

★ ★ ★ FOOD IMPORT AFFIDAVITS ★ ★ ★

1. Enforcement of the various regulations governing the preservation of standards of quality in food products imported into Canada is basically the responsibility of three Departments of the Canadian Government, i.e. National Health and Welfare, Fisheries and Agriculture. Only those imported food products which are the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture need be accompanied by an import affidavit.
2. The Food and Drug Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare administers the Food and Drugs Act and Regulations. Imported food products must meet the same standards of quality prescribed thereunder as similar products manufactured in Canada. All imported food products are subject to examination to ensure that they meet these requirements. Prospective exporters of food products to Canada are reminded that new general food labelling regulations were promulgated on January 1, 1960. They should be particularly aware of these new regulations and therefore it is advisable to submit copies of labels to the Food and Drug Directorate for review in advance of shipment. The Food and Drug Act and Regulations do not require than an official "pure Food certificate" from the authorities in the country of origin, accompany food products imported into Canada.
3. The Department of Fisheries, which administers the regulations of the Fish Inspection Act and the fisheries section of the Meat and Canned Foods Act, does not at the present time require that an import affidavit accompany shipments of imported fishery products. However, all imports of fishery products are subject to rigid inspection to ensure that they comply with the Department's standards of quality. Copies of labels to be used on fish and shellfish products should be referred to the Department of Fisheries for a ruling on their acceptability. This should be done in advance of shipment.
4. The Department of Agriculture administers regulations under the Meat Inspection Act, the Processed Fruit and Vegetable Regulations, the Canada Dairy Products Act, the Fruit, Vegetables and Honey Act and the Canada Agriculture Products Standards Act. Special forms must accompany the shipment to Canada of many of the products covered by these regulations. Reference to these forms, the conditions surrounding them and actual copies will be found in the appropriate copy of the Act or Regulation in the Trade Commissioner's office. If any of them are missing from the office library, replacement copies can be sent from Ottawa without delay.
5. The foregoing is provided to shed some light on a complicated subject. The interpretation of these Acts and Regulations is the sole responsibility of the Department responsible for their administration. Specific questions on actual cases will be referred promptly to the appropriate Department for a ruling.

★ ★ ★