

To: Interested Parties

Date: 22 October 2007

Reference: FIN 10/2007

Dear Sir or Madam

**COMMISSION DECISION 2007/275/EC – PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROLS FOR COMPOSITE PRODUCTS CONTAINING FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES**

1. I am writing to confirm the Agency's opinion is that Commission Decision 2007/275/EC applies for public health controls, and to advise on what public health enforcement checks will be applied to composite products containing processed fishery products coming from third countries.

2. As you will be aware Commission Decision 2007/275/EC lays down the rules for composite products subject to veterinary checks at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). Article 2(a) of Decision 2007/275/EC defines a composite product as *"a foodstuff intended for human consumption that contains both processed products of animal origin and products of plant origin and includes those where the processing of primary product is an integral part of the production of the final product."*

3. Where a composite product arrives from a third country, with **less than** half its substance of processed fishery products, and which meets the requirements of Article 6 of Decision 2007/275/EC i.e. that it is:

- shelf-stable at ambient temperature or has clearly undergone in its manufacture a complete cooking or heat treatment process so that any raw product is denatured;
- clearly identified for human consumption;
- securely packaged or sealed in clean containers; and
- accompanied by a commercial document and labelled in an official EU language so that document and label together give information on the nature, quantity and number of packages of the composite product, the country of origin, the manufacturer and the ingredients

then there is no requirement for the composite product to be imported through a BIP and no veterinary checks are required. However if the product contains any processed meat product it will be subject to veterinary checks at a BIP. If the product



contains a milk product, the milk shall only come from a country listed in Annex I to Decision 2004/438/EC.

4. Where a composite product arrives from a third country and contains half or **more than** half its substance of processed fishery products, then this product must be imported through a BIP and is subject to veterinary checks.

5. Annex II of Decision 2007/275/EC lists certain composite fishery products or foodstuffs which are also not subject to veterinary checks. A list of these products can be found on page 3 of this letter.

6. Where a composite fishery product arrives from a third country which does not meet the requirements of Article 6 of Decision 2007/275/EC, even if less than half of its substance is a processed fishery product, then this product must be imported through a BIP and is subject to veterinary checks.

7. 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. This advice is issued pending further clarification from the European Commission. Only the courts can decide whether in particular circumstances an offence has been committed.

8. If you have any concerns about the advice in this letter on the application of import rules for composite products then please contact [imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imported.food@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk) or call 020 7276 8018 within the next two weeks. You may also be aware that we have an imports section on the Food Standards Agency's website and can be found at [www.food.gov.uk/imports](http://www.food.gov.uk/imports)

Yours sincerely

Ian Grist  
Imported Food Division

**LIST OF COMPOSITE FISHERY PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS NOT SUBJECT  
TO VETERINARY CHECKS AT A BORDER INSPECTION POST IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH ART 6. 1. (b) OF DECISION 2007/275/EC**

Food supplements packaged for the final consumer, containing small amounts of fishery product (such as fish oils), and including glucosamine, chondroitin or chitosan.

Olives stuffed with fish

Soup stocks and flavourings packaged for the final consumer containing fish oils, powders or extracts