



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

EDUARDO J. SANCHEZ, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER

1100 W. 49th Street • Austin, Texas 78756
1-888-963-7111 • <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: **To obtain Acceptance to sell crabmeat in Texas processed outside the United States**

No crabmeat may be offered for sale for food in the State of Texas unless the crabmeat has been processed and packaged in compliance with sections 241.1-241.9 of the Texas Crabmeat Rules that became effective March 20, 2003.

The following items shall be submitted to the Texas Department of Health, Seafood Safety Division.

1. For sources outside the United States a letter must be provided by a foreign governmental authority(s) that verifies the licensing and inspection and states "The processes involved comply with sections 241.1-241.9 of the Texas Crabmeat Rules, including the HACCP requirements."
2. A copy of a current health license issued by the appropriate regulating health authority to the crabmeat processing plant.
3. A representative label that appears on the containers.
4. The water supply used in processing the crabmeat must be sampled and the results, no more than 30 days old, showing good bacteriological quality, shall be submitted to this office. To be acceptable, these qualified laboratory results shall show no coliforms found.
5. Sample results, no more than 30 days old, of each type of crabmeat produced by the crabmeat plant, shall be submitted to this office, which show an acceptable bacteria level for Standard Plate Count, Staphylococcus aureus, and Escherichia coli. The maximums allowed are: S.P.C. = 100,000 MPN/gm.; S.A. = 30 MPN/gm.; and E.C. + 3.6 MPN/gm.
6. A Texas or, at least, a United States mailing address and phone number shall be required.

All information shall be in English (or certifiably translated) and legible. All of the above listed six (6) items shall be submitted annually to obtain acceptance. When the acceptance is granted, it will be in writing and will be mailed to the appropriate address.

When an acceptance is granted, it shall expire each year no later than the last day of February. An acceptance to sell the crabmeat in Texas shall be applied for each year and shall be obtained before the last day of February to eliminate any lapse. The acceptance granted is not transferable; meaning, if the U.S. person or U.S. company acting on behalf of the foreign crabmeat company ceases to represent the foreign company in Texas, the acceptance automatically expires.

An Equal Employment Opportunity Employer