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# *Communiqué*

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March 6, 2002

**TO: REGISTERED FISH PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS, LIVE LOBSTER SHIPPERS, AND IMPORTERS OF FISH AND SEAFOOD**

**SUBJECT: USE OF NEWSPAPER AS A PACKING MATERIAL**

Please be advised that the CFIA Fish Inspection group has recently updated compliance requirements concerning the use of newspaper (i.e., ink-printed paper) as a packaging material.

In general, the use of materials which are not manufactured for the purpose of food packaging is discouraged by Canada and by many of our trading partners. The Fish Inspection Regulations require fish to be packed in new, clean, sound containers, including packing. Newspapers are not new to the fish shipper and are not clean, as they commonly leach inks. As such, the use of newspaper to pack products, for example, live lobster and shellfish, will no longer be accepted.

This policy change is consistent with the Quality Management Program for registered processing establishments and our commitment to apply a level playing field between the various industry sectors regulated by the Fish Inspection Regulations. Registered facilities, live lobster shippers, and importers should implement any necessary changes to reduce food safety risks and maintain market access.

Companies looking for a replacement material for newspaper may consult the "Reference Listing of Accepted Construction Materials, Packaging Materials and Non-Food Chemical Products" which is available on the CFIA web site at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) (follow the links to Inspection Manuals).

If you have questions or concerns related to the information included in the communiqué, please contact your local Fish Inspection Office, or the undersigned.

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Director  
Fish, Seafood and Production Division