

RESTRICTIONS

Market access is basically unrestricted, with the exception of fresh, chilled, frozen or cold smoked salmonids {trout and salmon} which are banned. To be permitted entry, smoked salmonids must be heat treated under prescribed conditions in plants approved by AQIS (details may be obtained from the local office of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada). Dogfish and other sharks, gemfish, tuna and swordfish must be certified that mercury levels do not exceed .05 mg/kg.

TERMS OF TRADE

All imported product is brought in by prime importers who sell to distributors and to major retail chain groups. While letter of credit terms are acceptable, long-term suppliers normally provide, and are expected to provide, such terms as sight draft or 30- to 60-day bank draft. Quotations, unless otherwise stipulated, should be in Canadian dollars C.I.F. Australian port.

PACKAGING/LABELLING

Fillets are required to be in shatter-pack interleaved in either five or 10 kilogram boxes. In general, Australian importers will provide details of their particular packaging criteria. Canned product, because it is for direct retail sale, must conform to specified requirements. Without exception, the Australian importer will specify packing and size specifications in detail. The same guidelines apply to labelling, and where necessary, artwork will also be provided.

DOCUMENTATION

The following documents are required for customs clearance for all Canadian fish and seafood products entering the Australian market.

1. Commercial invoice.
2. Packing slip.
3. Original bill of lading.
4. Other government certificates (where applicable), eg. quarantine.
5. Customs entry and dissection sheets.

In 90 percent of transactions, goods are cleared for entry within four hours. Customs brokers can assist in the clearing of goods and in arranging local transport. Since July 1, 1989, automatic penalties have applied for making false or misleading statements in documents used to calculate the customs value. These statements (including omissions of fact) need not have been made intentionally. All penalties are levied on the owner of the goods.

CUSTOMS/STORAGE

Under Australian Customs legislation, imported goods may be placed in a licensed warehouse, also known as a bond store. Australian Customs charges annual fees for the operation of licensed warehouses and transaction fees for each entry into home consumption. The benefits of using a licensed warehouse include the following.

1. Storage of goods without payment of duty.
2. Deferment of duty payment until the time goods go into commerce.
3. Access to goods for examination, repacking, sorting, etc., before the payment of duty.