

MARKET ACCESS

Hong Kong is party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The territory is also party to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Hong Kong is an associate member of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the aim of which is to further economic development within the region, and of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is a full member of the Asian Development Bank, a regional grouping intended to stimulate economic growth and co-operation in the Asian-Pacific region and to assist the efforts of developing member countries.

LICENSING

Import licences are generally not required, except to enable the government to fulfil certain international obligations and to control items for health, security or currency reasons.

LABELLING/PACKAGING

There are no specific rules that apply to packaging of fish and shellfish for import into Hong Kong. However, packages must be able to withstand Hong Kong's semi-tropical conditions of heat and extreme humidity. Any preserving agent used in processed food products must have its nature and proportion shown on the label.

DOCUMENTATION

The following documents are required for fisheries products entering Hong Kong: 1) air waybills, nine copies on standard IATA forms; 2) bills of lading, made "to order" showing consignees' name and address, port of destination, freight and the usual particulars; 3) three copies of the commercial invoices; and, 4) four copies of the shipper's export declaration (not required for shipments valued at \$1500 or less, except when moving under a validated export license).

COMMERCIAL INVOICE

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 according to kind, quantity, grade, weight [gross and net] in metric units, with special emphasis on factors that may affect value; 4) agreed upon price of the goods, including unit cost and total cost F.O.B factory, plus shipping, insurance and other charges; 5) delivery and payment terms; and, 6) the signature of a responsible official from the shippers' firm.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

All fresh seafood products entering Hong Kong require health certificates issued by the appropriate authority in the exporting country. It is an offence punishable by fines and/or imprisonment to deliver fish with the synthetic hormones dienoestrol, diethylstilboestrol, hexoestrol or oestradiol. Health certificates should include confirmation that the fish was processed and packaged under hygienic conditions; that it does not contain any substances such as pesticides or base metals in any amount so as to be poisonous; that the product is fit for human consumption and would be permitted to be sold as food for human consumption in Canada; and, certification that none of the previously mentioned synthetic hormones is present.