



MARKET ACCESS ADVICE

Attention: All Exporters of Seafood and Seafood Products

Re: Changes to Health Certification for Exports to the European Union and Switzerland

As previously advised in my letter of 29 March 2007, new health certification requirements for exports to the European Union (EU) will come into effect from 1 May 2007. These new health certification requirements will also apply to exports to Switzerland. Consignments exported to Switzerland must meet all requirements for eligibility for export to the EU.

Although the new health certificates will appear different from the current health certificates, there will be only minor changes to the information that exporters are required to provide when raising documentation. From 1 May 2007 exporters raising documentation for consignments destined for the EU or Switzerland will be required to provide a supplementary code that identifies whether the exported product is of aquaculture origin or wild-caught and whether it is live product. The new supplementary codes are:

AQ	Aquaculture
LA	Live Aquaculture
WO	Wild Origin
LW	Live Wild Origin

If from 1 May 2007 exporters have difficulty locating the relevant data field for the new supplementary codes they should contact their software provider for clarification. From 1 May 2007 failure to enter a valid supplementary code will result in an error and inability to lodge the certificate.

As indicated in my letter of 29 March 2007 we recommend that, where possible, exports (especially airfreight consignments) not be sent to the EU on 1 May 2007 in case there are issues that need to be resolved immediately after the introduction of the new certificates.

We are advised by the European Commission that the current health certification will continue to be accepted for consignments arriving in the EU before 30 June 2007 providing the health certificate is completed and signed prior to 1 May 2007. Accordingly, we don't expect any problems with the entry of product already on the water and arriving between 1 May and 30 June 2007. However, we would be grateful for advice from industry of any consignments that are anticipated to arrive in the EU after 30 June 2007 on the current health certificate format and, as always, we will aim to assist where ever possible.

If you have any queries regarding this issue, please contact Murli Baker-Gabb in the AQIS Fish Exports Program (phone: 02 6272 4132, email: murli.baker-gabb@aqis.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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