (signed by a witness) for registration. The relevant procedures are set out in **Enclosure 3**. Regarding the registration system for hairy crab fry, the details are set out in paragraphs A7 to A14 of **Enclosure 1**.
- 2.3.2 Unregistered aquatic fry shall not be sold under the AFFS brand after maturing.
- 2.3.3 The rearing period of registered aquatic fry must be no less than 180 days or half of the growth period depending on the individual aquatic species, whichever is shorter. In general, the rearing period for fish is about one year or more, and that for shrimps such as pacific white shrimps is about

3 months. If the above requirement is not met, the batch of aquatic products shall not be sold under the AFFS brand after maturing. The minimum rearing period of aquatic products is set out in the table below for reference. During the rearing period of the registered aquatic fry, no unregistered aquatic products of the same species shall be added or mixed in; that is, unregistered aquatic fry of the same species must not be added to or mixed in cages, tanks, pools or ponds containing registered aquatic products. During the rearing process, if different batches of registered aquatic product fry of the same species are mixed in the same inseparable body of water, the different batches of aquatic products must be clearly distinguishable in appearance; otherwise, the rearing period of the aquatic products in the water body will be calculated from the stocking date of the last batch of fry (mixing of registered fry does not apply to hairy crab fry).

Aquatic Product	Rearing Period	Minimum Rearing Period
Fish	1 year or more	180 days
Shrimps (e.g. pacific white shrimps)	3-4 months	45 days
Crustaceans (e.g. crabs [#] , lobsters)	1 year or more	180 days
Shellfish	1 year or more	180 days

[#] Not applicable to hairy crabs

- 2.3.4 Newly registered farms can apply for post-registration of fry for existing aquatic products (other than hairy crabs) within 14 days of registration. Post-registration of aquatic fry only applies to newly registered farms, and does not apply to hairy crab fry. The rearing period of the existing post-registered aquatic fry must be no less than 180 days after farm registration or half of the growth period depending on the individual aquatic product species, whichever is shorter; otherwise, the batch of aquatic products shall not be sold under the AFFS brand.

2.4 **Quality Assurance System of the AFFS**

- 2.4.1 The quality assurance system under the AFFS is a key factor that enables consumers to have confidence in the AFFS brand. The vetting of the quality assurance system is divided into two parts, namely regular monitoring of farms and pre-sale testing of cultured aquatic products. During the rearing period, the hygiene of the farm, management methods, use of drugs and feed additives, as well as the health status of the cultured

aquatic products and water quality will be closely monitored. Detailed quality test items and standards are listed in **Enclosure 4**.

2.5 **Inspection and Monitoring of Farms**

- 2.5.1 Registered farms must comply with the requirements set out in Chapter 3 on “Farm Management”, and complete and maintain the farm operational records in the format specified or in the manner (such as a specified electronic format) approved in advance by the AFCD. The content mainly includes the quantities of aquatic fry purchased and cultured aquatic products sold, feeding records, the health status of cultured aquatic products, medication records and health inspection records. Registered farms must submit the relevant operational records during inspections by the AFCD officers. The AFCD will inspect registered farms from time to time to check the hygiene and operational records of the farms, and the frequency and timing of inspections are determined by the AFCD. In terms of water quality monitoring, the AFCD will collect water samples from time to time for various analyses, such as pH, dissolved oxygen concentration, nutrient contents, and levels of *E. coli* and *Vibrio cholerae*. The analysis items will be determined by the AFCD according to the individual circumstances of farms. The AFCD will also conduct health checks on cultured aquatic products, provide technical advice and veterinary support services as needed.
- 2.5.2 The AFCD officers will inspect registered farms to ensure that the farms comply with the requirements set out in Chapter 3. In case of violations, the AFCD may deregister the farm according to the procedures outlined in Figure 2 of **Enclosure 2**. Deregistered farms shall not re-register to join the AFFS within one year.

2.6 **Quality Assurance System for Cultured Aquatic Products**

- 2.6.1 The AFCD will take aquatic product samples for mid-term testing for heavy metal levels at the next inspection after fry registration (one month after fry registration in the case of shrimp products). The maximum levels of specified metals in the Schedule of the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) will serve as reference values. If the initial heavy metal contents of the aquatic products exceed the reference values in the mid-term testing, regular testing must be carried out to ensure that the aquatic products meet the statutory standards at the time of sale. The AFCD will issue a verbal warning to the farm

concerned, conduct investigation and provide advice on how to improve its mode of operation so as to prevent further increase in heavy metal levels in the aquatic products.

- 2.6.2 This mechanism does not apply to hairy crabs. Mid-term testing for hairy crab farming will be conducted according to paragraphs A15 to A19 of **Enclosure 1**. The AFCD will increase the test items for aquatic products in the mid-term of rearing as necessary, including substances that may constitute potential food safety risks in aquatic products.

