

## **IMPORT OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS**

Import of fish and fish product is controlled by the Ministry of Fisheries in accordance with the “Import of (Fish and Fish Products) Regulations - 2012”. Prior to importation of any consignment of fish/fish products the importers shall:

- be registered to the Ministry of Fisheries;
- pay to Director General MRA – Custom an annual import fee; and
- comply with the requirements and standards stipulated by the “Import of Fish and Fish Products Regulations - 2012”.

### **Registration of importers**

For the issue of a Registration Certificate the applicant shall be holder of a valid Trade Licence, Food Handlers Certificate and Certificate of Incorporation or Business Registration card and have appropriate storage and transport facilities.

- Importer must fill in the application form for registration
- Provide copies of the required documents
- Submit application for registration to the import/export unit
- Processing and approval of application
- Registration certificate is issued to the applicant.

The Registration Certificate is valid for a period of one year (from January to end December).

### **Payment of annual import fee**

The importer shall pay an annual import fee of Rs 25,000 to the MRA-Customs.

### **Providing information on import**

The importer shall provide to the Ministry such information on the consignment of fish/fish products intended for import as follows:

- Common and scientific name of fish/fish products
- The quantity intended for import
- The country of origin
- Name of establishment or farm or fishing vessel exporting the fish
- Registration and approval number of the exporting establishment

- The name of competent authority in the exporting country
- Type of products intended for import
- Purpose of import
- Place of storage
- Transport and distribution
- Retail sale

The importer shall seek approval of the Ministry of Fisheries prior to import of any fish and fish products.

After approval, the importer may proceed for importation of the goods.

### **Import requirements**

The importer shall ensure that the consignment of fish or fish products imported into Mauritius meets all the requirements and standards stipulated in the “*Import of Fish and Fish Products Regulations 2012*”.

To import any fish species listed in CITES, approval is required from the CITES Office at Reduit.

Fish intended for import shall not originate from IUU fishing.

Fish species subject to quota system shall not be imported unless authorized by the Ministry.

### [Import registration Form](#)

### **Inspection and clearance**

All consignments of fish and fish products shall be inspected and cleared by an authorized officer of the Ministry.

- The importer shall inform the Ministry of the arrival of the consignment and make arrangement for inspection in the custom area.
- The importer or his agent should be present at the site of inspection.
- The consignment of fish or fish products should be checked physically to ensure compliance.
- The consignment may be removed from the custom area only after verification and clearance from this Ministry.
- After removal from the Customs area, the authorized officer may thoroughly check the whole consignment at the cold store/warehouse/quarantine during unloading of the fish or fish products.

### **Collection of Samples**

1. Samples of fish or fish products may be collected at the container terminal or the cold rooms for laboratory analysis or for identification purposes.
2. The samples shall be collected by an authorized officer.

3. The samples shall be sent for analysis at laboratories designated by the Ministry.

### **Seizure of fish or fish products**

The whole lot, batch or consignment of fish may be detained or seized by an authorized officer if the products do not comply with the “Import of Fish and Fish Products Regulations 2012”.

### **Disposal/destruction of fish & fish products**

Any consignment of fish and fish products imported in breach of the regulations shall be seized by the authorized officer.

The Permanent Secretary shall dispose of any consignment of fish or fish products, forfeited or seized in the manner he may deem fit.

The importer of any product seized and destroyed under the regulation shall not be entitled to any compensation.

## **EXPORT OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS**

According to Section 25 of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, no person shall export from Mauritius any fish and fish product except with a permit issued by the Ministry of Fisheries. A permit issued under the Act may be subject to such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Permanent Secretary.

### **Export permit**

1. The exporter of any fish or fish product shall be holder of a valid export permit issued by the Ministry of Fisheries.
2. They must apply to the Ministry (Import/Export Unit) in writing for a permit to export fish and fish products;
3. The application should provide details on the consignment intended for export.
4. The application is processed by the import/export unit of the Ministry.
5. After approval, an export permit is issued to the exporter within 5 days.

The export permit is valid for a period of one year (from January to end December).

### **Export authorisation**

1. All the consignments of fish and fish products intended for export should be authorized by an officer of the Ministry of Fisheries based at the One Stop Shop – Seafood Hub. Upon satisfaction, the authorized officer may issue an export authorisation to the Custom to allow export of the consignment.
2. Copies of export documents should be provided at the time of verification and clearance.
3. Export of canned fish, live fish and chilled fish is authorized directly by officers based at the One Stop Shop Seafood Hub.
4. Fish for personal consumption, live ornamental fish for personal aquarium, samples of fish meant for laboratory analysis are authorized directly at the One Stop Shop Seafood Hub.
5. Live ornamental fish and stuffed fish shall be authorized by an officer of the Ministry of Fisheries before shipment.
6. Export authorisation is issued by the Ministry before shipment of the consignment.

### **Certification of fish and fish products**

1. Any consignments of fish and fish products intended for export shall be verified and certified by the Competent Authority - Seafood. The consignment of fish or fish products shall be accompanied by a Health Certificate as may be required by the importing country.
2. Stuffed fish shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Division of Veterinary of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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