

Canada - Certification Requirements

These instructions establish and implement a procedure which will assure national uniformity in the completion and issuance of the USDC SIP Aquatic Animal Health certificate unique to the product and shipment to Canada for computer-based certificates.

The Exporter should consult with the importer on current specific requirements.

Beginning December 10, 2012, aquatic animals listed on Schedule III of the Health of Animals Regulations requires an import permit to enter the country. This measure is aimed at protecting Canada's aquatic animal resources. The enforcement of these requirements were phased in and came into effect either on December 10, 2012, February 4, 2013 or April 8, 2013 depending on the specific end uses and the applicable HS codes.

The three U.S. federal agencies that function as Competent Authorities for exported aquatic animals (the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [USDA-APHIS]; the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service [NOAA Fisheries]; and the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Services [FWS]) have worked with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on specific export requirements that will facilitate continued US trade in aquatic animals and products with Canada. As of December 10, 2012, each shipment must be accompanied by an import permit issued from CFIA and possibly a health certificate from NOAA-SIP / APHIS / FWS. The regulated species and the diseases of concern are at the following link: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquaticanimals/diseases/susceptible-species/eng/1327162574928/1327162766981>

NOAA-SIP will be issuing certification for these exports:

- LIVE AND DEAD WILD-HARVESTED MARINE FINFISH AND THEIR GERMPLOASM FOR BAIT AND FEEDING TO AQUATIC ANIMALS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA
- LIVE OR CARCASS WILD-HARVESTED MARINE FINFISH, CRUSTACEANS FOR FOOD SERVICE AND RETAIL USE FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA
- LIVE OR CARCASS WILD-HARVESTED MARINE FINFISH AND CRUSTACEANS FOR FURTHER PROCESSING FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA
- LIVE MOLLUSCS FOR FOOD SERVICE, RETAIL USE AND FURTHER PROCESSING FROM THE UNITED STATES TO CANADA

April 8, 2013, marked the enforcement of the third and final phase of Canada's aquatic

animal import requirements, which applies to animals intended for Food Service, Retail Use and Further Processing (ie. human consumption). The U.S. Department of Commerce (US DC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Seafood Inspection Program (NOAA - SIP) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Veterinary Services (APHIS- VS) have recently negotiated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the health certificate for live Molluscs intended for Food Service, Retail Use and Further Processing. As a result of this negotiation, beginning April 11, 2013 NOAA-SIP will endorse all live marine molluscan shellfish certificates destined for Canada for the end uses of Food Service, Retail Use and Further Processing. This is an interim measure which will be evaluated over the coming years. In many cases, regionalization has been established and animals can move without a health/zoosanitary certificate from the origin.

To determine if this is possible please utilize Canada's Automotive Information Reference System (AIRS):

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquaticanimals/imports/airs/eng/1300127512994/1326599589537#>

Contacts for CFIA Area Offices can be found at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-thecfia/offices/eng/1313255382836/1313256130232>

Website for USDA APHIS / Canada Exports:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_canada.shtml

Website for OIE:

<http://www.oie.int/en/>

General

- A. At the present time these certificates are issued similar to the EU in that neither a lot inspection nor HACCP QMP eligibility is required. Shipments requiring this certification will fall under a random audit or random inspection approach as directed by HQ.
- B. The certification requirements for Canada pertain to Aquatic Health and not food safety. The purpose for these requirements is to address the protection of Canada's aquatic resources. Not all seafood products require Aquatic Health certificates. Certification is focused on specific seafood products, from specific areas shipped to specific locations in Canada and the end use by the Canadian importer.
- C. Although it is not required by Canada, occasionally we issue the Export Health certificate for Canada via SISF upon request by customer.
- D. The certificates will be printed on official USDC watermarked paper only.