

To: Interested Parties

10 May 2007

Reference: FSH 082

Dear Sir or Madam

### **Identification Marking of Third Country Imports of Fishery Products.**

You may be aware that from the 1 May 2007 amendments to the EU hygiene legislation with regard to imports of fishery products and bivalve molluscs will take effect. These amendments are summarised in our Fishery Information Note FIN 05/2006, which is located on our 'Importing Fishery Products and Bivalves' web page at:

[http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/want\\_to\\_import/fisheryproducts/](http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/imports/want_to_import/fisheryproducts/)

These amendments require changes to our previous advice on identification marking (health marks) for third country consignments of fishery products is formulated. So to accommodate this we are providing below the updated FSA advice to industry and trade. This letter will therefore be published with the other FINs on our 'Importing fishery products and Bivalves' web page (see link above).

### **The Requirements For Identification Marking Of Consignments Of Fishery Products Entering The UK From Countries Outside European Union.**

1. Annex II of Regulation 853/2004, laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, stipulates that products of animal origin must have an identification mark consisting of the country of origin and the number of the approved establishment where those products were produced.

2. The mark must be legible and indelible and clearly displayed for the competent authorities to inspect.
3. Large packages or transport containers of fishery products, intended for further processing or packaging need only display the mark on the external surface or container.
4. Bulk consignments of fishery products, in liquid, granulate and powdered forms do not need an identification mark if the information that the mark presents is contained in accompanying documentation.
5. It is sufficient that fishery products placed in retail packages destined for direct supply to the final consumer need only have the identification mark on the exterior of each of those packages.

The Food Standards Agency take the view that the fifth requirement concerning retail packages does not negate the second requirement for marks to be displayed for the competent authority to inspect. Where large boxes or containers carry smaller retail packages we advise that the mark should therefore be accessible without invasive inspection.

If you have any questions on this letter please my colleagues in the Imported Food Division on their Imported Food Helpline,  
Tel: 0207 276 8018, Email: [imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

I hope you find the advice helpful, however, please note that it is not an authoritative statement of the law or its interpretation. The opinion of your Home Authority or other enforcement authorities may differ and only the courts can decide whether in a particular circumstance an offence has been committed.

Yours faithfully

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