

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

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.

Following consultations between Canada and the Community, a special EC directive has been drawn up regulating Canadian exports of fish and fish products to the EC. Under this directive (#93/495), products from fish producers in Canada-referred to as establishments-listed in the appendix to the directive may be brought into the Community if they are accompanied by a health certificate signed by an inspector of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

This arrangement, which was announced in July and took effect on October 1, 1993, greatly facilitates Canada's fish exports to the EC. Further information may be obtained from the nearest regional office of Fisheries and Oceans.

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 Dutch 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.

Throughout Europe, INCOTERMS, as established by the International Chamber of Commerce, are used to avoid misunderstandings over the responsibilities of the buyer and seller. First-time Canadian fish and seafood exporters would be well-advised to follow the definitions and procedures specified in the publications' *INCOTERMS* and *Guide to INCOTERMS* available from the ICC Service S.A.R.L. located at 1080 Beaver Hall Hill, Suite 1730, Montreal, Quebec, H2Z 1T2, tel:(514) 866-4334. In addition, the major Canadian banks can provide information pertaining to this topic.

IMPORT DUTIES

The general attitude of the Netherlands toward trade is liberal and non-discriminatory. As a member of the EC, the Netherlands follows the EC customs regulations with respect to trade treaties, preferences, custom duties, agricultural agreements, import regulations, and rules of origin. Duties are levied, in principle, on the basis of the "transaction value", which is usually the price actually paid or payable (including all costs, charges and expenses of the sale and delivery to the first place of entry in the Netherlands or the EC).