2.7 **Pre-Sale Testing of Cultured Aquatic Products**

- 2.7.1 Registered farms must notify the AFCD no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days before harvest or sale of the registered aquatic products; otherwise, the AFCD may not have sufficient time to complete the tests for the aquatic products, and the farm may not be able to sell the aquatic products under the AFFS brand. The harvest of hairy crabs must also comply with the requirements set out in paragraphs 17 to 26 of **Enclosure 1**. The AFCD will collect samples from the farms for final testing. Sampling criteria are as follows:

Aquatic Product	Quantity	Sampling Criteria
Fish	1*	Approximately 1 catty (600g) in whole piece (edible portion after boning must be 300g or more)
Shrimp	1 catty	Approximately 1 catty (600g) with shell (edible portion after shelling must be 300g or more)
Crustaceans (e.g. crab [#] , lobster)	5	Approximately 1 catty (600g) with shell (edible portion after shelling must be 300g or more)
Shellfish	3 kg	Approximately (3 kg) with shell (edible portion after shelling must be 300g or more)

* For freshwater fish, one more sample (approximately 1 catty in whole piece) is required for off-flavour test.

[#] Not applicable to hairy crabs

- 2.7.2 The actual sample size will be subject to the number of samples required by the laboratory for the various tests. Each batch of aquatic products shall only be sold under the AFFS brand after passing the tests.
- 2.7.3 The farm must submit a complete medication record for the entire rearing period at the time of sampling. After sampling for final testing, the farm shall not use any drugs and feed additives, including those listed in paragraph 3.2.2 of this manual, unless otherwise agreed by the AFCD.
- 2.7.4 Passing the tests means that the test results of the aquatic product samples meet the various quality standards set out by the AFFS. Details can be found in **Enclosure 4**. For example, drug residue levels must not exceed the standards specified in the Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 and its amendments; the levels of malachite green and heavy metals must comply with the standards of the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) and the Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V) of the Laws of Hong Kong; freshwater fish products must pass the off-flavour test for quality assurance. If the test results of aquatic products are found to exceed the aforementioned standards, the AFCD will notify the farm to postpone the sale of aquatic products and will collect samples for testing again until the test results meet the standards before the aquatic products can be sold. For hairy crabs, in addition to passing the food safety tests specified in this manual, additional requirements set out in **Enclosure 1** must also be complied with.
- 2.7.5 No less than 14 days and no more than 30 days before the sale of aquatic products, the AFCD officers will go to the farm to collect aquaculture water samples for bacterial testing. Each seawater sample and each freshwater sample from individual pond/pool is approximately 300 ml. For seawater samples, the *E. coli* level must be less than 610 colony-forming units (cfu) per 100 ml and must not contain pathogenic *Vibrio cholerae* O1 or O139; for pond/pool water samples, the *E. coli* level must be less than 1 000 cfu per 100 ml and must not contain pathogenic *Vibrio cholerae* O1 or O139.
- 2.7.6 The AFCD will increase the test items and adjust the testing standards as necessary according to risk assessment and actual conditions.
- 2.7.7 Based on the test results or the drugs and feed additives used by the farm after sampling, the AFCD has the right to require the farm to postpone the sale of aquatic products and collect samples for testing again. If food

safety problems that cannot be reversed in a short period of time are detected, the farm must destroy the relevant batch of aquatic products.

- 2.7.8 After full compliance of the aquatic products with the accreditation requirements of the AFFS is recognised, the AFCD will issue a Certificate of Aquatic Product (Certificate), which is valid for 60 days. Non-frozen aquatic products can be sold within the validity period of the Certificate and can be tagged with the AFFS traceable QR code for identification. Aquatic products to be frozen must complete the freezing treatment within the validity period of the Certificate and can be tagged with the AFFS traceable QR code for identification.
- 2.7.9 The AFCD will release the information of the aquatic products that are issued with a Certificate and can be sold under the AFFS brand, as well as the information of their farms, to the FMO, and may issue copies of the Certificate at the request of the fish farmers. Fish farmers shall not display their Certificate to others, distributors, retailers, etc. without the authorisation of the AFCD. If fish farmers wish to display copies of the Certificate or the Certificate of Accredited Fish Farm at the farm, retail outlets, online or through other channels for any purpose, they must apply to the AFCD in writing, but final decisions rest with the AFCD.
- 2.7.10 Details of the aquatic fry registration and quality assurance systems are set out in **Enclosure 3**.

2.8 **Processing Requirements and Quality Inspection of Aquaculture Products**

- 2.8.1 Aquaculture products that need to be frozen and tagged with the AFFS traceable QR code for sale under the name of the AFFS must be processed in a factory holding a valid food factory licence issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Except for crustaceans and bivalve molluscs, other aquatic products must have their scales and internal organs removed during processing and be vacuum-packed for frozen storage.
- 2.8.2 The package of frozen aquatic products must clearly indicate the “processing date” or “packing date”, and the “best-before date” or “use-by date”.
- 2.8.3 The AFFS traceable QR code tags must be clearly displayed on the product package for easy scanning.

Chapter 3 Farm Management





For good aquaculture management practices, please refer to the booklets listed in **Enclosure 5**. Farms joining the AFFS must comply with the following requirements:

3.1 Operation and Hygiene of Farms

- 3.1.1 Newly purchased aquatic fry must be inspected by the AFCD and must be raised separately from the existing aquatic products in the farm for the first 30 days.
- 3.1.2 Feed containers must be washed daily and other fishing gear must be disinfected at least once a week in order to keep them clean.
- 3.1.3 Fish paste should not be used as feed except during feed transition for fingerlings.
- 3.1.4 The health of aquatic products must be monitored regularly. Any aquatic products exhibiting signs of disease must be isolated.
- 3.1.5 Farms must be equipped with facilities (such as covered collection bins) for disposal of aquatic product carcasses. The carcasses of aquatic products must be applied with bleaching powder and wrapped in plastic bags for proper disposal.

