



Information Notice to Trade

Issuing of Export Health Certificates – Obligations of Exporters prior to Export Health Certificate being issued by SFPA

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority has issued this Information Notice in relation to technical requirements for Irish companies trading with third countries in an evolving third country regulatory environment.

Consignments of fish/fishery products and molluscan shellfish exported to third countries must be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate. These Export Health Certificates (EHCs) are issued by the SFPA, who are the competent authority under Irish and European legislation, in respect of fishery products manufactured, processed or packaged in Ireland.

This information notice is being issued as a reminder to exporters that, when applying for an Export Health Certificate, Food Business Operators (FBO) must respect SFPA certification protocols in order to have the EHC issued.

Applications should be notified electronically to a local SFPA office via an email sent to the port area email address.

FBO must give reasonable notice (a minimum of 2 working days where possible) when applying to a local port office for a health certificate – certain flexibility can be applied for just in time exports.

As part of the inspection of the consignment prior to issuing the EHC, Sea-Fisheries Protection Officers (SFPOs) shall, under Regulation (EU) 2017/625 Of The European Parliament And Of The Council, perform a number of official controls as part of the certification process.

These controls may include, but are not limited to, quality checks on frozen fishery products, sampling of the product, labelling checks, temperature checks, gatherer's cross checks.

As part of these controls the SFPO may also request to see documentation or data from the FBO's own control systems such as sampling plans/results, cold chain records, traceability records etc.

*In order to be issued with an Export Health Certificate the FBO **must** facilitate these official controls and provide any documentation requested by the SFPO.*

Queries regarding this information notice may be addressed to SFPATradeandAudit@sfpa.ie

"The purpose of this document is to provide information upon Export Requirements. For the avoidance of doubt, this information does not constitute legal advice or analysis and should not be relied upon as such. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accurate and relevant material is published, no responsibility is accepted by, or on behalf of the SFPA, for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages."