

**NEW MODELS OF HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR THE IMPORT OF
AQUATIC ANIMALS AND FISHERY PRODUCTS**

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, received on 6 December 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 5 November 2012, the European Commission adopted the Implementing Regulation (EU)1012/2012 amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008 as regards the list of vector species, the health requirements and the certification requirements concerning epizootic ulcerative syndrome and as regards the entry for Thailand in the list of third countries from which imports of certain fish and fishery products are permitted (text with the European Economic Area relevance). This has resulted in new models of health certificates for the imports into the European Union of: (1) fishery products intended for human consumption; (2) aquaculture animals for farming, relaying, put and take fisheries and open ornamental facilities; and (3) ornamental aquatic animals intended for closed ornamental facilities.

II. ADOPTED MEASURES

2. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome is no longer listed as an exotic disease. As a consequence an amended model health certificate for imports of fishery products intended for human consumption is introduced (as stated in Annex I to the new Regulation, which replaces Appendix IV of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005).

3. Please note that there is an error in the layout of the certificate in Annex I. In box I.28 the line "of establishment" appears under "Treatment type" instead of under "Approval number". It should be read as in the previous certificate as "Approval number of establishment". The necessary correction will be made.

4. Taking into account that epizootic ulcerative syndrome is no longer listed as an exotic disease and the fact that the import of other fish species from Thailand into the European Union is now permitted, amended model animal health certificates for the import into the European Union of aquaculture animals for farming, relaying, put and take fisheries and open ornamental facilities, as well as of aquatic animals intended for closed ornamental facilities, are introduced (as stated in Annex II to the new Regulation, which amends accordingly Annexes I, III and IV to Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008).

5. A transitional period until 1 March 2013 is foreseen to allow EU member States and industry to take the necessary measures to comply with the requirements laid down in this Regulation provided that the consignments of aquatic animals accompanied by previous health certificates reach their place of final destination before that date.

6. This Regulation entered into force on the 20th day following that of its publication on 6 November 2012 in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. The whole text can be found under: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:306:0001:0018:EN:PDF>.
