

*Processed Food Products***1. Introduction**

Exporters of processed food products will need to consult the EC's Common Customs Tariff (CCT), Chapters 16-22. These chapters include canned meat and fish; meat and fish preparations (sausages, pre-cooked frozen food); preserved fruit, vegetables and nuts; jams, purees and juices; pastry products; sauces and beverages. Dried products are not included and can be found in the first two sections of the Common Customs List. (See Chapters 1 and 2 above.)

Customs duties are relatively high to protect the EC market for local producers. Processed meat and fish products attract duties of 17-26% and in addition a levy is applied to some products. Processed fruit and vegetables have higher rates of up to 30% with an additional levy on the sugar content in certain cases.

2. EC Food Legislation**Food Labelling**

The EC has issued legislation for the labelling of prepacked foods sold to the ultimate consumer or to a catering establishment. The following must be included in the label of prepacked foods:

- ◆ The name of the food
- ◆ a list of ingredients
- ◆ the appropriate durability indication (datemark) e.g. "use by" date
- ◆ any special conditions of storage or use
- ◆ the name and address of the manufacturer, or packer, or EC seller
- ◆ place of origin when required
- ◆ instructions for use where necessary.

Full details on the specific requirements of the above are found in the EC Official Journal No. L33 of 08 February 1979 ref. 79/112/EC and in subsequent amendments of the legislation. The most recent legislation gives specific labelling instructions for irradiated food products.

Lot Marking

The EC has established a framework for a common lot (or batch) identification system throughout the Community in order to facilitate product recall along the whole chain of distribution, for example in cases where the product constitutes a health risk to consumers. This applies to all foodstuffs intended for human consumption including wines and spirits.

Details on specific requirements are found in EC Official Journal L186 of 30 June 1989 ref. 89/389/EC.

Food Additives

In order to protect public health the EC has drawn up a list of additives accepted as safe throughout the Community. EC approved additives are given an "E" number for reference and labelling.

The EC has already issued approved lists and conditions of use of the following additives:

- ◆ colourants
- ◆ antioxidants
- ◆ emulsifiers
- ◆ stabilisers
- ◆ preservatives
- ◆ extraction solvents.

The EC will publish an approved list of flavourings and processing aids in 1993. New additives must be tested and obtain EC clearance before they can be used as ingredients in food. Food which contains additives judged to be unsafe will not be allowed entry into the EC.

For more information contact the European Commission (DG VI) as detailed in Part III.

Food Packaging

Materials and articles in contact with food are also regulated by the EC. Packaging materials for food products would fall under this legislation. The general requirement is that any material or article must not affect the food in any way that:

- ◆ could endanger human health
- ◆ bring about unacceptable changes in the nature, substance or quality of the food.

Specific legislation has been issued by the EC on plastic and regenerated cellulose film. It specifies lists of substances permitted for use in these materials. Details are contained in Official Journal L40 11 February 1989 ref. 89/109/EEC.

Nutrition Labelling

Proposals have been made to introduce compulsory nutrition labelling of foodstuffs intended for sale to the ultimate consumer. Nutrition labelling at the present time is compulsory if a nutrition claim is made on the label or advertising material. Information on energy value, amount of protein, carbohydrates, sugar, fat, etc. must be provided. Details of nutrition labelling rules can be found in the EC's Official Journal L276 of 6 October 1990 ref. 90/496/EEC.

For more information contact the European Commission as detailed in Part III.

Quick Frozen Food

Food which has undergone a process whereby the temperature zone of maximum crystallisation is spanned as rapidly as is necessary for product temperature to be reduced to -18oC or lower are subject to legislation on quick-frozen food.

Legislation covers a list of permitted cryogenic fluids, mandatory temperatures for storage and transport and labelling requirements. Requirements can be found in the EC's Official Journal OJ L40 of 11 February 1989 ref. 89/108/EEC.

3. Meat and Fish Products

There are very stringent health and hygiene standards for meat and fish products imported and sold in the EC.

