

PART II

PRODUCTS AND MARKET ENTRY

*Meat and Fish Products***1. Introduction**

Imports of animals and animal products into the EC are subject to chapters 2 to 4 of the EC's Common Customs Tariff (CCT), which also includes fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or dried meat and fish products.

EC legislation in the case of these products has aimed at ensuring and protecting public health. As a result the EC has issued Directives to improve animal and fish health and hygiene in the Community. The standards apply not only to products produced in the EC but also to imports from non-member countries.

In order to avoid destabilization of domestic agricultural markets by imports, the EC has introduced a system of reference prices for certain products in this section. If a product is imported into the EC at a price lower than the reference price, a countervailing tax may be imposed. Alternatively, entry may also be subject to quotas and levies.

2. Meat Products

The EC has issued strict regulations on public health and animal hygiene rules which cover meat products imported from other countries. Fresh, chilled or frozen meat products from non-EC countries must fulfil the following conditions:

- ◆ come from EC approved establishments (slaughter house and cutting plant)
- ◆ require an animal health certificate and public health certificate drawn by an official veterinary from the exporting country
- ◆ bear a HEALTH MARK in the form of a label, seal or stamp
- ◆ be subject to inspection upon arrival into the EC.

EC government officials do not normally enter into negotiations to allow imports from a certain country until an approach is received from the veterinary authority of the exporting country. This is because close cooperation with the exporting veterinary authorities will be required before any progress can be made towards allowing entry into the EC.

In order to establish the necessary degree of confidence that imports would present no risk to public health, it is preferred that detailed correspondence on animal health matters are dealt with directly with authorities responsible for disease control in the exporting country.

Similarly where imports come from unapproved establishments (slaughter houses and cutting plants), Commonwealth suppliers should first approach the veterinary authorities in the exporting country. New establishments can only be considered for approval on the recommendation of the veterinary authority concerned. Potential Commonwealth exporters should also be aware that approval is often conditional on inspection of the establishments by an EC veterinary inspector.

Health Mark

The health mark is proof that the product has been checked by an authorised body. The EC has designed special health marks for fresh meat of beef, pig, sheep and goat.

Other imports of meat products must carry a health mark specified by the exporting country.

For further information contact the European Commission (DG VI) as detailed in Part III.

3. Fishery Products

As of 1 January 1993, all fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other fishery products brought into the EC will have to comply with the health and hygiene standards set by the EC. Fishery products from non-EC countries must fulfil the following import requirements:

- ◆ Fishery products must come from EC approved establishments. Products sent to the EC must be clearly marked with the approval number of the establishment of origin
- ◆ Every consignment to the EC must have a health certificate drawn up by an official veterinary from the exporting country
- ◆ Fishery products will be subject to inspection upon entry into the EC.

The EC has also laid down minimum requirements for the following:

- ◆ design and equipment of factory vessels
- ◆ hygiene conditions relating to on-board handling and storage
- ◆ unloading and landing conditions
- ◆ facilities required at processing plants
- ◆ conditions for frozen, thawed and processed products
- ◆ packaging
- ◆ storage and transport conditions.

Full details on health standards and conditions and other relevant information are given in EC Official Journal OJ L 268 of 24 September 1991, ref. 91/493/EC.

4. Other Animal Products

For some edible animal products the EC has issued laws which define the composition of the products, and in certain cases, special labelling requirements. For example, there are specific Directives for:

- ◆ Honey (Ref. Directive 74/409/EEC)
- ◆ Preserved milk (Ref. Directive 76/118/EEC)

For further information contact the European Commission (DG VI) as detailed in Part III.

