

Singapore has more than fifteen kilometres of berthing facilities for ocean-going and coastal vessels and is supported by transit sheds, warehouses, and access roads. The Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) provides a high level of security for the warehouses through its highly efficient security force.

LICENSING

All importers of fish products must be licensed by the Fisheries Division of the Primary Production Department. Licenses expire on December 31 of the year of application.

INSPECTIONS

Canadian seafood exporters can avoid certain inspection delays and other confusion by sending a sample and description of the product to the appropriate customs officials prior to the export of the goods. However, any rulings made by the customs authorities are purely advisory and are not binding. The customs officials may elect to send a sample of the goods to the Comptroller of customs for a ruling on the classification of the product and such a ruling is considered binding. If proper documentation is accompanying the goods, clearing of the documentation will usually take approximately two hours.

IMPORT REGULATIONS

Most goods are permitted into Singapore under an open general licence without a specific validated licence or prior permission. Pharmaceuticals and chemicals, fish and food products, arms and explosives, and a number of other goods require endorsement from the appropriate safety, health, or environmental authority.

PRICES AND TERMS

Quotations should be in Singapore, Canadian or United States dollars, c.i.f. Singapore. During the early discussion stage, when the Singapore buyer just wants an idea of the cost, f.o.b. prices are acceptable, provided an estimate of insurance and freight costs is given as well. Canadian freight forwarders can help with this estimate.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Established Singapore importers usually have an excellent payment performance record, but initially it is best to ask for payment by irrevocable letter of credit which is acceptable and normal practice in Singapore. Once the business relationship is well established, a variety of credit terms can be used, but should almost always be preceded by a current credit check.

PACKAGING AND LABELLING

There are no regulated packaging standards, however packages should be able to withstand extreme heat and humidity during the summer months and potential brief storage outdoors. Prepackaged foods must be labelled to show in English the appropriate designation of the food content, printed in capital letters at least 1/16 of an inch high, whether the food is compounded, mixed or blended and the minimum quantity stated in metric weight or measure; the name and address of the manufacturer or seller; and the country of origin. A description of the contents of the package may be added to the face of the label provided the additional language is not contrary to, or a modification of, any statement (in English) on the label. Pictorial representatives must not be misleading as to the true nature or origin of the food.