Prepared and processed meat products imported into the EC must comply with the following rules:

- ◆ come from establishments approved by EC for this type of product and which meets health and hygiene standards of the Community
- ◆ use only fresh meat from an approved slaughterhouse
- ◆ require a health certificate drawn up by an official veterinary inspector from the exporting country
- ◆ be subject to inspection upon arrival into EC.

Meat products must come from approved cutting and slaughter houses. Approval of these establishments is made on a government to government basis. Exporters are advised to contact their country's veterinary authorities. (Please refer to Chapter 1, Section 2 for more details),

By 1 January 1993, all prepared and processed fishery products must fulfil the following import conditions:

- ◆ they must have been caught and handled on board vessels in accordance with specified hygiene rules of the EC.
- ◆ they must have been packaged, prepared and processed in establishments approved by the EC.

For more information contact the European Commission (DG VI) as detailed in Part III.

Meat and fish products in hermetically sealed containers (cans, glass jars, flexible pouches or any container) must be safe for human consumption. All heat processes must be established by competent persons using scientific methods. For further advice see:

Codex alimentarius code of hygiene practice for low acid and acidified low-acid canned foods

SECTION 7.5: Thermal processing

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 Food and Agriculture Organisation
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Local export promotion agencies should have copies of this code.

4. Fruit Juices, Beverages and Drinks

Legislation in the area of beverages has been limited to defining the compositional requirements of the product. EC regulations have been issued for the following products:

- ◆ fruit juices and similar products
- ◆ natural mineral water
- ◆ bottled drinking water
- ◆ spirit drinks.

Labelling requirements in the EC include compulsory indication of alcoholic strength of beverages containing more than 1.2% by volume of alcohol. Proposals have been made to make it mandatory to list ingredients for all alcoholic drinks.

5. Other Processed Food Products

The EC has not set specific common standard regulations for certain other processed food products

such as sauces and soups. These products will have to follow the requirements for each member state and the general standards detailed in Section 2.

In the case of fruit jams, jellies and marmalades, the identity and purity criteria are being discussed in the light of technical developments in their production.

6. Further Information and Contact Points

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS	TRADE FAIRS & EXHIBITION
<p>1. European Federation of Importers of Dried Fruits, Preserves, Spices and Honey Plan 5, Warenverein der Hamburger Börse W-2000 Hamburg, Germany Tel: +49 40 326414 Fax: +49 40 322639</p> <p>2. European Food Brokers Association 10 Wellbank Hook Norton Banbury OX15 5LN United Kingdom Tel: +44 608 737176 Fax: +44 608 730256</p> <p>3. International Association for the Distribution of Food Products and General Consumer Goods 34 rue Marianne B-1180 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 2 345 9923 Fax: +32 2 346 0204</p>	<p>1. ANUGA World Food Market Location: Cologne, Germany Contact: Messe-und Ausstellungs- Ges mbH Koln PO Box 21 07 60 Messeplatz 1 D-5000 Koln 21 Germany Tel: +49 221 8210 Fax: +49 221 8212574 Frequency: Every 2 years in October Next fair 1993</p> <p>2. SIAL International Food Products Exhibition Location: Paris, France Contact: SIAL 39 Rue de la Bienfaisance 75008 Paris, France Tel: +33 1 42 89 46 87 Fax: +33 1 42 89 46 94 Frequency: Every 2 Years in November Next Fair 1993</p>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 200 Rue de la Loi
 1049 Brussels
 Belgium
 Tel: +32 2 299 1111

Canned Fish

Product Coverage

CCT NUMBER	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
1604 1310	Sardina pilchardus
1604 1390	Other (Than Sardines)
1604 1410	Tuna & Skipjack
1604 1490	Bonito
1604 1510	Mackerel - Scomber scombrus & Scomber japonicus
1604 1590	Mackerel - Scomber australasicus

Custom Duties

CCT NUMBER	FULL	ACP	GSP	LDDC
1604 1310	25%	0%	25%	0%
1604 1390	20%	0%	9%	0%
1604 1410	25%	0%	25%	0%
1604 1490	25%	0%	18%	0%
1604 1590	20%	0%	9%	0%

Product Standards

Canned tuna can be in steak form (solid pack), in chunks or flakes, either packed in vegetable oil or, to a lesser extent, brine. Pilchards are traditionally packed either in oil or tomato paste.