3.2 Medication Guidelines

- 3.2.1 Except for the drugs and feed additives listed in paragraph 3.2.2, all drugs or feed additives may only be used under the supervision of the AFCD or a registered veterinary surgeon.
- 3.2.2 Farms may use the following drugs and feed additives on their own, provided that all records of use of drugs and feed additives are kept and specific codes of practice on the use of drugs and feed additives (if applicable) are complied with.

	Drug/Feed Additive	Code of Practice
Vitamins		Not applicable
Garlicin		Not applicable
Hydrogen peroxide		Please refer to the Booklet “Good Aquaculture Practice Series 4 – Prevention and Treatment of Fish Diseases” listed in Enclosure 5
Formaldehyde solution		Please refer to the Booklet “Good Aquaculture Practice Series 4 – Prevention and Treatment of Fish Diseases” listed in Enclosure 5

- 3.2.3 Farms must maintain an inventory record of drugs and feed additives.
- 3.2.4 Various drugs and feed additives must be kept in covered containers separately, and stored in a cool and locked cabinet.
- 3.2.5 Farms must keep all records of use of drugs and feed additives and submit the relevant records during inspections by the AFCD officers.
- 3.2.6 The AFCD will regularly update and include the latest drug information. If in doubt, please contact the AFCD before using any medication.

3.3 **Farm Operational Record**

- 3.3.1 Farm operators must properly manage their farms, and complete and maintain the farm operational records in the format specified, or in the manner (such as a specified electronic format) approved in advance, by the AFCD. The content mainly includes the quantities of aquatic fry purchased and cultured aquatic products sold, feeding records, the health status of aquatic products, medication records, and health inspection records. Farms must submit the relevant operational records during inspections by the AFCD officers.

Chapter 4 Sales Through the AFFS Brand

4.1 **Use of the AFFS Trademark**

- 4.1.1 The AFFS trademark (registered trademark) is an important logo for brand identification, effectively enhancing consumer confidence in the branded products. The scope of use of the registered trademark includes, but not limited to, promotional activities, publicity materials, product packaging, store displays and website displays. Scheme participants who wish to use the registered trademark must first submit an Application for Authorisation to Use the Registered Trademark of the AFFS, specifying the manner, location, etc. of use of the registered trademark, to the AFCD for consideration. Retail points or stores must clearly label AFFS and non-AFFS aquatic products for easy identification by consumers. The right of use of the registered trademark is subject to a maximum period of one year. Before the expiration of the authorisation period, the applicant may submit a renewal application, but final decisions rest with the AFCD.
- 4.1.2 The AFCD will inspect the utilisation of the AFFS registered trademark from time to time. If non-compliance is found, the AFCD has the right to revoke the authorisation and require the violator to stop using the registered trademark immediately.

4.2 **Use of Fish Tags with QR code for Accredited Fish Farms**

- 4.2.1 Each batch of aquatic products that meets the requirements of the AFFS will be assigned a unique QR code. All aquatic products sold under the AFFS brand must bear a fish tag with the QR code on the package. Fish farmers must order fish tags from the AFCD and specify the information of the relevant batch and the quantity of fish tags needed when placing the order. The quantity of fish tags ordered must not exceed the actual quantity of aquatic products in the batch. The AFCD will inspect the utilisation of QR code tags.
- 4.2.2 If non-compliance is found, the AFCD has the right to revoke the Certificate and QR code tags issued for the batch of aquatic products, and require the fish farmer concerned to stop using the tags immediately.

4.3 **Store Inspections**

- 4.3.1 The AFCD will conduct regular inspections of retail stores participating in the AFFS to check whether the display of registered trademark is authorised and the QR code tags are used properly, and whether the information on the QR code tags is in line with the batch of products. If non-compliant products are found, the AFCD will require the store to remove the relevant products from shelves and notify the fish farmers for rectification. For suspected violations, the AFCD reserves the right to further investigate and handle the cases.
- 4.3.2 The AFCD will conduct regular inspections at retail outlets selling products under the AFFS and take random samples of aquatic products tagged with the AFFS traceable QR code for sale under the name of the AFFS for various quality tests (see **Enclosure 4** for details). If the test results fail to meet the standards, the AFCD may require the relevant fish farm to withdraw and recall the batch of aquatic products, and may also issue a warning to the fish farm.

Chapter 5 Technical Support

5.1 Farms are welcome to call the following sections of the AFCD for free information and technical services:

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Telephone
Inland Culture and Technical Services Division	
Inland Culture Development Section ² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides technical assistance and conducts aquaculture trials for inland aquaculture farmers, and collects aquaculture data and conducts statistical surveys for the aquaculture industry 	2471 9142
Mariculture and Special Projects Division	
Mariculture Development Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides technical assistance and conducts aquaculture trials for mariculture farmers Fish disease diagnosis Implements the Fish Health Monitoring Programme 	2150 7083 / 2150 7088
Aquaculture Environment Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for the red tide monitoring and management programme Monitors water quality in aquaculture areas regularly, conducts special water quality monitoring in aquaculture areas affected by development projects, conducts investigations in response to fish death reports or water quality anomaly complaints in aquaculture areas received 	3468 3714 / 9166 3472
Accreditation and Laboratory Service Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides accreditation and laboratory support services, including the administration of the AFFS Implements the monitoring programme on antibiotic usage and antimicrobial resistance in local fish farms 	3426 2298
Special Projects Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage and provide technical support to oyster culture activities in Deep Bay 	2150 7084

Enclosure 1

**Accredited Fish Farm Scheme -
Additional Requirements for Hairy Crab Farming**

In addition to the requirements listed in this manual, farms cultivating hairy crabs under the AFFS must also comply with the following additional requirements:

Farm Registration

- A1. A farm must comply with the Technical Specifications for Green Food Chinese Mitten Crab Farming (Technical Specifications) (NY/T 5065-2001), the agricultural industry standards promulgated by the People's Republic of China, in particular Section 6 on the major farming conditions for the cultivation of adult crabs.
- A2. The water quality of the farm must be suitable for hairy crab farming and the key water quality indicators include but not limited to:
 - i. Dissolved oxygen level above 5 mg/l
 - ii. pH value 7.0 - 9.0
- A3. The farm must install appropriate facilities to prevent the hairy crab from escaping. Any defective parts of the facilities must be repaired promptly.
- A4. For the farming of hairy crabs in a fish pond, the growth of aquatic plants in one-third of the pond area is required. For the farming of hairy crabs in a farm other than a fish pond, suitable habitats for hairy crabs must be provided within the farm.
- A5. The AFCD will collect water and soil samples from hairy crab farming pond to test for dioxin levels. If dioxin levels in environmental samples exceed normal levels, the AFCD will notify the farm, collect samples for tests again, conduct investigation, and provide advice to help the crab farmer concerned to adjust its operational practices until the test results meet the criteria to reduce further accumulation of dioxins in hairy crabs. The actual sample size will be subject to the number of samples required by the laboratory for the various tests.
- A6. If the farm fails to meet the aforementioned basic farming conditions, it will not be eligible to participate in the AFFS, and its registration application will not be considered.

Hairy Crab Fry Registration System

- A7. The stocking of an excessive quantity of hairy crab fry should be avoided to maintain a reasonable level of stocking density. According to the Technical Specifications, the recommended stocking density is 5 000 to 9 000 crabs per 10 000 square metres. The actual quantity of fry released may vary according to individual farming environments; however, in general, the stocking density should not exceed 30 000 crabs per 10 000 square metres.
- A8. The farm must complete the fry registration with the AFCD at least **7 days** before stocking hairy crab fry and provide the following information:
- i. Size and quantity of crab fry; and
 - ii. Information about the crab fry supplying farms and exporters (including their name and address, and registration/filing information with the relevant authorities (if applicable)).
- A9. The farm must provide the AFCD with the following information at least **48 hours** before stocking hairy crab fry:
- i. Exact date and time of stocking of crab fry;
 - ii. Name and contact method of the person in charge of the stocking of fry; and
 - iii. A copy of the health certificate including dioxin testing or a dioxin testing report from an accredited laboratory.

If the crab farmer fails to provide a copy of the health certificate or a dioxin testing report from an accredited laboratory, the AFCD will not recognise the batch of stocked crab fry. Hairy crab fry without registration or recognition will not be accredited after maturing and shall not be sold under the AFFS brand.

- A10. The stocking of fry must be video-recorded. The video recording must clearly show the stocking time and location, and the quantity of fry stocked, and must be delivered to the AFCD on the next working day after stocking.
- A11. The AFCD has the right to deploy its staff to inspect the stocking of fry and collect detailed statistical data without prior notice.

- A12. If, during inspection, the AFCD officers find discrepancies between the fry being stocked and the information previously provided, the batch of stocked crab fry will not be recognised. Hairy crab fry not registered or recognised will not be accredited after maturing and shall not be sold under the AFFS brand. The AFCD will require the farm to explain any discrepancies between the fry stocked and the information provided. If the farm cannot provide a reasonable explanation to the satisfaction of the AFCD, the AFCD may consider deregistering the farm. Deregistered farms shall not re-register to join the AFFS within one year.
- A13. The arrangements for post-registration of fry outlined in paragraph 2.3.4 of this manual do not apply to hairy crab farming.
- A14. If hairy crab fry are not registered as required with the AFCD or have not been confirmed as successfully registered, they will not be accredited or issued with the Certificate after maturing, and shall not be sold under the AFFS brand.

Rearing Period of Hairy Crab Fry

- A15. Hairy crab fry must be reared in registered farms for no less than 180 days.
- A16. If hairy crab fry are stocked more than once in the same inseparable body of water, the rearing period for all fry in that body of water will be calculated from the time of the last stocking.
- A17. Fry that do not meet the above rearing period requirements will not be accredited or issued with a Certificate after maturing, and shall not be sold under the AFFS brand.
- A18. During the hairy crab rearing period, the AFCD staff will be deployed to inspect the farm and measure the growth rates of the crab fry as well as closely monitor their health status and environmental conditions. The inspection will be video-recorded, clearly recording the collection of hairy crab samples for inspection.
- A19. In the middle of the rearing period, the AFCD will collect samples of hairy crabs (not exceeding 2 kg) for dioxin and heavy metal content testing. The actual sample size will be subject to the number of samples required by the laboratory for the various tests. The standards/action levels for the test items of hairy crabs set by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and/or Centre for Food Safety (CFS) will be used as reference values. If the dioxin content exceeds the reference value in the mid-term testing, regular testing must be conducted to ensure that the hairy crabs meet the statutory standards of Hong Kong at the time of sale.

