

The Swedish Food Act sets forth specific standards governing each product. They deal with the following: how they are processed, methods of preservation, storage life, principal users, price and quality control, additives, size and weight, content, permitted levels of mercury (max. 0.5-1.0 mg/kg depending on fish species and product), vinyl chloride (max. 0.005mg), aflatoxin (max. 0.005mg/kg), histamine (max 200 mg/kg), PCB's (max 0.005 mg/kg, DDT-DDD-DDE (max 5.0 mg/kg, aldrin-dieldrin (max 0.1 mg/kg), Hexachlorobenzene (max 0.2 mg/kg), Hexachlorohexane BHC, HCH, Lindane (max 0.2 mg/kg), trichlorfon (max 0.1 mg/kg) D.D.I. and dieldrin. The latter have no fixed level, but are subject to individual assessment, and if found to be too high, the product will not be admitted.

PRICES AND TERMS

Prices paid by Swedish importers are usually based on the European price structures and can be located by referring to **INFOFISH**. The Canadian Embassy in Stockholm can supply current reference prices to interested Canadian exporters. Generally, there are no special requirements, but usually there is a preference for C.I.F. Stockholm quotes.

In Sweden two accepted modes of payment are generally used: local companies usually prefer paying cash against documents; while letters of credit are the accepted alternative. The Swedish Krona is freely convertible and there are no restrictions on the import and export of Swedish currency. Payments for imports may, as current payments, be made freely through an authorized bank. Importers are also permitted to accept foreign suppliers' credits, provided that such credits are regarded as customary. There are no special regulations on trading in gold.

INSPECTION

Sweden has few restrictions on imported fish and fishery products. The restrictions relate primarily to species caught in the waters surrounding Sweden, which could either be threatened by extinction or compete with local landings, otherwise Sweden has a very liberal policy toward import. All fisheries products must comply with the Swedish Food Act administered by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Food Hygiene Department under the National Food Administration, the enforcing agency of the Ministry of Agriculture has in turn a division which controls health, product specifications, labelling, marking and packaging standards contained in the Food Act.

TARIFFS

Sweden is a member of GATT, UNCTAD, the OECD, EFTA, and has had a free trade agreement with the EC since 1972. Cooperation between Sweden and the EC goes beyond the free trade agreement. Since full free trade was implemented in 1984, except in agriculture, after transitional periods for various goods, formal agreements on the exchange of information on transport, environment, consumerism, fishing, research, etc, have become important. Sweden is seeking closer ties with the EC without seeking full membership (on grounds of Sweden's neutrality).

The Swedish government is attempting to accomplish closer ties through working towards a customs union between EFTA and the EC. Negotiations between EFTA and the EC continue intensely at this time. Swedish tariff duties are calculated on the basis of the weight of the product, including the packaging in which it is normally sold. In addition, a value-added tax is levied on both domestic-produced and imported products. Imports are taxed on entry at the rate of 21 percent of customs valuation plus duty and taxes.