

CERTIFICATION

All fish and fish products must be accompanied by a Mercury Certificate attesting that the mercury content does not exceed 0.7 ppm.

Although seldom strictly enforced, it is still required that certain fish and fish products originating from Pacific waters be accompanied by a Radioactivity Certificate.

With the exception of live fish (e.g. eels, lobster) and certain fresh/frozen whole or sectioned large species (e.g. tuna, shark), all fish and fish products must be accompanied by a Health Certificate, specifically defining the nature of the product and attesting that it was produced in an establishment in compliance with Fish Inspection Regulations.

Fish of the mackerel, salmon, cod and herring species, whether fresh, frozen, smoked or salted are sampled and tested prior to entry for the presence of the Anisakis nematode, and are subject to rejection if any live larvae or substantial numbers of dead larvae are discovered. Systematic sampling is not mandatory if the product is accompanied by an official certificate stating that the product has been frozen to a temperature of minus 20 degrees centigrade for a period of at least 24 hours.

Processed frozen fish products in consumer packs and those destined for simple repacking by Italian quick-frozen food manufacturers (and including those possibly destined for other purposes but which, because of their manner of presentation, may easily be mistaken for the latter) must be accompanied by a special Quick-Frozen-Produce Health Certificate, which can only be issued for products which originates from packing plants which have received explicit authorization from the Italian Ministry of Health. Health certificates for edible molluscs must state that they have been raised in suitably controlled nurseries or on natural banks located in waters deemed suitable from a hygienic health standpoint.

All of the above certificates must be issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Inspection Unit. However, the ordinary Certificate of Origin can also be issued by the exporter's local Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce.

CUSTOMS DUTIES AND SURTAXES.

Customs duties vary considerably depending upon the species, the degree of processing, the specific country of origin and in some cases the season of the year. In the case of certain species, the EEC has fixed reference prices, and products presented at the border at below these levels may be charged a surtax equivalent to the difference between the CIF value and the community reference price.