



Dr Sergey Dankvert
Head of Federal Services
Rosselkhoz nadzor
Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance
Orlikov Pereulok 1/11
107139 MOSCOW
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Dear Dr Dankvert

I am writing to advise you of modifications to Australia's animal health certification requirements for the export of non-viable, non-salmonid finfish product for human consumption, as well as for bait and aquaculture feed purposes to Australia.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture (formally Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-DAFF) has been working to revise import animal health conditions for frozen non-salmonid fish and cephalopod species imported to Australia for bait and aquaculture feed purposes. This is a trade facilitatory measure to allow a range of 'low risk' species to be contained in a consignment. Our previous import animal health conditions only allowed consignments to contain a single species.

These modifications are consistent with the import policy arising from findings of the 1999 *Import Risk Analysis on Non-viable Salmonids and Non-salmonid Marine Finfish* (1999 IRA). The 1999 IRA, recognises the incidental take of non-targeted finfish species and cephalopods in the harvest of pelagic fisheries. The department has classified non-salmonid fish for import into 'specified' and 'non-specified' species based on the different biosecurity risk posed by each group. More stringent risk management measures are required for the 'specified' species. All non-salmonid finfish species not listed in the 'specified' species list are considered 'non-specified' species.

We have revised the certification requirements for importing the following commodities into Australia.

1. specified finfish for bait and aquaculture feed
2. specified finfish for human consumption
3. specified mixed species for bait and aquaculture feed
4. non-specified finfish for bait and aquaculture feed or human consumption
5. non-specified mixed species for bait and aquaculture feed.

We recommend that you amend the relevant health certificates for Russia to reflect Australia's revised health certificate requirements as attached. These revised conditions take effect immediately and it may be in your exporting industries interests to incorporate the revised conditions into Russia's current model health certificates as soon as practical.


Model certificates 1 and 2 apply to consignments that contain only 'specified' species. Model certificate 3 applies to consignments that contain 'specified' species, 'non-specified' species and cephalopods. Model certificate 4 applies to consignments with 'non-specified' species only, and model certificate 5 applies to consignments with 'non-specified' species and cephalopods. Please note that, as 'specified' finfish species, only species of *Sardinops*, *Scomber*, *Clupea* and *Sprattus* can be imported using model certificates 1 and 3.

The current list of 'specified' finfish for import can be accessed from the Department of Agriculture website at; http://apps.daff.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp. From the home page, enter "Finfish - Specified finfish" in the 'Commodity' box and press return. Open either file with the title '*Finfish - Specified finfish*', regardless of source country or end-use. Please note that the department updates this list from time to time to reflect new scientific information in terms of the known susceptibility of fish species to disease agents of biosecurity concern and changes to the taxonomic classification of fish species.

As part of the revised certification requirements, we have also broadened the definition of "clean water" for purposes of washing as required in model health certificates 1, 2 and 3. "Clean water" in health attestation generally means potable water that is safe enough to be consumed by humans. However, if sufficient quantity of potable water is not available for washing fish (e.g. in a factory trawler), the use of disinfected seawater is acceptable.

I look forward to your assistance in amending the health certificates to meet Australia's revised import conditions in a timely manner to facilitate the ongoing trade in these products to Australia.

Yours sincerely



DR ANDREW CUPIT
Assistant Secretary
Animal Biosecurity

18 November 2013

Attachment . Health Certification Requirements for Specified and Non-Specified fish and Cephalopod Species.

1. Specified finfish for bait and aquaculture feed

Certification Requirements

Each consignment must be accompanied by consignment specific certification issued by the competent authority in the country of export stating:

- a) the identification of fish species (scientific name) that are contained in the consignment;
- b) that the fish were wild caught and not grown or harvested in an aquaculture system at any stage;
- c) that the consignment does not contain fish species other than those identified in (a) above;
- d) that the fish were processed in premises (including vessels/refrigerated warehouses) approved by and under the control of the competent authority;
- e) that during processing the fish were washed and frozen with clean water, using methods approved by the competent authority;
- f) that the fish were inspected under the supervision of the competent authority and/or systems approved by the competent authority; and
- g) that the fish are free from visible lesions associated with infectious disease.

2. Specified finfish for human consumption

Certification Requirements

Each consignment must be accompanied by consignment specific certification issued by the competent authority in the country of export stating:

- a) the identification of fish species (scientific name) that are contained in the consignment;
- b) that the fish were wild caught and not grown or harvested in an aquaculture system at any stage;
- c) that the consignment does not contain fish species other than those identified in (a) above;
- d) that the fish were processed in premises (including vessels/refrigerated warehouses) approved by and under the control of the competent authority;
- e) that the fish were eviscerated (gutted), gills removed and internal and external surfaces thoroughly washed;
- f) that the fish were inspected under the supervision of the competent authority and/or systems approved by the competent authority; and
- g) that the fish are free from visible lesions associated with infectious disease.

3. Specified mixed species for bait and aquaculture feed

Certification Requirements

Each consignment must be accompanied by consignment specific certification issued by the competent authority in the country of export stating:

- a) the identification of all species of fish and cephalopods (scientific name) that are contained in the consignment;
- b) that the fish and cephalopods were wild caught and not grown or harvested in an aquaculture system at any stage;
- c) that the consignment does not contain specified or non-specified fish species, or cephalopod species other than those identified in (a) above;
- d) that the fish were processed in premises (including vessels/refrigerated warehouses) approved by and under the control of the competent authority;
- e) that during processing the fish were washed and frozen with clean water using methods approved by the competent authority;
- f) that the fish are free from visible lesions associated with infectious disease;
- g) that the fish were inspected under the supervision of the competent authority and/or systems approved by the competent authority;
- h) that the consignment does not contain crustaceans and molluscs (or materials of crustacean or mollusc origin) other than cephalopods identified under (a) above; and
- i) that any cephalopods contained in the consignment are dead.

4. Non-specified finfish for bait and aquaculture feed or human consumption

Certification Requirements

Each consignment must be accompanied by consignment specific certification issued by the competent authority in the country of export stating:

- a) the identification of all fish species (scientific name) that are contained in the consignment;
- b) that the fish were wild caught and not grown or harvested in an aquaculture system at any stage;
- c) that the consignment does not contain fish species other than those identified in a) above;
- d) that the fish were processed in premises (including vessels/refrigerated warehouses) approved by and under the control of the competent authority;
- e) that the fish were inspected under the supervision of the competent authority and/or systems approved by the competent authority; and
- f) that the fish are free from visible lesions associated with infectious disease.

5. Non-specified mixed species for bait and aquaculture feed

Certification Requirements

Each consignment must be accompanied by consignment specific certification issued by the competent authority in the country of export confirming:

- a) the identification of all species of fish and cephalopods (scientific name) that are contained in the consignment;
- b) that the fish and cephalopods were wild caught and not grown or harvested in an aquaculture system at any stage;
- c) that the consignment does not contain fish or cephalopod species other than those identified in (a) above;
- d) that the fish were processed in premises (including vessels/refrigerated warehouses) approved by and under the control of the competent authority;
- e) that the fish are free from visible lesions associated with infectious disease;
- f) that the fish were inspected under the supervision of the competent authority and/or systems approved by the competent authority;
- g) that the consignment does not contain crustaceans and molluscs (or materials of crustacean or mollusc origin) other than cephalopods identified under (a) above; and
- h) that any cephalopods contained in the consignment are dead.