

CHAPTER 12, SUBJECT 2
PACKAGE INTEGRITY EVALUATION

1. SCOPE

This document outlines a new evaluation category, "package integrity evaluation" which will be used to represent those products which are evaluated against Section 7 of the FIR but which are not packaged in a hermetically sealed container and subjected to a heat treatment for sterilization or pasteurization.

Products which are represented by the above criteria include, but are not limited to:

- fish sauces in glass or plastic bottles; and
- semi-preserved products in metal containers (fried dace, anchovies).

2. AUTHORITIES

Fish Inspection Regulations (FIR), C.R.C., 1978, c.802, Part I, General.

Section 7

Unless otherwise permitted by the Minister, fish shall be packed in new, clean, sound containers.

3. POLICY/PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Products which are evaluated for package integrity may be destructively sampled and the sample size used will follow the Codex Sampling Plan #1, Inspection Level I, AQL 6.5 for initial inspection and the Codex Sampling Plan #2, Inspection Level II, AQL 6.5 for reinspection.
- 3.2 A sample unit will be rejected if the container is damaged sufficiently to cause leaking or if the product is exposed to the environment. The lot will be considered reject if the number of sample units rejected is greater than the higher acceptance level for tainted or unwholesome. Please note, if glass chips are found in one sample unit, then the lot is automatically rejected for critical foreign material.

12 2 2

New 24/05/96

- 3.3 Cost-recovery fees will not be applied until the fee schedule has been amended to include this evaluation.

- 3.4 The INIM database and the Mandatory Inspection List (MIL) will be amended accordingly and package integrity evaluation will be treated on the MIL in the same manner as the container integrity evaluation.