Quality of the ingredients, oil, brine or paste must be good or the taste of the basic fish may be ruined.

The EC has issued strict hygiene standards for processing. Effective autoclaving and sealing is essential to avoid contamination. The following must be followed in the canning of fish:

- ◆ water used for the preparation of cans must be of drinking water standard
- ◆ process used for heat treatment must be appropriate
- ◆ regular checks should be carried out to ensure appropriate heat treatment, efficiency of sealing and that the containers are not damaged
- ◆ all containers must be given a batch identification mark.

If the products are to be sold to the consumer or a catering establishment then the labels must state the following:

- ◆ country of origin
- ◆ name and address of EC importer or distributor
- ◆ weight of the can
- ◆ nett weight of solid matter
- ◆ description of contents and ingredients
- ◆ appropriate date mark
- ◆ storage conditions if necessary.

Marketing

Canned fish are generally handled by importers and agents as well as central buying groups normally specialised in that product area.

Major importers will inspect suppliers' processing plant before placing any order. EC approval of plants is essential and Commonwealth exporters must give assurance of quality and standards. Production samples are normally pre-shipped before confirming orders. Importers and agents can advise manufacturers of accepted can sizes for each individual member state.

Documentation

Aside from normal shipping and import documents, Certificate of Origin - Form A for GSP and LDDC countries, EUR 1 for ACP countries - must accompany consignments to benefit from reduced tariff or tariff free entry into the EC.

Other Information:

Trade Fairs: ANUGA
 World Food Market
 Location: Cologne, Germany
 Contact: Messe-und Ausstellungs-
 Ges mbH Koln
 PO Box 21 07 60
 Messeplatz 1
 D-5000 Koln 21
 Germany
 Tel: +49 221 8210
 Fax: +49 221 8212574
 Frequency: Every 2 years in October
 Next fair 1993

Trade Associations: Association of Fish Industries in the EEC
 1 Green Street
 Grosvenor Square
 London. W1Y 3RG
 United Kingdom
 Tel: +44 71 629 0655
 Fax: +44 71 499 9095

ACP Commonwealth Countries

ACP Commonwealth Countries

Entry Conditions:

The following prepared or processed animal products are exempt from customs duties on entry into the EC from ACP countries:

- ◆ beef and veal
- ◆ fish
- ◆ crustaceans
- ◆ molluscs and other aquatic invertebrae
- ◆ sheep and goat meat

Although beef products are exempt from customs duties these products are still subject to a levy.

Poultry Meat

Cooked, prepared or preserved poultry meat is allowed 50% reduction from the agricultural levy. Reduced levy is granted within the limits of an annual quota of 250 tonnes. Imports in excess of this quota will have to pay the full price of the levy.

Pig Meat

Only sausages and similar products are granted preferential access to EC markets. These products are granted a 50% reduction of the agricultural levy within the limits of an annual quota of 250 tonnes.

Canned Fish

Certain restrictions apply to canned fish from ACP States. Please refer to the section on Rules of Origin.

Processed Fruits, Vegetables and Nuts

Tariff free and quota free entry into the EC except for processed or preserved products of the following:

- ◆ sweetcorn
- ◆ yams, sweet potatoes
- ◆ palm hearts
- ◆ olives.

Additional duty on sugar content of processed fruit and vegetable is normally imposed. The following ACP exports are exempt from this duty:

- ◆ pineapples - whole, slices
- ◆ grapefruit segments
- ◆ pears
- ◆ strawberries
- ◆ mixtures of pineapple, pawpaw and pomegranate.

