

Seafish Food Legislation Expert Group

Update December 2011

Parasite control amendment to Regulation 853/2004

The Regulation to amend Regulation 853/2004 in relation to treatments suitable to kill viable parasites in fishery products for human consumption has been published.

[http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:327:0039:0041:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:327:0039:0041:EN:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:327:0039:0041:EN:PDF)

Seafish have produced guidance on reducing any risk from parasites here

http://www.seafish.org/media/Publications/SeafishGuidanceNote_Parasitesinfish_201110.pdf

The regulation requires that fish intended to be eaten without sufficient cooking to kill parasites must be frozen for sufficient time to destroy parasites. Storage as a frozen product is also sufficient. There are exemptions for product that can be proved to be from a fishery that is free of parasites. Food businesses must supply evidence of exemption or treatment up to the point of retail sale.

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Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation

The list of permitted health claims submitted under Article 13 (established claims) has been adopted by the Food Chain and Animal Health Committee. The commission will now submit to the Council and Parliament who have 3 months to comment.

The proposal contains claims for,

- DHA contributes to maintenance of normal vision
- DHA contributes to maintenance of normal brain function
- EPA/DHA contributes to the normal function of the heart
- Meat or Fish contributes to the improvement of iron adsorption when eaten with other iron containing foods

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BPA flame retardant in fish unlikely to be a concern

The Commission asked EFSA for an opinion on levels of a flame retardant based on bisphenol A, tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA), in fish and other foods. The opinion is that they are unlikely to be a concern for human health.

The CONTAM Panel concluded that current dietary exposure to TBBPA in the EU does not raise a health concern, neither does exposure of infants via human milk.

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Testing of seafood from Japan

The European Commission has published new legislation on the testing and certification of food from Japan. The new Regulation, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1371/2011:

- removes Nagano from the list of prefectures under tighter control;
- removes the requirement for testing for iodine-131
- reduces the level of identity checks
- for products originating outside the prefectures under tighter control, makes a change to the authorised signatory of the Declaration in Annex I of the Regulation; and
- provides an amended model Annex declaration

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1371/2011 is available here: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:341:0041:0044:EN:PDF>

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Current Work

Guidance on Fisheries Control Regulations 404/2011

Guidance is being written to assist in the interpretation of the new fisheries Control Regulations 404/2011. European fisheries control measures were reviewed and consolidated under Commission Regulation 01224/2009 with further implementing measures provided under Regulation 404/2011. This applies minimum labelling and information requirements throughout the supply chain both up to retail and to the consumer. It does not apply to fishery products imported under IUU regulations nor those that fall under the CN16 customs tariff heading.

If you wish to comment or be involved please contact f_wright@seafish.co.uk

Industry views on changes to Seafood Labelling

A guide has been produced and is available on the Seafish website http://www.seafish.org/media/539122/seafishguidancenote_seafoodlabelling_201111.pdf. There is now a blog on this topic, where you can comment and discuss these proposals. These comments will then be used to formulate our discussions other organisation and trade bodies and represent the wider industry views. The blogs can be accessed here <http://www.seafish.org/about-seafish/seafood-blog>

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Tariff Information Group

The Tariff Information Group (TIG) met for the first time on 13 December. Its objective is to monitor and share information on tariff-related issues that affect the trade in seafood. In particular it will consider proposed changes to legislation and examine how they will affect trade and processing activities. The group discussed import and export tariffs, inward and outward processing relief, autonomous tariff quotas, the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) and other economic partnership agreements.

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