5. Further Information and Contact Points

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS	TRADE FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS
1. Association of the Fish Industries of the EEC 1 Green Street Grosvenor Square London W1Y 3RG United Kingdom Tel: +44 71 629 0655 Fax: +44 71 499 9095 2. European Wholesale Meat Trade Association 29 Rue Fortuney F-75017 Paris France Tel: +33 1 46 22 93 80 Fax: +33 1 44 40 48 62 3. Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Import and Export Trade in the EEC Countries Vester Farimagsgade 1 DK-1606 Copenhagen V Denmark Tel: +45 33 115670 Fax: +45 33 935670 4. Liaison Centre for the Meat Processing Industries of the EC 21 Boulevard Baudouir B-1210 Brussels Belgium Tel: +32 2 223 0141 Fax: +32 2 223 1244	1. ANUGA World Food Market Location: Cologne, Germany Contact: Messe-und Ausstellungs-Ges mbH Koln PO Box 21 07 60 Messeplatz 1 D-5000 Koln 21 Germany Tel: +49 221 8210 Fax: +49 221 8212574 Frequency: Every 2 years in October Next fair - 1993 2. EUROGASTROTEL European Frozen Food Exhibition Location: Brussels, Belgium Contact: Faire International de Bruxelles ASLB Parc des Expositions B-1020 Brussels Belgium Tel: +32 2 247 8460 Frequency: Every 2 years

European Commission

200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 1111

Frozen Prawns and Shrimps

Product Coverage

CCT CODE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
03061310	Shrimps and prawns of the pandalidae family, frozen
03061330	Shrimps of the genus crangon, frozen
03061390	Other shrimps and prawns, frozen

Customs Duties

CCT CODE	Full	ACP	GSP	LDDC
03061310	12%	0%	4%	0%
03061330	18%	0%	18%	0%
03061390	18%	0%	4.5%	0%

Product Standards

There are no official grading classification for tropical shrimps. General trade practice followed in the industry depends on whether the products are brought into the market - whole (whole shrimps with head), head-off, shell-on or peeled. The trade works with systems such as "number per kg" which is usually pre-printed on the packaging.

New EC legislation will require all shrimps and prawns come from approved establishments which meet the health and hygiene standards of the EC. The packer of shrimps and prawns should also have a licence from - and valid in - the importing country.

Labelling

There are EC regulations on the labelling of frozen food products for final consumer and catering establishments. The following information must be available:

- ◆ name of product (species)
- ◆ country of origin
- ◆ net content in g or kg (not in lbs)
- ◆ date mark (i.e. Best Before)
- ◆ grading.

Packaging

King-size prawns are normally transported in frozen condition packed in 2 kg carton boxes, with 6 to 10 cartons placed in an outer box of corrugated fibreboard.

The EC requires that plastic packaging in contact with the food must be of "food grade" quality. The EC has issued a list of additives that can be used in plastic packaging which will not unduly affect food products. The environmental policy of the EC indicates that the trend will be towards using packaging material with possibilities of recycling.

Marketing and Distribution

The end customer of frozen shrimps and prawns is often a restaurant or catering service. Alternatively, the product is brought into the EC for further processing for value added food products.

Methods of distribution will vary from one member country to the other. In the United Kingdom, for example, shrimps and prawns are brought in by either an importer who buys in goods and sells to processors and distributors or shrimps and prawns can be brought directly by processors. On the other hand in countries like France agents take a bigger role in the distribution process. Spain, Italy and France are major EC importers of fish and shrimps. The Netherlands market is comparatively small but has a big distribution network.

Documentation

Aside from normal shipping and import documents, Certificate of Origin - Form A for GSP and LDDC countries, EUR 1 for ACP countries - must accompany consignments to benefit from reduced tariff or tariff free entry into the EC.

New legislation will require a health certificate for fisheries products in the near future.

Other Information

- Prices:** Price information on frozen shrimps and prawns as well as other fishery products can be obtained from:
Fishery Division
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Tel: +39 6 57971
Fax: +39 6 57973152
- Trade Associations:** European Association of the Fish Trade
1 Green Street
Grosvenor Square
London. W1Y 3RG
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 71 629 0655
Fax: +44 71 499 9095
- Trade Fair:** ANUGA
World Trade Market
Location: Cologne, Germany
Contact:: Messe-und Ausstellungs-
Ges mbH Koln
Postfach 21 07 60
Messeplatz 1
D-5000 Koln 21
Tel: +49 221 8210
Fax: +49 221 8212574
Frequency: Every two years in October - Next fair 1993

ACP Commonwealth Countries

ACP Commonwealth Countries

Entry Conditions:

Beef and Veal

Free of customs duties on entry into the EC. Tariff free entry is restricted by a quota for the following products:

- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen beef or veal
- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen skirt of bovine animals.

Although beef and veal are exempt from customs duties other import duties are applicable. Under the Lomé Convention, a 90% reduction of other import duties for a fixed annual quota of boneless meat of beef or veal is allowed from the following countries:

- ◆ Botswana
- ◆ Kenya
- ◆ Madagascar
- ◆ Zimbabwe
- ◆ Namibia

Sheep and Goat Meat

Free of customs duty but may be subject to a levy. The following products are exempted from this levy:

- ◆ fresh, chilled frozen meat from goats and non-domestic sheep
- ◆ salted, dried meat from goats and non-domestic sheep.

Meat from domestic sheep gets a 50% reduction of the levy for an annual quota of 250 tonnes. Imports in excess of this quota will have to pay the full price of the levy.

Poultry Meat

Reduction of 50% from the agricultural levy but is subject to an annual quota of 200 tonnes. Imports in excess of this quota will have to pay full price of the levy.

Swine/Pig Meat

No preferential treatment given to swine meat except for sausages and similar products of meat (please refer to Chapter 3 - Processed Food Products).

Fish, Crustaceans, Molluscs and other Aquatic Invertebrates

Free from customs duties upon entry into the EC. No levies are imposed on these products.

Rules of Origin:

The following products are subject to special rules which can be obtained from your national Customs and Excise office.

- ◆ fresh, chilled, frozen meat from bovine animals
- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen edible meat offal
- ◆ meat and edible meat offal salted, in brine, chilled or smoked
- ◆ fish other than live fish
- ◆ dairy products
- ◆ butter milk, curdled milk, cream, yogurt
- ◆ fresh, dried or cooked birds eggs not in shell.

Documentation

Form EUR 1 must accompany products sent from ACP countries to benefit from reduced or tariff free entry into the EC. These forms are available from exporter's national Customs and Excise office or Ministry of Trade.

A health certificate signed by a veterinary official of the exporting country must accompany meat products. It is likely that in the near future a health certificate will be required for fishery products.

GSP Commonwealth Countries

GSP Commonwealth Countries

Entry Conditions:

Reduced tariff duties are given to most meat and fish products coming from GSP countries including the following:

- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen meat of non-domestic swine
- ◆ fatty livers of geese or ducks
- ◆ frog's legs
- ◆ meat and edible offal of wild rabbit/hare.

Rules of Origin:

The following products are subject to special rules which can be obtained from exporter's national Customs and Excise office:

- ◆ meat of bovine animals
- ◆ edible offal
- ◆ fish other than live
- ◆ dairy products
- ◆ buttermilk, yogurt
- ◆ birds eggs not in shell.

Documentation:

Certificate of Origin (Form A) must accompany products from GSP countries if the exporter is to benefit from reduced tariff duties. These forms are available from the exporter's national Customs and Excise office.

A health certificate signed by a veterinary official from the exporting country must accompany consignments of meat products. It is likely that in the near future a health certificate will be required for fishery products.

LDDC Commonwealth Countries

LDDC Commonwealth Countries

Entry Conditions:

The EC allows tariff free and quota free entry for a number of agricultural products from LDDC countries including:

- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen meat of non-domestic swine
- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen edible meat offal of bovine animals, non-domestic swine, sheep and goats
- ◆ salted, dried or smoked edible meat offal of bovine animals, sheep and goat, non-domestic swine
- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen fish
- ◆ fresh, chilled or frozen crustaceans
- ◆ molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates
- ◆ natural honey
- ◆ non-poultry eggs fresh, preserved or cooked.

Although customs duties are not charged other import duties may be imposed on the above products.

Rules of Origin:

The following products are subject to special rules which can be obtained from a national Customs and Excise office:

- ◆ pig meat
- ◆ edible offal
- ◆ fish other than live
- ◆ dairy products
- ◆ buttermilk, yogurt
- ◆ birds eggs not in shell

Documentation:

Certificate of Origin (Form A) must accompany products from LDDC countries if the exporter is to benefit from reduced or tariff free entry into the EC. These forms are available from the exporting country's national Customs and Excise office.

A health certificate signed by a veterinary official of the exporter's country must accompany consignments of meat products. It is likely that in the near future a health certificate will be required for fishery products.

Figure 4.1 HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for fresh meat for consignment to a Member State (1) of the EEC

Exporting country
Ministry
Department
Ref.
No (2)
(Optional)

I. Identification of meat

Meat of
(Animal species)
Nature of cuts
Nature of packaging
Number of cuts or packages
Month(s) and year(s) when frozen
Net weight

II. Origin of meat

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s)
Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s)
Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved store(s)

III. Destination of meat

The meat will be seen from
(Place of loading)
to
(Country and place of destination)
by the following means of transport (3)
Name and address of consignor
Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation

'I, the undersigned official veterinarian, certify that the meat described above was obtained under the conditions governing production and control laid down in

Directive 64/443/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and that it is, therefore, considered as such to be fit for human consumption.'

Done at on
(Signature of the official veterinarian)

(1) Fresh meat: in accordance with the Directive referred to in IV of this certificate, this means all parts fit for human consumption from domestic bovine animals, swine, sheep and goats and solipeds which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered to be fresh meat.

(2) Optional.

(3) In the case of rail trucks and lorries, state the registration number, in the case of aircraft the flight number, and in the case of boats the name, and where necessary the number of the container.

PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for fresh meat (1) intended for(Name of EEC Member State)
No(2).
Exporting country
Ministry
Department
Ref.
(Optional)

I. Identification of meat

Meat of
(Animal species)
Nature of cuts
Nature of packaging
Number of cuts or packages
Month(s) and year(s) when frozen
Net weight

II. Origin of meat

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s)
Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s)

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved store(s)

III. Destination of meat

The meat will be seen from (Place of loading)

to (Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (3)

Name and address of consignor

Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation

'I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that:

a) — the meat described above (4),

— the label affixed to the packages of meat described above (4), bear(s) (4) a mark to the effect that the meat comes wholly from animals slaughtered in slaughterhouses approved for exporting to the country of destination;

b) the meat was obtained under the conditions governing production and control contained in Council Directive 72/462/EEC and that it is therefore considered as such to be fit for human consumption;

c) the meat has been cut in an approved cutting plant (4);

d) the meat has/has not been subject to an examination for trichinosis or, where Article 3 of Directive 77/96/EEC applies, has undergone cold treatment;

e) the means of transport and the loading conditions of the meat of this consignment meet the hygiene requirements laid down in respect of export to the country of destination.

Done at on

..... (Signature of the official veterinarian)

- (1) Fresh meat within the meaning of Article 2(b) of Directive 64/433/EEC.
- (2) Optional.
- (3) For railway wagons or goods vehicles the registration number should be given, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.
- (4) Delete as appropriate.

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR MEAT PRODUCTS (1) INTENDED FOR CONSIGNMENT
TO A MEMBER STATE OF THE EEC

Exporting country No (2)

Ministry

Department

Ref. (2)

I. Identification of meat products

Products manufactured with meat from: (Animal species)

Nature of products (3)

Nature of packaging:

Number of individual items or of packages:

Storage and transport temperature (4):

Storage life (4):

Net weight

II. Meat products from

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved processing establishment(s):

III. Destination of meat products

The meat products will be seen from (Place of loading)

to by the following means of transport (5)

Name and address of consignor

Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation

'I, the undersigned, certify that:

(a) the meat products described above were manufactured from fresh meat or meat products under conditions that comply with the standards laid down in Directive 77/99/EEC (6);

(b) the said meat products, their wrappings or packaging, bear a mark proving that they have all come from approved establishments (6);

(c) the fresh pigmeat used in the manufacture of the meat products has/has not been (6) subjected to a trichinae detection test;

(d) the transport vehicles and equipment and the loading conditions of this consignment comply with the hygiene requirements laid down in Directive 77/99/EEC.

Done at on

..... (Signature)

Stamp (Name in capital letters)

- (1) Under Article 2 of Directive 77/99/EEC.
- (2) Optional.
- (3) Possible indication of ionizing radiation for medical reasons.
- (4) Where an indication is given in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 77/99/EEC.