Food Safety Standards

- A20. In addition to the food safety tests specified in this manual, the AFCD may conduct additional food safety tests on hairy crabs in response to requests from the FEHD and/or CFS or other food safety risk factors. The test items for hairy crabs and the relevant standards/action levels set by the FEHD and/or CFS are at Appendix 1 to **Enclosure 1**. The AFCD officers will collect approximately 12 kg of hairy crab samples for testing. The actual sample size will be subject to the number of samples required by the laboratory for the various tests.
- A21. Hairy crabs that fail any food safety tests will not be accredited or issued with the Certificate, and shall not be sold under the AFFS brand.

Inventory and Batch Management

- A22. The AFCD will estimate the production volume of hairy crabs based on the registered and recognised quantity of stocked fry and ongoing monitoring data collected from the farm. After all food safety tests have been passed, if there are no violations of other certification conditions, a Certificate will be issued, which will state the estimated hairy crab production volume.
- A23. The farm may order QR code tags from the AFCD or FMO based on the registered hairy crab production volume of the relevant batch stated on the Certificate. The QR code tags are only applicable to the batch of hairy crabs specified on the corresponding Certificate. Each QR code tag is only applicable to one hairy crab.
- A24. The farm must obtain a Certificate issued by the AFCD before harvest of hairy crabs for the purpose of sale. Under special circumstances where the farm needs to harvest hairy crabs for purposes other than sale, prior permission from the AFCD is required. The actual quantity and detailed inventory record of hairy crabs harvested for purposes other than sale must be provided to the AFCD. The AFCD will deduct the corresponding quantity from the hairy crab stock volume of the farm.
- A25. According to the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), farms must apply on their own for Shell Fish (Hairy Crab) Permit (Permit) from the FEHD before selling hairy crabs. They may only sell hairy crabs within the valid period of the Permit. Please refer to the relevant guidelines published by the FEHD for the requirements pertaining to the application for and use of the Permit.

- A26. Farms must notify the AFCD at least **3 days** before harvest of the exact date and time of the harvest, as well as the name and contact method of the person in charge of the harvest. The AFCD has the right to deploy its staff to inspect the harvest and collect detailed statistical data without prior notice.
- A27. The harvest of hairy crabs must be video-recorded. The video recording must clearly show the harvest time and location, and the quantity of hairy crabs harvested, and must be submitted to the AFCD within the next working day after harvest.
- A28. If a farm does not notify the AFCD before harvest or does not harvest according to the notified date and time, the AFCD will immediately cancel the Certificate for that batch of hairy crabs. Hairy crabs within the same body of water will not be accredited or issued with the Certificate, and shall not be sold under the AFFS brand. If the farm cannot provide a reasonable explanation to the satisfaction of the AFCD, the AFCD will consider deregistering the farm. Deregistered farms shall not re-register to join the AFFS within one year.
- A29. Unless otherwise agreed by the AFCD, the registration of stocked fry will automatically expire 365 days after stocking. The AFCD will not conduct food safety tests on crabs grown from fry with an expired registration. These crabs will not be accredited or issued with the Certificate, and shall not be sold under the AFFS brand.
- A30. The AFCD reserves the rights to change the registered quantity of the relevant batch of hairy crabs or cancel the Certificates based on the actual circumstances (e.g. after the Certificate has been issued, there is a sudden change in the water quality leading to a massive death of hairy crabs or an improper use of drugs on hairy crabs by the farm before harvest).

Appendix 1 to Enclosure 1

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and/or Centre for Food Safety

Test Items and Standards/Action Levels for Hairy Crabs

Test Item	Standard/Action Level
Dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (DL-PCBs)	Action level (total content of dioxins and DL-PCBs not to exceed 6.5 picograms of toxic equivalent (TEQ) per gram of food sample (wet weight))
Colouring matter	Colouring Matter in Food Regulations (Cap. 132H)
Veterinary drug residues, artificial hormones	Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF)
Pesticide residues	Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM)
Metallic contamination	Food Adulteration (Metallic Contamination) Regulations (Cap. 132V)

Enclosure 2

Procedures for Farm Registration and Deregistration

1. Farm Registration

1.1 Applicants for the AFFS, must:

1.1.1 submit the duly completed AFFS application form, AFFS (Agent) application form and consent form for information disclosure (applicants may download the forms from the AFFS website (www.hkaffs.org) or complete and submit the electronic forms).

1.1.2 present their Hong Kong Identity Card, Business Registration Certificate (if applicable), marine fish culture licence, and proof of correspondence address for verification.

