

To: Interested Parties

14 February 2008

Reference: FIN 01/2008

Dear Sir or Madam

POTENTIAL EU COMMISSION LEGISLATION REGARDING IMPORTED FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM GABON, URUGUAY, FIJI AND ALL PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN FROM CHINA

At the last meeting of the EU Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH), a number of issues were discussed and it is likely that action will be taken shortly by the EU to deal with them. The purpose of this letter is to alert interested parties to the following proposals.

a) Fishery Products from Gabon.

Following a Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission to Gabon, where deficiencies were recorded, it is proposed that a Commission Regulation will be introduced for all fishery products entering the EU from Gabon. This is likely to mean that 100% of consignments will have to be tested for heavy metals, as well as sulphites

b) Amendment to the list of all fish processing establishments in Uruguay.

A mission by the FVO was undertaken in Uruguay and, as a result, changes will be made to the list of approved fishery products establishments and some will be removed from the approved list. The Agency is not yet aware which establishments are affected.

c) Proposal for a Commission Regulation to de-list Fiji.

The FVO recently carried out a mission to Fiji regarding controls on fishery products. Major deficiencies were identified. A draft Decision therefore removes Fiji from the approved list of third countries for exports of fishery products (List II). Technical assistance will be provided to the Fijian Government to help them regain their status. BIPs will be asked to conduct 100% physical checks on consignments of fishery products, until the Decision comes into effect.

d) Proposal for a Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 2002/994/EC concerning certain protective measures with regard to the products of animal origin imported from China.

The draft Decision adds Malachite Green and Crystal Violet to the contaminants for pre-export analysis. China has the ability to check for these contaminants. However, consignments tested in the transitional period should be held at the port until the result is received. The Decision is expected to come into force on 15 March 2008.

The advice contained in this letter should not be taken as an authoritative statement of the law or its interpretation. The opinion of your Home Authority or other enforcement authorities may differ. Only the courts can decide whether in particular circumstances an offence has been committed.

If you need any more information let me know. The Agency has an imports section on its website that can be found at www.food.gov.uk/imports

Yours sincerely

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