

## MARKET ACCESS

### INSPECTION

As of January 1, 1993, fisheries products entering the EC are subject to EC Directive #675 which contains stringent provisions with respect to inspection. Initial implementation of the directive caused serious problems for some products product entering the EC, particularly fisheries products exported from Norway and Iceland which supply the market during this time of year. Because of the initial problems experienced under EC Directive #675, the European Community has temporarily stopped enforcing the directive until higher quality inspection equipment can be put into place. Canada has asked to be granted a derogation from EC Directive #675. The EC must first evaluate the Canadian Quality Management Program (QMP), which will include inspection of Canadian operations, in order to determine if Canada will be granted a derogation.

### LABELLING/PACKAGING

Frozen or packaged goods must display the following information in Spanish, but can also be displayed in English or French: 1) description of contents; 2) packaging date; 3) shelf life of the product; 4) country of origin; 5) the name and registration number of the importer; and, 6) a code bar is optional but may be requested by the importer.

### IMPORT DECLARATIONS

With the advent of the EEC, import licences have been replaced with import declarations which the importer will prepare and process. Spanish importers submit import declarations to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, or to any of its regional offices. The import declaration is accompanied by a *pro forma* invoice in sexduplicate, which includes the F.O.B. price, the freight and insurance costs, and the C.I.F. price. If necessary, the buyer is permitted to prepare the invoice in Spain, based upon information supplied by the seller. The import declaration, once accepted, is normally valid for six months, but may be extended if adequate justification is provided. Fisheries products shipped to a Spanish Customs area without proper import licenses or declarations are subject to considerable delay and may run up substantial demurrage charges. For example, if goods arrive prior to the import declaration having been prepared, 72 hours are allowed for declaration prior to the imposition of a 5 percent fine on the value of duties and charges levied.

### DOCUMENTATION

Canadian seafood exporters are required to present one commercial invoice, one bill of lading and triplicate copies of a certificate of origin for all shipments. In addition, special certificates may be required for items which are under quotas, items traded by the state, or products which pose particular health or safety problems. An official responsible for the inspection service of fish products at Spanish Ministry of Health has confirmed verbally that while documentary verification must be carried out at the first point of entry into the EC, veterinary inspection is acceptable at final destination provided this is stated in the appropriate section of the inspection certificate.

### COMMERCIAL INVOICE

Normally, two copies of the commercial invoice giving full particulars necessary to establish the C.I.F. value are sufficient. Although no special form of contents are prescribed for the commercial invoice, it is advisable to include the following: 1) date and place of shipment; 2) markings of the packages and their numerical order; 3) exact description of the goods (e.g. customary commercial description