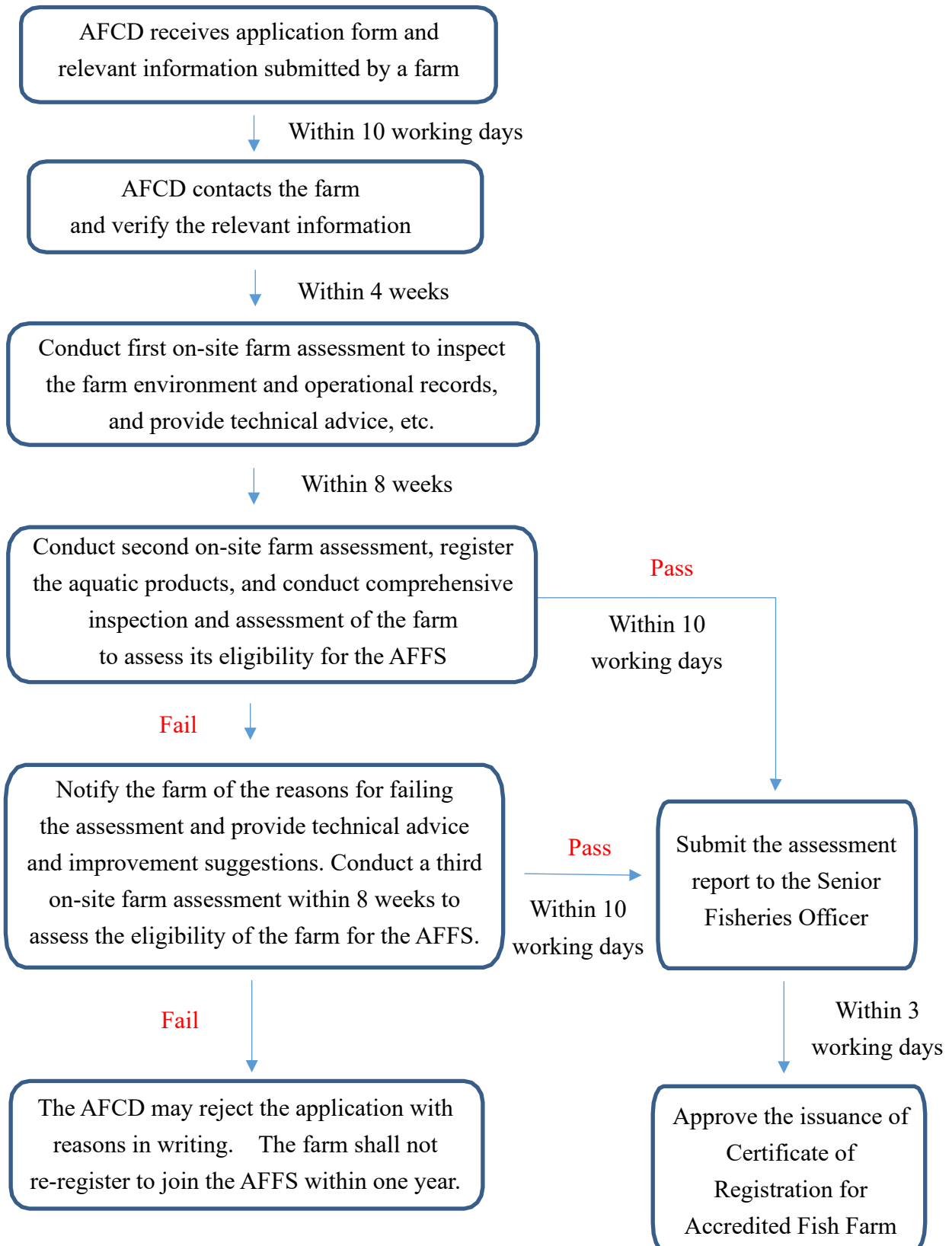
1.2 The AFCD will contact the farm within 10 working days upon receipt of the application and collect and verify the relevant information for processing the application. The AFCD will provide a briefing on the AFFS for the applicant and arrange at least two on-site farm assessments. The farm must pass the assessments and meet the requirements on farm operation and hygiene laid down in paragraph 3.1 of this manual before they are confirmed to be successfully registered as accredited fish farms.

1.3 The AFCD will arrange the first on-site assessment within 4 weeks after verification of the information. The AFCD will conduct a preliminary inspection and assessment of the farm's condition, record aquatic product information, and provide technical advice and improvement suggestions (if applicable). The farm must implement the improvements in order to meet the eligibility criteria for the AFFS.

1.4 A second on-site assessment will be conducted within 8 weeks of the first on-site assessment. During the second on-site assessment, the AFCD will register the aquatic products and conduct comprehensive inspection and assessment of the farm. Please refer to the part on Aquatic Fry Registration System in Chapter 2 for details.

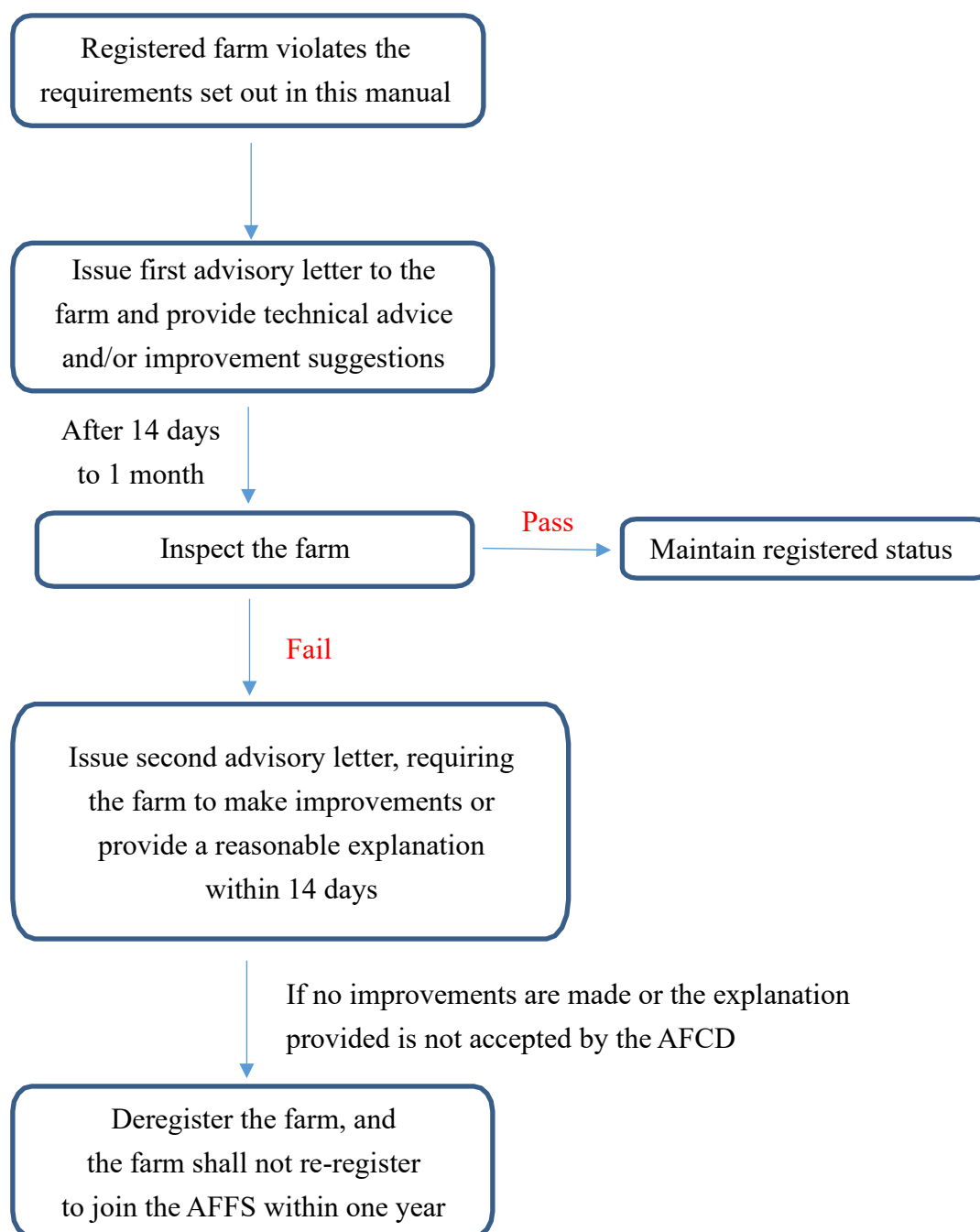
1.5 Within 10 working days of the second on-site assessment, an assessment report will be submitted to Senior Fisheries Officer for consideration of the application. If the application is approved, the AFCD will issue a Certificate of Registration for Accredited Fish Farm within 3 working days.

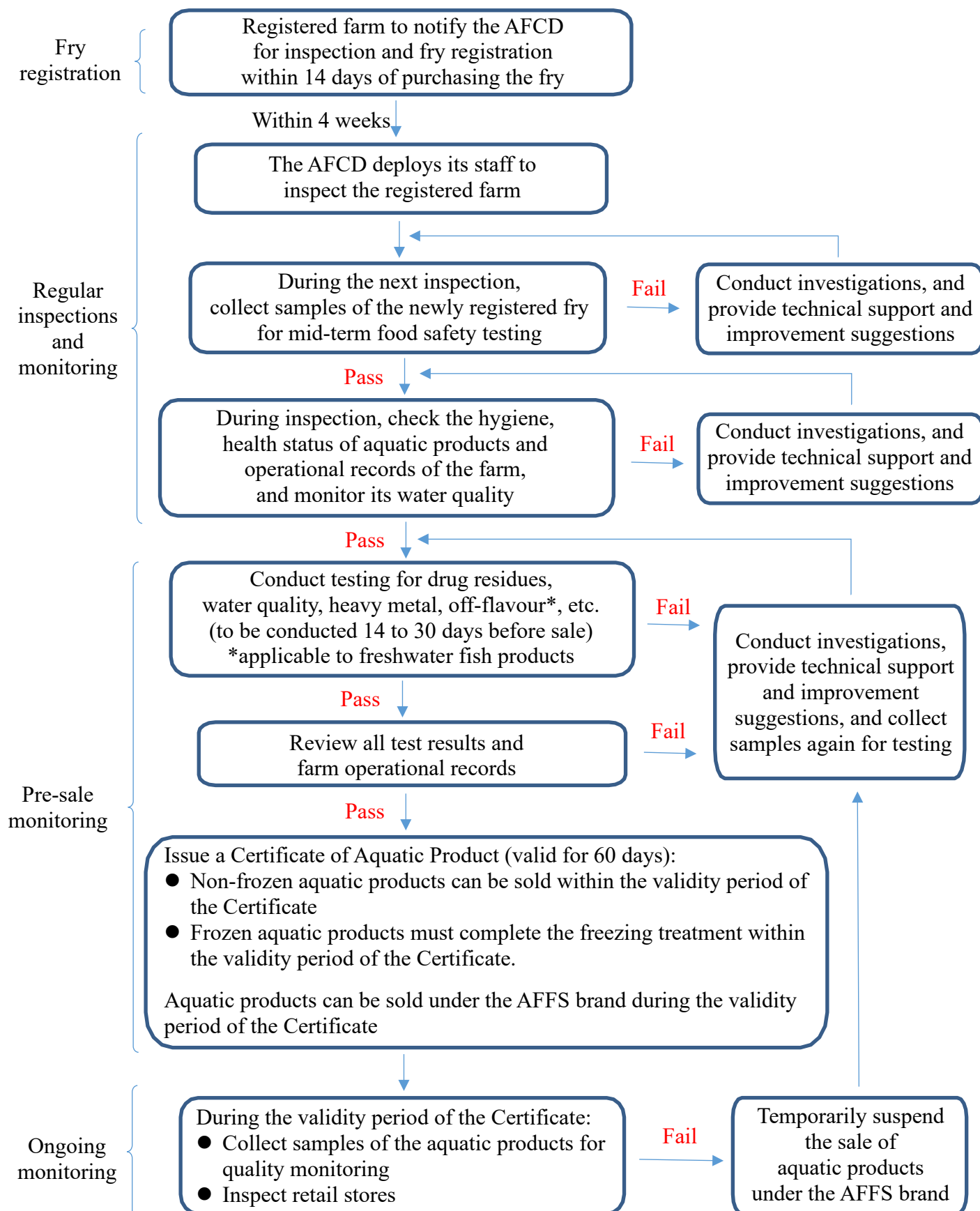
- 1.6 If the farm fails to implement the improvements or fails to meet the requirements on farm operation and hygiene laid down in paragraph 3.1 of this manual during the second on-site assessment, the AFCD will conduct a third on-site assessment within 8 weeks of the second on-site assessment.
- 1.7 Within 10 working days of the third on-site assessment, an assessment report will be submitted to Senior Fisheries Officer for consideration of the application. If the application is approved, the AFCD will issue a Certificate of Registration for Accredited Fish Farm within 3 working days. If the farm still fails to implement the improvements or fails to meet the requirements on farm operation and hygiene laid down in paragraph 3.1 of this manual after the third on-site assessment, the AFCD may reject the application with reasons in writing.

