

Documentation Requirements for Exporting Seafood to Canada

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Labeling Requirements

Information regarding the labeling of fish products is available on the CFIA web site at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/fispoi/product/labeque.shtml>

I understand that you are planning to export salmon for distribution to restaurants and fish markets. The salmon will not be in prepackaged containers (i.e. consumer packages destined for retail sale) but will be shipped in plastic tubs. Labeling requirements for this type of product must include all mandatory information normally found on consumer packages such as:

- Country of origin
- Common name of the fish;
- Name and address of the manufacturer;
- Day, month and year of processing; and
- Quantity (metric or imperial units)

Also, if any ingredients or additives are used, they must be listed in descending order of proportion. This information can be in either English or French. For more details on labeling requirements, please see the above noted web site.

Health Certificates

Fish products imported into Canada for human consumption are regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) under the authority of the Fish Inspection Act and Regulations for the purposes of protecting public health. Please note that there is no requirement under those regulations for imported fish products to be accompanied by a health certificate. However, the person that imports fish into Canada must hold a fish import license, must provide written notification to the CFIA for each imported shipment of fish and must make the fish available for inspection. Product inspections are conducted at frequencies that depend on the product's risk and the exporter's history of compliance. The normal inspection frequency for fresh fish such as wild caught salmon from an exporter with a good history of compliance would be 2%. More information regarding the requirements to import fish into Canada can be found on our web site in the document titled Guide to Canadian Regulatory Requirements and Examination Procedures for Imported Fish

Please be aware that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has the responsibility for administering requirements regarding fish health. At this time, fish health certification requirements apply only to farmed salmonids and salmonid eggs from any source - they do not apply to wild caught salmonids destined for human consumption.

NAFTA Certificate

The NAFTA certificate is not a document required by the CFIA. I would suggest that you contact the Canadian Border Services Agency for more information. Their web site is <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-e.html>

I understand that you had a question regarding the language of correspondence with federal officials. **Government of Canada language policies require that services are provided in both official languages, English or French.**