

Exports of Wild-Harvested Shrimps and Shrimp Products from Singapore into the USA

I&E Notice No. 21/96

19 Nov 96

To : All Traders, Freight Forwarders,
Cargo Agents and Carriers

Please refer to our I&E Notice No. 4/96 dated 30 April 96 on the U.S. embargo on wild-harvested shrimps and shrimp products from countries not certified under Section 609 of U.S. Public Law 101-162. A copy of the I&E Notice No 4/96 is annexed for your reference.

Latest Developments on Embargo

The purpose of this circular is to update you on the latest developments pertaining to the embargo. The Earth Institute filed a motion on 21 Jun 96 in the U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT) alleging that the U.S. Administration's implementation of the shrimps embargo violated a Court order requiring the U.S. Administration to apply the embargo world-wide. The U.S. CIT on 8 Oct 96 decided in favour of the Earth Institute that shrimps harvested in the wild may not be imported into the United States unless the harvesting nation is certified under Section 609 of U.S. Public Law 101-162. The ruling came into effect immediately.

Countries Certified Under Section 609

As of 6 Nov 96, 37 countries have been certified under Section 609 of U.S. Public Law 101-162. In Asia, only Brunei, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka have been certified under Section 609. Singapore does not harvest shrimps commercially and is not certified under Section 609.

Other countries which have been certified under Section 609 are Argentina, the Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Russia, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Implementation of US Court Order

The U.S. Administration on 28 Oct 96 had requested for a stay of the Court's ruling. The Appellate Court has not yet responded on the request. Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration is obliged to implement the Court order. Regulations implementing the Court order are expected to be published shortly in a Federal Register Notice.

We wish to inform you that the new regulations will prohibit importation into the U.S. of shrimps and shrimp products from all uncertified countries except for shrimps harvested in an aquaculture facility. Please refer to the I&E Notice No 4/96 for further details.

Shipments in Transit

Shipments of shrimps and shrimp products from uncertified countries that were in transit to the U.S. before 8 Oct 96 may enter the U.S. if they met the conditions mentioned in the I&E Notice No 4/96. The U.S. deems that by 8 Dec 96, all such shipments would have entered the U.S.. Consignments shipped on or after 8 Oct 96 that do not meet the new criteria may not enter the U.S. However, the U.S. will allow the consignment to be re-exported.

Endorsement from TDB on DSP-121 Not Required

Exporters of shrimps and shrimp products to the US are required to follow the procedures as laid out in our I&E Notice No 4/96. Please note that there is no necessity for TDB to endorse on the original Shrimp

Exporter's/Importer's Declaration (DSP-121) for the export of shrimp products which are substantially transformed in Singapore and qualified as of Singapore origin. This is because the US Customs will allow the import of these shrimp products with the original DSP-121 furnished by the country where the shrimps are harvested and not by the country where processing takes place and the origin for the shrimp products is conferred.

Original DSP-121

Exporters of aquaculture shrimps to the U.S. are reminded to ensure that the shipment is accompanied by the original Shrimp Exporter's/Importer's Declaration (DSP-121) and the form must be signed by the Government authority of the supplying nation certifying that the shrimps are harvested in an aquaculture facility in which the shrimps spend at least 30 days in ponds prior to being harvested.

Further Enquiries

If you have further enquiries, please contact the Customs Call Centre at Tel No. 63552000

PHUA KIA CHEW
for TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD