

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORT OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS

1. The consignment shall be accompanied by the original official Health certificate from the country of origin stating:

1.1 the scientific name (s) and common name(s) of the fish;

1.2 the date of issue and number of this import permit, the name of the importer, the name of the vessel/carrier and the net weight being shipped;

1.3 that the fish/fish products have been caught, handled, stored, transported, processed, and packaged under sanitary and hygienic standards as set out by Codex Alimentarius – General Principles of food hygiene and the Code of Practice for fish and fishery products (CAC/RCP 52-2003, Rev.2-2005);

1.4 that the fish/fish products have been stored, processed and packed in an establishment approved for export by the competent authority (Approval no. of establishment to be mentioned);

1.5.(i) that representative samples of the product(s) have been subjected to bacteriological analysis in an approved laboratory and the results obtained are within the following norms:

- a) Faecal coliforms less than 1 per gram
- b) Anaerobes less than 2 per gram
- c) *Staphylococcus aureus* in sea food except frozen fish - nil
- d) *Staphylococcus aureus* in frozen fish less than 100 per gram
- e) Total viable count at 30⁰C, less than 10⁶ per gram
- f) Absence of Salmonella and Vibrio organisms in 25 grams.

(ii) in the case of pelagic fish species such as tuna, becune (*Acanthocybium solandri*), dorade (*Coryphaena hippurus*) the histamine content shall be less than **100 ppm** for one sample, and the combined value of the two samples shall not exceed **200 ppm**.

(iii) the mercury content in fish species such as marlins, swordfish, and tuna like species shall not exceed **1 ppm**.

(iv) the total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) shall not exceed **25 mg** of N per 100 g of fish flesh.

1.6 that the products are free from parasites and viruses capable of causing infection in animals or man;

1.7 that the product is fit for human consumption;

2. If the Official Health Certificate does not conform to the above norms, landing of the fish / fish products shall not be allowed.

3. Any fish intended for human consumption shall be **guttled** unless it shall be used as bait, for processing or canning.

4. Only importers having approved chill or cold **storage facilities** shall be allowed to import chilled or frozen fish / fish products.

5. Chilled fish and fish products shall be maintained at a temperature as close as possible to the temperature of **melting ice (0⁰C)**.

6. Chilled fish and fish products shall be transported in **isothermic** vehicles and shall not be exposed to contaminated material during transportation.

7. Frozen / chilled fish fillet shall be properly packed and labelled as at para (12) and shall be presented with the **skin on**. However, fish fillets which are **pre-packed in the country of origin** for retail outlets may be **presented skinless**.

8. Frozen fish and fish products shall be maintained at a temperature of **-18°C or colder except brine frozen tuna** intended for canning which may be kept at a **temperature of – 9°C**.

9. Frozen fish and fish products shall be imported in **reefer containers** except brine frozen tuna intended for canning may be imported in bulk on board carrier vessels or purse seiners.

10. Frozen fish and fish products shall be transported in **refrigerated vehicles, except brine frozen tuna intended for canning** and shall not be exposed to contaminated materials during transportation.
11. For canned products, each tin shall be embossed or otherwise permanently **marked in code or in clear** to identify the producing factory, the date of production and the contents of the container. A decoding list for deciphering the embossed codes emanating from the canning factory shall be produced prior to effecting any imports. The list shall be endorsed by the competent authority of the originating country.
12. **All fish or fish products shall be properly packed and labelled to indicate: (a) the common name of the fish or fish product, (b) scientific name of fish or fish product as stated in the import permit, (c) country of origin, (d) the name of importer, (e) the import permit number issued by the Fisheries Division, (f) the name and address of the exporting establishment, (g) the date of manufacture/production/processing consisting of the day, month and year in uncoded chronological form, (h) date of expiry, (i) instruction on storage conditions, (j) the type of preparation/processing or specific treatment which it has undergone, (k) the net weight (g/kg), (l) percentage glazing in frozen fish, (m) the ingredients used, (n) the chemical and common name, EEC serial No and type of food additives used during preparation or processing, (o) type of packaging, and (p) the code number or batch number.**
13. The statement required to appear on the label shall be clear, prominent, indelible and **readily legible** by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use.
14. Only those fish and fish **products listed** on the import permit shall be imported. Should a fish or fish products derived from fish scheduled as toxic be found inadvertently in the consignment, the fish and fish products shall be seized and destroyed without any compensation.
15. Any fish or fish products shall be **authorized for entry** into Mauritius only after a joint inspection by officers of the Ministries of Health and Fisheries and analysis of appropriate samples if deemed necessary.
16. This permit may **be cancelled** without any compensation at any time in case of **disease outbreak** or suspicion of diseases in the country of export.
17. This office shall be informed at **least three days** in advance of the date and time of arrival of the consignment to enable clearance at the ports of disembarkation.
18. This permit **does not exempt** the importer to abide by other conditions imposed by Health or other authorities.
19. Should the need arise, any of the conditions above **may be modified** or new conditions added.
20. This permit is issued in respect of **one consignment** only and is valid for a period of **four months** as from the date of issue.
21. **If any of the conditions of this permit is contravened, the consignment may be forfeited without any compensation.**
22. This permit is issued subject to the payment of an import **fee of Rs. 2,000.**