



Industry Notice

December 22, 2009

TO: All Exporters of Fish and Seafood Products to the European Union

SUBJECT: Changes to the Certification Requirements for Exportation of Bivalve Molluscs, Echinoderms, Tunicates and Gastropods to the European Union

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has recently reached an equivalence agreement with the European Union (EU) regarding the trade of bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods. This agreement recognizes, based on a joint technical review, that the Canadian and EU regulatory systems provide an equivalent level of protection with respect to microbiological and toxicological requirements, and will allow continued access to the European market for Canadian processors of these products.

After January 11th, 2010 export certificates for these products may only be issued to establishments appearing on the official EU Import List for 'Live Bivalve Molluscs' maintained by the EU Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (SANCO) at the following URL:
https://sanco.ec.europa.eu/traces/output/listsPerActivity_en.htm (anticipated to be published for viewing on December 28th, 2009, in advance of its validity date).

All establishments appearing on the '*List of Canadian Exporters of Live Shellfish, Live Tunicates, Live Echinoderms or Live Gastropods that Meet the Same or Equivalent Conditions to those Required in the European Union*' (As of November 1st, 2009)

(<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/fispoi/export/frasheframoleue.shtml>) will be included on this new list.

Note that although the list is found under 'Section VII: Live bivalve molluscs', this list applies to exports of live, frozen and processed bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and gastropods.

CFIA will continue to certify products which comply with the existing requirements until the new list comes into force on January 11th, 2010.

As always, exporters are urged to confirm importing requirements prior to shipping.

If you require further information, please contact your local CFIA office.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Mary Ann Green
Director
Fish, Seafood and Production Division
Agrifood, Meat and Seafood Safety Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency