

MARKET ACCESS CONDITIONS

DOCUMENTATION

Seafood imports into Taiwan require an Import Permit licensed by an authorized bank. A Certificate of Origin is required to ensure the product does not come from any areas affected by cholera. If the product is trans-shipped through a cholera infected district (eg. Hong Kong), the shipment will be rejected by Taiwan authorities. In addition, a Sanitary Certificate is required for seafood exports to Taiwan. The Certificate of Inspection, Origin and Hygiene issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is accepted by Taiwan Customs, and this covers both the Certificate of Origin and Sanitary Certificate. Seafood imports also require: an invoice; a packing list showing the case number and its contents by item and quantity; and, an air waybill or bill of lading for ocean transported products. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada) has been kept informed of recent changes; the last update provided was in December, 1994.

PRICES AND TERMS

Although most accounts are settled by Letter of Credit, several other methods of payment are also acceptable. Other alternatives available include: documents against payment; documents against acceptance; consignment; instalment; and, an open account.

INSPECTION

Based on the required documentation highlighted above, imported seafood products will be taxed and released only after being approved by the Port Quarantine section of the Department of Health in Taiwan. It is recommended that all seafood be inspected prior to export, based on the regulations outlined by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. A buyer's local agent or the Canadian exporter can often take care of this task. If not, an independent inspection agency can be contacted to carry out the inspection. These agencies charge on an hourly or flat-fee basis, depending on the value of the shipment. In certain cases, specialized testing may be necessary. This can be arranged with independent agencies, universities, or government testing facilities.

Department of Health, the Executive Yuan

100 Ai-Kuo East Road, Taipei

P.O. Box: 91-103, Taipei

Tel: (02) 396-7166/321-0151

Fax: (02) 312-2907

The actual inspection for customs purposes is handled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bureau of Commodity Inspection & Quarantine 4 Chinan Rd. Sec. 1 Taipei. Tel: 886-2-351-2141; Fax: 393-2324. The advice to Canadian exporters is to identify a reputable Taiwanese agent, which the CTOT Canadian Trade Office in Taipei can assist in identification.