

To: Interested Parties

Date: 30 October 2007

Reference: FIN 11/2007

Dear Sir or Madam

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1246/2007 – EXTENSION OF THE
TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FOR IMPORTING FISH OIL FROM THIRD COUNTRIES**

Under EU food hygiene legislation there is a requirement for fish oil from third countries to come from approved fishery products establishments. However a derogation was introduced last year to allow third countries time to comply with these new arrangements. Food business operators were therefore able to continue importing fish oil from any establishment previously approved for that purpose until 31 October 2007 – see FIN 09/2007 for further information.

I am writing to inform you that the derogation has been extended to 31 October 2008. Also, further to previous FIN letter FIN05_2007 the derogation for health certification has been similarly extended.

The Commission stated in the recitals to Regulation (EC) No 1246/2007 that as the importation of fish oil on the basis of the existing requirements does not pose any additional risk for human health, and in order to avoid any disruption in trade, it is appropriate to extend by one year the period of the derogation. Regulation (EC) No 1246/2007 was published in the Official Journal on 25 October 2007 and I attach a link here http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_281/l_28120071025en00210022.pdf

Please note this is a PDF file and you will need Adobe Acrobat to open it.

Fish oil consignments should only enter the UK at approved BIPs.

However please note that consignments of food supplements, packaged for the final consumer, containing small amounts of animal product such as fish oil are not subject to veterinary checks. This means that they do not have to enter the UK at a BIP or be accompanied by a health certificate.

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 further information please let me know. You may also be aware that we have an imports section on the Food Standards Agency's website and can be found at www.food.gov.uk/imports

Yours sincerely

Ian Grist
Imported Food Division