

All importers of live fish and shellfish

29 July 2009

Health certification requirements for live fish and shellfish

Further to recent mailshots we have sent importers I would like firstly to thank you all for your co-operation and secondly update you on the current position.

End of transition period

Following the coming into force of Directive 2006/88/EC new aquatic animal health certificates came into effect on 1 January this year under Commission Regulation 1251/2008. The Regulation provided a transition period until June 2009 to allow time for competent authorities around the world to put in place processes that would enable them to use the new certificates.

Throughout July the Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) have been issuing Regulation 22 Notices to importers of any consignments with certification issues requiring follow-up actions. At present where these issues are a direct result of confusion arising from the new health certificates the only follow up action we have been requiring is to obtain and present replacement documents. However from 1 September 2009 all consignments with a health certification error will be issued a Regulation 22 that will require importers to detain and isolate all fish in the consignments, at premises agreed by the FHI, until replacement documentation has been presented. Only on presentation of the correct certificates will the consignments be authorised for release.

Third countries approved to export to the EU

The EC are in the process of publishing a new list of countries, territories, zones and compartments permitted to export live fish, mollusc and crustacean to the EU. They have permitted imports to commence from the new listed sources with immediate effect. I enclose the updated list for your information. Future amendments will be posted on our web site www.efishbusiness.co.uk. Imports of tropical species for ornamental use continue to be permitted from OIE member countries.

Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) action needed

Until 1 January 2011 we will be permitting EUS susceptible and vector species to enter the country without the EUS attestation completed. This is to give competent authorities time to implement and carry out a monitoring programme with regard to this disease. Third countries which do not implement such a programme may be unable to complete health certificates in respect of EUS from January 2011 and therefore relevant trade may cease. You may wish to make your suppliers aware of this so they can work with their authorities over the next 18 months.

The EUS susceptible species are: genera: *Catla*, *Channa*, *Labeo*, *Mastacembelus*, *Mugil*, *Puntius* and *Trichogaster*. The vector species are: *Aristichthys nobilis* (bighead carp), *Carassius auratus* (goldfish), *Carassius carassius* (crucian carp), *Cyprinus carpio* (common and koi carp), *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (silver carp), *Leuciscus spp* (chub), *Rutilus rutilus* (roach), *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* (rudd), *Tinca tinca* (tench), *Anodonta cygnea* (swan mussel), *Astacus astacus* (noble crayfish), *Pacifastacus leniusculus* (signal crayfish) and *Procambarus clarkii* (red swamp crayfish).

Yours sincerely

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Fish Health Inspectorate