

27 September 2006

Reference: FSH 082

Dear Sir/Madam

IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM BRAZIL AND INDONESIA

This letter is to further update you on developments on the above.

Imports of Fishery Products from Indonesia – Commission Decision

2006/236/EC

The UK raised this matter with the EU Commission at a Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health (Scofcah) meeting in Brussels last week. The Commission advised that it expects to discuss this issue at a meeting on 4 October. They are assessing the data forwarded by Member States as required by the current restrictions in place on imports.

Imports of Fishery Products from Brazil

The EU Commission agreed at a Scofcah meeting last week to formalise restrictions on imports of certain fishery products (fish belonging to the families *Scombridae*, *Clupeidae*, *Engraulidae*, *Coryfenidae*, *Pomatomidae*, *Scombresosidae*) imported from Brazil and intended for human consumption, having identified serious handling deficiencies of fishery products in Brazil. It has therefore been agreed that:

- Member States shall authorize the import into the Community of products referred to above only if they are accompanied by the results of an analytical test for histamine carried out in Brazil and which show that levels of histamine do not exceed the limits set by Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. These tests must be carried out following the sampling and the analytical method referred in Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.
- By way of derogation from this, Member States shall authorize the import of products referred to above that are not accompanied by the results of the analytical test provided that the importing Member State ensures that each consignment of those products undergoes tests to verify that the histamine levels are below the limits set by Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. These tests must be carried out following the sampling and the analytical method referred



in Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. The cost of such analysis will be borne by the importer.

As you are aware, Brazil have already been voluntarily testing all consignments leaving Brazil and attaching the results of the analysis. If this continues then I hope that there will be a minimum of inconvenience and additional cost.

Member States are required to inform the Commission of any results which reveal histamine levels exceeding those set by Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005. Furthermore, the Decision also requires Member States to submit quarterly reports of results of all tests carried out in December, March, June and September.

We will be writing to Border Inspection Posts to inform them of the new requirements as soon as we are aware of the date of application, which is expected to be within the next few days. We will inform you of this as soon as we are notified. If you have any questions on this letter please contact me or my colleague Mariam Aleem (Tel 0207 276 8903)

Yours sincerely

MIKE GLAVIN

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