- ◆ grapes
- ◆ plums
- ◆ passionfruit, guava and tamarinds
- ◆ grapefruit juice
- ◆ pineapple juice
- ◆ passionfruit juice
- ◆ guava juice
- ◆ mixtures of pineapple, pawpaw and pomegranate juices
- ◆ non-citrus jams, fruit jellies, marmalade, purees and paste.

Other Processed Foods

Customs and quota free entry for other processed foodstuff such as sauces, condiments and mixed seasoning.

Rules of Origin:

In most cases the raw material (meat, fish, crustacean, fruits, nuts and vegetables) must come from ACP countries. Specific rules of origin hold for other processed food stuff such as:

- ◆ jams, jellies, marmalade
- ◆ juices, purees
- ◆ confectionary
- ◆ sauces and mixed seasoning
- ◆ cakes, biscuits
- ◆ tapioca

There are restrictions on the importation of canned and other fishery products which do not meet required rules of origin. Special provisions have been made to allow entry of these products from ACP States in limited quantities.

Rules of Origin:

Health certificate from an official veterinary officer from the exporting country must accompany consignments of meat products. It is likely that in the near future a health certificate will be required for fishery products.

Form EUR 1 must also accompany products from ACP countries if the exporter is to benefit from reduced or tariff free entry into the EC. These forms are available from the exporting country's national Customs and Excise Office or Ministry of Trade.

GSP Commonwealth Countries

GSP Commonwealth Countries

Entry Conditions:

Reduced tariff duties are allowed for most prepared and processed food products from GSP countries, including the following:

Meat Products

- ◆ sheep
- ◆ goat
- ◆ non-domestic swine
- ◆ fish fillet in batter or breadcrumbs

Fishery Products

- ◆ crabs
- ◆ shrimps and prawns
- ◆ lobsters
- ◆ bonito & mackerel

Fruit and Vegetables

- ◆ preserved in vinegar: mushrooms, sweetcorn, palm hearts, papaya chutney sauer kraut, asparagus, capers and bamboo shoots
- ◆ other prepared or preserved fruit, vegetables and nuts are given reduced tariff depending on type of fruit and sugar content.

Other Processed Foods

- ◆ sauces and preparations
- ◆ soups and broths
- ◆ confectionery: marzipan, gum, jelly, toffee, caramels.

Rules of Origin:

In most cases the raw materials (including meat, fish, crustaceans, fruit, nuts and even sugars) must already be from the GSP country.

Documentation:

Health certificate from an official veterinary officer from the exporting country must accompany consignments of meat products. It is likely that in the near future a health certificate will be required for fishery products.

Certificate of Origin (Form A) must accompany products if the exporter is to benefit from tariff free entry into the EC. These forms can be obtained from the exporter's national Customs and Excise office or Ministry of Trade.

LDDC Commonwealth Countries

LDDC Commonwealth Countries

Entry Conditions:

Tariff and quota free entry for the following products:

- ◆ prepared or preserved fish
- ◆ prepared or preserved crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates
- ◆ sugar confectionary
- ◆ pastry products
- ◆ prepared or processed fruit, vegetables and nuts (jams, purees and juices)
- ◆ sauces, mixed seasonings.

Rules of Origin:

In most cases the raw material (meat, fish, crustaceans, fruit, nuts, vegetables and even sugars) must already be from an LDDC country.

Documentation:

Health certificate from an official veterinary officer from the exporting country must accompany consignments of meat products. It is likely that in the near future a health certificate will be required for fishery products.

Certificate of Origin (Form A) must accompany products if the exporter is to benefit from tariff free entry into the EC. These forms can be obtained from the exporter's national Customs and Excise office or Ministry of Trade.

