



MARKET ACCESS ADVICE

Attention: All Exporters of Seafood and Seafood Products to the European Union

Re: New Health Certification for Export to the European Union

Further to my advice of 29 March 2007, 17 April 2007 and 11 May 2007, new European Union (EU) health certificates are now in production. As foreshadowed in earlier correspondence, there have been some minor bedding-in difficulties with the new certification. In order to minimise potential problems, please note the following:

Bivalve molluscs

For all bivalve molluscs, the EU requires the harvest area and harvest area code to appear on the health certificate. Due to the health certificate format required by the EU, only one harvest area and one harvest area code can appear on any given health certificate. Products that do not require the harvest area to appear on the health certificate cannot be certified on the same certificate as bivalve molluscs, which do require a harvest area. These rules affect all bivalve mollusc exports to the EU. Live, chilled and frozen product is all affected. Examples of how to package product and request certification are provided:

Example 1

The consignment consists of bivalve molluscs from harvest area A. The RFP should be completed as usual with the harvest area included. The harvest area will print in the required location on the health certificate.

Example 2

The consignment consists of bivalve molluscs from harvest area A and harvest area B. If the consignment is packed such that any given box contains only product from area A or only from area B, then two RFPs must be completed and two health certificates will be issued, one for product from area A and one for product from area B. If the consignment is packed such that a given box contains product from both area A and area B it cannot be certified in such a way that meets the EU requirements and so cannot be exported to the EU.

Example 3

The consignment consists of bivalve molluscs from harvest area A (eg muscles) and another product that does not require harvest area information (eg finfish). If the consignment is packed such that any given box contains only muscles or only finfish, then two RFPs must be completed and two health certificates will be issued, one for the muscles from area A and one for the finfish that does not require the harvest area. If the consignment is packed such that a given box contains a mixture of muscles and finfish it cannot be certified in such a way that meets the EU requirements and so cannot be exported to the EU.

Should you require further information in relation to this issue, please contact Murli Baker-Gabb of the AQIS Fish Exports Program in Canberra (email: murli.baker-gabb@aqis.gov.au, phone: 02 6272 4132)

Yours sincerely

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