

To: Interested Parties

22 December 2008

Reference: FIN 21/2008

Dear Sir or Madam

**CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS,  
LIVE BIVALVE MOLLUSCS, ECHINODERMS, TUNICATES & MARINE  
GASTROPODS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

I am writing to let you know that the Commission has published Regulation (EC) No 1250/2008 on 16 December which amends Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 regarding the certification requirements for imports of fishery products, and live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods for human consumption. The new Regulation amends and replaces the previous health certificates in Annex VI of Regulation 2074/2005 (as amended) and introduces transitional arrangements for the new requirements – please see the following link: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:337:0031:0040:EN:PDF>

From a public health perspective, the new health certificates introduced by Regulation 1250/2008:

- Amend Part I of the Notes for the certificates so that Box reference I.23 states that where there is a serial number of the seal this must be indicated on the certificates;
- Amend Part II of the Notes so that where special public health certification requirements are laid down for countries in equivalence agreements or other Community legislation, the public health attestation in Part II.I of the certificates do not apply for those countries.

The animal health attestation has also been amended.

Consignments of fish, fishery products, live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods for human consumption should, from 1 January 2009, be accompanied by a health certificate issued in accordance with the model laid down in

Regulation 1250/2008. However the new Regulation puts in place a transitional period so that, until 30 June 2009, consignments of fish, fishery products, live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods for human consumption can continue to be accompanied by the previous health certificate as laid down in Regulation 2074/2005, as amended by Regulation 1664/2006.

Regulation 1250/2008 also puts into place a transitional period until 31 July 2010 for animal health attestations for certain fishery products and live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods for human consumption.

The additional model health attestation for processed bivalve molluscs belonging to the species *Acanthocardia Tuberculatum* at Part B of Appendix V to Annex VI in the Annex to Regulation 1664/2006, amending Regulation 2074/2005, is not revoked or replaced by Regulation 1250/2008.

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.

I hope that this is helpful but if you need any further information please let me know. The Agency's imports section on our website can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/imports>

Importers may also register for the Agency's on-line Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation system (GRAIL) by following this link: <https://grail.foodapps.co.uk/grail/general/home.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Ian Grist  
Imported Food Branch  
Enforcement Support Division