Figure 4.1 HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for fresh meat for consignment to a Member State (1) of the EEC

Exporting country
Ministry
Department
Ref.
No (2)

(Optional)

I. Identification of meat

Meat of
(Animal species)
Nature of cuts
Nature of packaging
Number of cuts or packages
Month(s) and year(s) when frozen
Net weight

II. Origin of meat

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s)
Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s)
Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved store(s)

III. Destination of meat

The meat will be seen from
(Place of loading)
to
(Country and place of destination)
by the following means of transport (3)
Name and address of consignor
Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation

'I, the undersigned official veterinarian, certify that the meat described above was obtained under the conditions governing production and control laid down in

Directive 64/443/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and that it is, therefore, considered as such to be fit for human consumption.'

Done at on
(Signature of the official veterinarian)

(1) Fresh meat: in accordance with the Directive referred to in IV of this certificate, this means all parts fit for human consumption from domestic bovine animals, swine, sheep and goats and solipeds which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered to be fresh meat.

(2) Optional.

(3) In the case of rail trucks and lorries, state the registration number, in the case of aircraft the flight number, and in the case of boats the name, and where necessary the number of the container.

PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATE

for fresh meat (1) intended for(Name of EEC Member State)
No(2).

Exporting country
Ministry
Department
Ref.
(Optional)

I. Identification of meat

Meat of
(Animal species)
Nature of cuts
Nature of packaging
Number of cuts or packages
Month(s) and year(s) when frozen
Net weight

II. Origin of meat

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s)
Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s)

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved store(s)

III. Destination of meat

The meat will be seen from
(Place of loading)
to
(Country and place of destination)
by the following means of transport (3)

Name and address of consignor

Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation

'I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that:

- a) — the meat described above (4),
the label affixed to the packages of meat described above (4), bear(s) (4) a mark to the effect that the meat comes wholly from animals slaughtered in slaughterhouses approved for exporting to the country of destination; the meat was obtained under the conditions governing production and control contained in Council Directive 72/462/EEC and that it is therefore considered as such to be fit for human consumption;
- b) the meat has been cut in an approved cutting plant (4);
- c) the meat has/has not been subject to an examination for trichinosis or, where Article 3 of Directive 77/96/EEC applies, has undergone cold treatment;
- d) the means of transport and the loading conditions of the meat of this consignment meet the hygiene requirements laid down in respect of export to the country of destination.
- e)

Done at on

.....
(Signature of the official veterinarian)

- (1) Fresh meat within the meaning of Article 2(b) of Directive 64/433/EEC.
- (2) Optional.
- (3) For railway wagons or goods vehicles the registration number should be given^N, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.
- (4) Delete as appropriate.

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR MEAT PRODUCTS (1) INTENDED FOR CONSIGNMENT
TO A MEMBER STATE OF THE EEC

Exporting country
Ministry
Department
Ref. (2)

No (2)

I. Identification of meat products

Products manufactured with meat from:
(Animal species)
Nature of products (3)
Nature of packaging:
Number of individual items or of packages:
Storage and transport temperature (4):
Storage life (4):
Net weight

II. Meat products from

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved processing establishments(s):

III. Destination of meat products

The meat products will be seen from
(Place of loading)
to
by the following means of transport (5)

Name and address of consignor

Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation

'I, the undersigned, certify that:

- (a) the meat products described above were manufactured from fresh meat or meat products under conditions that comply with the standards laid down in Directive 77/99/EEC(6);
- (b) the said meat products, their wrappings or packaging, bear a mark proving that they have all come from approved establishments (6);
- (c) the fresh pigmeat used in the manufacture of the meat products has/has not been (6) subjected to a trichinae detection test;
- (d) the transport vehicles and equipment and the loading conditions of this consignment comply with the hygiene requirements laid down in Directive 77/99/EEC.

Done at on

(Signature)

(Name in capital letters)

Stamp

(1) Under Article 2 of Directive 77/99/EEC.

(2) Optional.

(3) Possible indication of ionizing radiation for medical reasons.

(4) Where an indication is given in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 77/99/EEC.