

**ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CANADA'S AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS**

Communication from Canada

The following communication, received on 12 October 2011, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Canada.

1. The Government of Canada would like to inform Members of the upcoming entry into force of its regulatory amendments regarding aquatic animal health, which could impact imports from Canada's trading partners.
2. Canada notified the development, adoption and entry into force of these new requirements to the WTO on 6 January 2010 (G/SPS/N/CAN/415) and 18 January 2011 (G/SPS/N/CAN/415/Add.1).
3. On 22 December 2010, Canada's Health of Animals Regulations were amended to include aquatic animals. On 5 January 2011, aquatic animal diseases were added to Canada's Reportable Diseases Regulations. The purpose of these regulatory changes is to prevent the introduction into and spread within Canada of aquatic animal diseases.
4. These regulatory changes will affect the import of finfish, molluscs and crustaceans. Specifically, the regulations will control the import of species of aquatic animals that are susceptible to diseases regulated by Canada, including those listed by the OIE. Schedule III<sup>1</sup> of the Health of Animals Regulations provides lists of aquatic animals that will be subject to import controls. Canada formulated these lists in accordance with the standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) outlined in the Aquatic Animal Health Code.
5. Effective 10 December 2011, importers of any of the aquatic animals (live or dead and including germplasm, carcasses and offal of those animals) listed in Schedule III of Canada's Health of Animals Regulations will require:
  - 1) an import permit issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and
  - 2) a zoosanitary certificate signed by the Competent Authority of the exporting country of origin of the animals.
6. Aquatic animals that are eviscerated or packaged, processed or ready-to-eat products will not require an import permit or a zoosanitary certificate.

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<sup>1</sup> Schedule III of the *Health of Animals Regulations* can be found at "[http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C\\_c.\\_296/page-57.html#h-128](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._296/page-57.html#h-128)".

7. Trading partners exporting regulated aquatic animals to Canada will need to negotiate zoosanitary certificates with Canada by 10 December 2011. As the date of entry into force of the new requirements is fast approaching, Canada encourages implicated Members to contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in advance to minimize impact on trade flows. For more information, please contact the Canadian Mission in your territory or Dr. Joanne Constantine of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at +1 (613) 773 7426 or [joanne.constantine@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:joanne.constantine@inspection.gc.ca).

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