

Health control of fishery products for human consumption

You can export fish or aquaculture products to the EU if your country has been approved as compliant to the EU health requirements, your products comes from an approved establishment, are accompanied by the relevant health certificates, and have succeeded the mandatory control at the EU border inspection post (BIP).

Fresh fish landed in the EU directly from a fishing vessel flying the flag of a non-EU country are subject to a different scheme of health control laid down in Annex III of EU legislation ([CELEX 32004R0854](#)).



Country Health Approval

First, the European Commission assesses your country's compliance with EU Public and Animal Health conditions. Once approved, your country is added to the [list of authorised countries](#) for that particular category of product.

Approved establishments

You can only export fish or aquaculture products to the EU if they have been dispatched from, and obtained or prepared in, EU approved establishments (cold store, processing plant, factory vessel, registered freezer vessels, production areas, etc). Lists of [non-EU countries' establishments and areas approved for fishery products and live bivalve molluscs](#) can be found in the European Commission site.

Health certificates

Your fish or aquaculture product must be accompanied by a [health certificate](#) signed by your national authority certifying that your products comply with the EU health requirements.

Health requirements protect human and animal health and include:

- [General principles and requirements of Food Law](#) established in EU legislation ([CELEX 32002R0178](#));
- [General foodstuffs hygiene rules and hygiene specifications for food of animal origin](#) according to EU legislation ([CELEX 32004R0852](#));
- [Animal Health conditions](#) laid down in EU legislation ([CELEX 32002L0099](#));
- [Special provisions on genetically modified \(GM\) food and novel food](#) according to EU legislations ([CELEX 32003R1829](#)) and ([CELEX 31997R0258](#));
- [Specific conditions of preparation of foodstuffs](#);
- [General conditions regarding materials and articles in contact with food products](#) in accordance with EU legislation([CELEX 32004R1935](#));

There are different models of certificate set forth in EU legislation which vary according to each category of products, animal species concerned and/or special health conditions that may be laid down for those particular products.

When fishery products are imported directly from a fishing or freezer vessel, a document signed by the captain may replace the health certificate.

Health control

Health controls are carried out at designated control points at [Border Inspection Posts](#) (BIPs). The importer, or his representative, must request the health inspection in advance by submitting part 1 of the [Common Veterinary Entry Document](#) (CVED) together with all the necessary certificates related to the consignment. Upon arrival, the products and the accompanying certificates will be checked by the veterinarian officials according to the EU legislation ([CELEX 31997L0078](#)). After documentary check the product may go through identity check and physical inspection which may lead to sample taking for analysis. Applying the procedures laid down by EU legislation ([CELEX 32004R0136](#)), the result of the inspection will be reflected in the part 2 of [Common Veterinary Entry Document](#) (CVED). The product can only be released into the EU market after a favorable result.

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 forbids the enter in the EU of poisonous fish of the families Tetraodontidae, Molidae, Diodontidae, Canthigasteridae and fishery products containing biotoxins such as ciguatera toxins or muscle-paralysing toxins. The EU authorities might suspend imports from all or part of the non-EU country concerned or take interim **protective measures** when products may present any risk for public or animal health as in the case of dangerous diseases outbreaks.

Further information

[Guidance on EU import conditions for seafood and other fishery products](#)

[Guidelines on EU legislation on \(molluscs\) and EU legislation on \(fish\) on harmonised certificates for the import of aquaculture animals from non-EU countries](#)

[Guidance on EU General Food Law](#)

[Key questions on import requirements and the new rules on food hygiene and official food controls](#)

[Guidance on EU legislation on hygiene of foodstuffs](#)

[Guidance on EU legislation on hygiene of food of animal origin](#)

[Guidance on procedures based on the HACCP principles, and their implementation in food businesses](#)

[Guidance on import and transit rules for live animals and animal products from non-EU countries](#)

[Questions and answers on Residues and Contaminants in foodstuffs](#)

[Questions and answers on the regulation of GMOs in the EU](#)

European Commission, DG Health and Consumers:

- [Trade and Imports of aquaculture products](#)
- [General Food Law](#)
- [EU Emergency Veterinary Team](#) provides assistance to non-EU countries in case of animal disease outbreaks
- [Veterinary border control](#)
- [Specific measures for the prevention and control of Fish Diseases](#)
- [Microbiological Criteria](#)
- [Food Contaminants](#)
- [Residues of Veterinary Medicinal Products](#)
- [Hormones in food of animal origin](#)
- [Genetically Modified \(GM\) food](#)
- [Novel Food](#)
- [Food Additives](#)
- [Food flavourings](#)
- [Food irradiation](#)
- [Foodstuffs for particular nutritional purposes](#)
- [Food Contact Material](#)
- [Special import conditions for animal products into the EU \(chemical risks\)](#)

Last update on: January 2013. Please check the [Export Helpdesk](#) for updated information

How to export to the EU?

Check it at www.exporthelp.europa.eu

