

To: Interested Parties

28 March 2008

Reference: FIN 04/2008

Dear Sir or Madam

TRADE SAMPLES OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FOR THE EUROPEAN SEAFOOD EXPOSITION

You will no doubt be aware that the European Seafood Exposition will take place in Brussels on 22 -24 April 2008. I attach here a link to the website giving more information. <http://www.euroseafood.com/08/public/MainHall.aspx?ID=15130>

It is often the case that some trade samples of fishery products arrive at UK ports for clearance and onward transfer to the Exposition without the required paperwork, causing unnecessary delays for the exhibitors and this sometimes results in border rejections of the trade samples. If you are planning to import product for this event, may I take this opportunity to remind you of the rules and application processes that apply for trade samples of fishery products from non-EU countries.

The general rule is that all fishery product imports must comply with full import requirements, however in some cases trade samples of fishery products may be brought to the UK without the need to be accompanied by health certification or Common Veterinary Entry Documents (CVEDs). If you wish to apply for this dispensation then you are advised to contact Defra's Animal Health Divisional Office in Chelmsford for an application form. Their telephone number is 01245 358383 or you can Email them at ahitchelmsford@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively, the application form can be downloaded by clicking on this link <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/forms/ahhealth/iappo1.pdf>

Once completed and returned to Animal Health, and if they are content with your application, they will issue you with a document exempting your product or products from certain checks at Border Inspection Posts. Please ensure that the samples are accompanied by this original document when they are brought to the UK.

Please note that UK authorisations are not issued for samples intended for tasting or consumption by the general public.

The advice contained in this letter should not be taken as an authoritative statement of the law or its interpretation. The opinion of your Home Authority or other enforcement authorities may differ. Only the courts can decide whether in particular circumstances an offence has been committed.

If you need any further information please let me know. You may also be aware that we have an imports section on the Food Standards Agency's website that can be found at www.food.gov.uk/imports

Yours sincerely

Mary Heaton
Imported Food and Food Standards Enforcement Division