



Seafood Inspection Program
U.S. Department of Commerce
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To: All Seafood Exporters to the Republic of Korea

From: Timothy Hansen, Director, Seafood Inspection Program NOAA Fisheries *Timothy Hansen*

Subject: New Requirements for Certain Seafood Commodities Exported to the Republic of Korea

Since 1995 the United States has been able to export cod heads to the Republic of Korea through a bilateral agreement without the need for certification or prior company listing. Recently the Republic of Korea decided to expand importation of products that they formerly identified as not being fit for human consumption. This letter is to inform United States Seafood exporters of new regulations regarding fish heads, entrails, roe, hard roe and the nidamental gland of squid promulgated by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MFAFF) of the Republic of Korea and circulated to The World Trade Organization on March 23, 2009 (Notification G/SPS/N/KOR/320). This new requirement will go into effect on June 16, 2011.

The new regulation requires a list of all the processing establishments in the United States that produce edible fish heads, intestines, roe, hard roe or the nidamental gland of squid to appear on a list to be submitted to the MFAFF by the June 16, 2011 deadline. Attachment 1 of the notification asks for the name of the product including the process type. This may include confidential business information which NOAA would be prevented by law from disclosing to MFAFF. This issue will be the subject of further negotiation with Korean officials. However, be advised that the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program will submit a list of processing facilities to MFAFF as soon as possible. The other salient requirement is that every consignment of these commodities shipped to the Republic of Korea will have to have a sanitary certificate.

While the regulation only identifies heads of cod, southern hake and tuna in one paragraph, it goes on to identify by-products such as edible fish roe, entrails, hard roe and nidamental gland of squid in another paragraph. Until we receive further clarification from MFAFF we highly recommend that export health certificates be obtained for fish heads and by-products intended for human consumption for all species exported to the Republic of Korea.

MFAFF in Attachment 2 of the notification has proposed a model certificate. However, NOAA Seafood Inspection Program has asked to substitute our generic export health certificate for that document. Unless we hear otherwise, we will be using the SIP document. We are hopeful that this proposal will be accepted by MFAFF. However, if this is not accepted the NOAA Seafood Inspection Program will inform the interested seafood industry as soon as possible through our web site at: <http://www.seafood.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.