Figure 1: Flow Chart of Farm Registration

2. Farm Deregistration

Figure 2: Flow Chart of Farm Deregistration



Enclosure 3**Aquatic Fry Registration and Quality Assurance Systems**

Enclosure 4**Quality Test Items and Standards****1. Heavy Metals**

Test Item	Food	Maximum Level (mg/kg)
Antimony	Fish	1
	Crabs, prawns and shrimps	1
	Oysters	1
Arsenic (inorganic arsenic)	Aquatic animals (excluding fish)	0.5
	Fish	0.1
Cadmium	Fish	0.1
	Crustaceans	2
	Bivalve molluscs	2
Chromium	Fish	1
	Crabs, prawns and shrimps	1
	Oysters	1
Lead	Fish	0.3
	Crustaceans	0.5
	Bivalve molluscs	1.5
Mercury (methylmercury)	Fish	0.5
Mercury (total mercury)	Aquatic animals (excluding fish)	0.5

2. Harmful Substances and Others

Test Item	Maximum Level
<i>Microbes</i>	
<i>E. coli</i> in freshwater	1 000 colony forming units (cfu) per 100 ml
<i>E. coli</i> in seawater	610 cfu per 100 ml
Pathogenic <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> O1 or O139 in seawater or freshwater	Absent
<i>Drug Residues</i>	
Alpha-cypermethrin	50 µg per kg
Amoxicillin	50 µg per kg
Ampicillin	50 µg per kg

Test Item	Maximum Level
Benzylpenicillin	50 µg per kg
Chloramphenicol	0 µg per kg
Chlortetracycline	100 µg per kg
Cloxacillin	300 µg per kg
Cypermethrin	50 µg per kg
Danofloxacin	100 µg per kg
Deltamethrin	30 µg per kg
Dicloxacillin	300 µg per kg
Difloxacin	300 µg per kg
Doxycycline	100 µg per kg
Enrofloxacin	100 µg per kg
Erythromycin	200 µg per kg
Florfenicol	1 000 µg per kg
Flumequine	500 µg per kg
Furaltadone (nitrofurantoin metabolites)	0 µg per kg
Furazolidone (nitrofurantoin metabolites)	0 µg per kg
Lincomycin	100 µg per kg
Malachite Green (Total of malachite green and leucomalachite green)	0 µg per kg
Neomycin	500 µg per kg
Oxacillin	300 µg per kg
Oxolinic acid	100 µg per kg
Oxytetracycline	100 µg per kg
Procaine benzylpenicillin	50 µg per kg
Sarafloxacin	10 µg per kg
Sulfonamides	100 µg per kg
Tetracycline	100 µg per kg
Thiamphenicol	50 µg per kg
Trimethoprim	50 µg per kg
<i>Pesticide Residues</i>	
DDT	500 µg per kg
HCH	100 µg per kg
<i>Off-flavour Test (applicable to freshwater fish products)</i>	
2-Methylisoborneol	1.31 µg per kg
Geosmin	3.38 µg per kg

Test Item	Maximum Level
<i>Biotoxins (applicable to bivalve products)</i>	
Paralytic Shellfish Toxin	800 µg per kg
Diarrhoetic Shellfish Toxin	160 µg per kg
Amnesic shellfish Toxin	20 mg per kg
Neurotoxic Shellfish Toxin	800 µg per kg
Azasouracid Shellfish Toxin	160 µg per kg
Yessotoxin	3.75 µg per kg

Enclosure 5

Booklets on Good Aquaculture Management Practices

Fish farmers can visit the AFCD website (<https://www.afcd.gov.hk>) or scan the QR code to download the Good Aquaculture Management Practices booklet series.

