

6. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORTING TO FRANCE

6.1 General documents

France is a member of GATT and also of OECD. The "conventional" documents that any importer needs are: the bill of lading or airwaybill (AWB), commercial invoices, customs documents for departure from Canada, and where applicable a certificate of origin. All documents must be in French or accompanied by a French translation.

6.2 Fresh products

Fresh fish and crustaceans, and live crustaceans to be consumed cooked (such as live lobsters), are considered fresh products. Generally speaking, the metric system must be used, and the documents must be written in French. Shipments must be accompanied by a Model I certificate of fitness for human consumption (supplied by the French authorities) completed by a Fisheries and Oceans inspector; the contents must be designated by both their Latin name and their official French name, and the origin must be shown.

6.3 Frozen products

The requirements for this type of product are exactly the same as in the case of fresh products, and in addition every carton in the shipment must show the date of freezing and the batch number (which in many instances is the date of freezing). If the importer wishes, his name may appear as well.

6.4 Products for sale to consumers

In the case of frozen products, the rules stated above must be followed. Smoked and canned products and cooked frozen lobsters must be accompanied by a Model II certificate of fitness for human consumption. These products are subject to exacting composition and labelling requirements which are not the same as those in effect in Canada. In particular, many products are considered additives. Some weights or volumes are required, while others are not allowed. The label must show the official name of the product (see Appendix 5), the importer's name or code, the words "Produit du Canada (product of Canada)", the net weight, and the composition of the product. "À consommer de préférence avant..." ("best before" date) must also be shown; in many instances this date is 12 or 18 months after the date of freezing in the case of frozen products. Instructions for preparation are frequently requested. The metric system is compulsory, as is the use of the French language. Every labelling case has its own requirements which must be examined individually by our services at the Embassy.