EU Fishery Products Health Certificates

Guidance on the completion of the EU model health certificate for imports of fishery products intended for human consumption

The following guidance is provided to assist with the completion of the model health certificate for imports of fishery products intended for human consumption as laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005**(1)** as amended.

It incorporates the notes for guidance listed on the certificate itself and the explanatory notes found in Commission Decision 2007/240/EC **(2)**.

In addition, guidance has been obtained from the texts of the international standard-setting body Codex Alimentarius. In the Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001**(3)** issued by the Codex Alimentarius Commission **(4)**, replacement certificates are foreseen for certain administrative corrections or if the certificates were lost or damaged.

All certification should be done via the NOAA SIP online certificate system. Only as an option when the system is down or unavailable is a PDF version issued. The directions below are guidance for both the system completion and the PDF certification for information required in fields located on the documents.

General

- Tick or mark the relevant box
- ISO codes – use the two-letter country code in compliance with the international standard ISO 3166 alpha-2
- The color of the stamp and signature must be different to that of the other particulars in the certificate.
- Certifying officers must not sign blank or incomplete certificates.
- Certifying officers must verify that all firms that handled, processed or stored the product and its ingredients appear as current approved shippers to the E.U.

All US fishery products must be produced and stored in an EU approved establishment. Facilities should appear on European Union Approved list at the following links:
https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/US/FFP_US_en.pdf
Certifying officers should verify that all foreign sourced material is from manufacturing facilities listed at the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/third_en.htm

- The certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch. Therefore, the health certificate must be issued after all the products in the consignment have been produced but before the consignment leaves the country, ideally when the product leaves the dispatch establishment.
- The original version of the certificate must accompany consignments on entry into the EU (original signature of an authorized officer, the name in capital letters, the qualification and title, and original stamp of the competent authority).
- An EU Approved Broker may select to input their information in Box I.28, identifying themselves as the manufacturer of the product. In this case, the Broker is required to submit documentation affirming that the origin of product is from an EU Approved Establishment. This documentation must be provided to Seafood Inspection personnel, for each consignment, prior to certification.

Procedure for completion of Model Health Certificate for imports of fishery products intended for human consumption

Part I – Information on the consignment shipped

Box I.1 *Consignor*

Please give the name and address (street, town and region/province/state, as applicable) of the physical or legal person who sends the consignment. Postcode/zip and telephone number are mandatory.

Box I.2

The certificate reference number is the number that the competent authority of the third country must assign in accordance with its own classification.

Box I.2a

Reserved for TRACES notification (e-certificates). The TRACES number of the certificate is a unique reference number assigned by the TRACES system. If not an e-certificate this box can be invalidated.

Box I.3 *Central Competent Authority*

The name of the Central Authority of the country of dispatch that is responsible for certification.

Box I.4 *Local Competent Authority*

If applicable, the name of the local authority responsible at the place of origin or place of dispatch in the country which is responsible for certification, (If the central competent authority issues the certificate itself, box I.4 is left blank).

Box I.5 *Consignee*

Please give the name and address (street, town and postcode) of the physical or legal person to whom the consignment is shipped in the Member State of destination (postcode and telephone number are mandatory)

Box I.6 *Person responsible for the load in the EU*

Reserved for TRACES notifications (e-certificates). If not an e-certificate, this box can be invalidated.

Box I.7 *Country of origin*

Please give the name of the country in which the establishment of production, manufacturing or packaging (flag state for freezer and factory vessels) is located that has applied its veterinary approval number on the product.

The ISO country code must also be stated (**https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search** – list of country names and code elements).

Box I.7 should always refer to the last country of dispatch, i.e. the U.S. even if the products concerned do not initially come from the U.S. For instance, products coming from Canada with their Canadian packaging showing the Canadian establishment number then stored in the U.S. in their original packaging and re-exported to the EU without any manipulation. The health certificated will have to mention the Canadian establishment in box I.28, the U.S. establishment of dispatch in box I.11 and U.S. as country of origin in box I.7.
This process allows U.S. exporters to have products of several origins on the same health certificate.

Box I.8 ***Region of origin***

This box is invalidated in the model health certificate.

Box I.9 ***Country of destination***

Please give the name of the Member State of destination and the ISO country code (**https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search** – list of country names and code elements).
For example for consignments destined for the UK, the country is 'United Kingdom' and the ISO code is 'GB', if destined for France the Country is 'France' and the ISO code is 'FR'

Box I.10 ***Region of destination***

This box is invalidated in the model health certificate.

