

Fisheries Information Notice 11 of 2012 Traceability



The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice 11 of 2012 entitled “Traceability”.

LEGISLATION

References:

- Council Regulation 1224 of 2009 “Control Regulation”
- Commission Regulation 404 of 2011 Control regulation implementing rules.
- SI 320 of 2012 Sea Fisheries Control Regulations 2012
- Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 Section 16 & 17.

Introduction

The Control Regulation recognises that in order to have a comprehensive control regime the whole chain of production from catching or harvesting up to the point of delivery to the customer should be controlled and traceable. The traceability rules are primarily ‘Fisheries Control’ measures but are intended to compliment the ‘Food Safety’ regulations contained in EC 178/2002.

What Fisheries products do the traceability Rules apply to?

Traceability applies to all ‘salt water’ fishery products whether caught, harvested, gathered or farmed (aquaculture) within the EU.

How is Traceability achieved?

Up to the point of landing Logbook Regulations and stowage rules provide control of the catch onboard, after landing the chain of traceability is achieved by:

WEIGHING – TRANSPORT DOCUMENTS – REGISTERED BUYERS - LOT NUMBERS.

Weighing - Weighing is covered in a separate FIN however the principle is that all fishery products must be weighed after landing. The information from the weighing which is used for the landing declaration on the logsheet, provides verification of the accuracy to the operational estimate from the Logbook within a margin of tolerance of 10%.

Transport documents – Transport Documents are covered in a separate FIN in summary this may be a copy of the landing declaration or another equivalent document.

Fishery products & lots

The definition of a lot changes as it moves through the supply chain.

When fishery products are initially put into Lots - a lot is defined as - a quantity of 30kg or more of any species of the same presentation and coming from the same geographical area.

A lot is normally associated with a single vessel; however, there is provision for quantities less than 30kg of a single species from several vessels to be put into a single lot, this might occur for small scale fisheries where a co-op manages the landing.

Subsequent to the initial formation of lots – merging or splitting may occur – in such case quantities of the same species for many fishing vessels and from many geographic areas may be merged.

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Q&A

When are products placed into lots?

This may be done at any point prior to first sale but the information on the lot must be provided **no later than first sale**.

Who places the products into lots?

The operator responsible for the accuracy of the weighing but which is defined in the regulation, and would be expected to be but not limited to the master/ owner; Farmer/gatherer; registered buyer/agent.

Fisheries products shall be labelled with the 'Lot' information which shall include:

- The Lot identification Number
- The external identification number and name of the vessels or aquaculture production unit.
- FAO 3Alpha code for each species
- The date of catch or production
- The quantities net weight.
- The name and address of the supplier
- Commercial designation; scientific name; relevant geographic area & production method.
- Whether the fisheries products have been frozen or not.

Can lots be merged and or split?

Yes, provided that the lot of origin can be identified.

What does date of production mean?

The date of catching harvesting or gathering, there is no requirement for a separate 'lot' for each day of a fishing trip, however the operator may wish to divide the catch of a given trip into a number of lots for example to indicate 'freshness' etc.

How is the information made available?

This is done by means of a labelling affixed or packaging attached to the product or by a commercial document accompanying the products. If the information is provided by means of commercial documents then as a minimum the identification number of the lot must be affixed to the products.

Use of Barcodes; RFID codified information

The information on the Lot must be by means of a coded system for example Barcodes or Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Code. This will apply to species subject to Multi annual plan – Hake and Cod VIIa & VI from the **1st January 2013** & for all other species from 1st January 2015.

There is an obligation on Member States to ensure that the information accompanying the lot can be accessed by the competent authorities of any MS, to this end the obligation is that an internationally recognised coding system is used.

Registered buyers – All buyers shall be registered, Ireland has made provision for all sales information to be provided by electronic means. Fisheries products of over 30kg, which are for not personal for consumption, may only be purchased by a registered buyer.

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