Box I.11 ***Place of origin***

Please give the name and address (street, town and region/province/state, as applicable) of the dispatch establishment (e.g. warehouse/cold storage) where the goods were loaded into the container/means of transport being used for their carriage. The veterinary approval number of the establishment should also be stated.

Box I.12 ***Place of destination***

This box is invalidated in the model health certificate.

Box I.13 ***Place of loading***

This is the place (port or airport) where the container was loaded on the means of transport to the EU.

Box I.14 ***Date of departure***

Date of departure of the means of transport (vessel or aircraft).

Box I.15 ***Means of transport***

There should be a mark in the box next to the correct means of transport.
Identification: e.g. vessel name or flight number (mandatory)
Documentary references: bill of lading number or booking reference number (optional)

Box I.16 ***Entry BIP in EU***

Please give the name and the number of the border inspection post (BIP) as it appears in Annex I to Commission Decision 2009/821/EC**(5)** as amended.

Box I.17

This box is invalidated in the model health certificate.

Box I.18 ***Description of commodity***

Give a veterinary description of the goods or use the titles as they appear in the World Customs Organization's Harmonized System included in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87**(6)**. This customs description shall be supplemented, if necessary, by any information required classifying the goods in veterinary terms (species, processing, etc.)

Box I.19 *Commodity code*

Please give the six digits HS code as it appears in the World Customs Organization's Harmonized System included in Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87.

Box I.20 *Quantity*

Please give the total gross and net weights in kg. Gross weight is the weight of the product and its packaging (excluding shipping containers and pallets except where the pallet is the unit of packaging certified e.g. blocks of fish shrinks wrapped directly onto pallets).

Box I.21 *Temperature*

Please tick or mark the appropriate temperature box for transport/storage of the product.

Box I.22 *Number of packages*

Please indicate the total number of packages.

Box I.23 *Container/seal number*

Container number shall be stated.

The serial seal number has to be indicated if the seal was affixed to the container under the supervision of the competent authority.

Box I.24 *Type of packaging*

e.g. cartons, bags, trays

Box I.25

Tick or mark the box

Box I.26

This box is invalidated in the model health certificate.

Box I.27

Tick or mark the box

Box I.28 *Identification*

- *Species*: must be the scientific name
- *Nature of commodity*: must specify whether aquaculture or wild
- *Treatment type*: live / chilled / frozen / processed. Processed includes cooked and canned. Therefore for frozen cooked prawns the entry would be 'Frozen, processed'
- *Approval number of establishments manufacturing plant*: Approval number of manufacturing plant (includes: factory vessel, freezer vessel, cold store, processing plant, and EU approved broker). Country of Origin 2 digit ISO code.
- Number of packages
- Net weight

Part II – Health attestation

Box II.a

Same reference number as box I.2

Box II.b

TRACES reference number – see Box I.2 (e-certificate). If not an e-certificate, this box must be invalidated.

Part II.1

The public health attestations must match those in the model certificate.

Part II.2

The Animal Health attestations do not apply to the following products:

- Non-viable Crustaceans
- Fish which are slaughtered and eviscerated before dispatch (gutted fish)
- Aquaculture animals and product thereof that are in retail packs (must clearly be intended for retail sale in existing packaging which must have the deification mark on it)
- Crustaceans destined for processing establishments authorizes in accordance with Article 4(2) of Directive 2006/88/EC, or for dispatch centers, purification centers or similar businesses which are equipped with an effluent treatment system inactivating the pathogens in question, or where the effluent is subject to other types of treatment reducing the risk of transmitting diseases to the natural waters to an acceptable level.
- Crustaceans which are intended for further processing before human consumption without temporary storage at the place of processing and packed and labelled for that purpose in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.
- If the animal health attestations do not apply to the consignment then the whole of this section should be deleted, either invalidated or not present at all.
- If the animal health attestations do apply to the consignment, then the relevant section should be fully completed with non-relevant sections present but invalidated (in accordance with the notes for Part II of the certificate).

Official Inspector Section:

Name – Enter the name of the certifying person in capital letters.
Date -Enter the date the certificate is signed. Additional Instructions:
Qualification and Title – Complete qualification and title in non-black ink
Signature of Official Inspector - Sign in non-black ink.
Stamp - Apply the official stamp as indicated, in color other than printed certificate particulars. Each page of the certificate should be stamped and signed. No date indicated on the stamp.