

Seafish Food Legislation Expert Group

Update January 2012

EFSA report on Norovirus in oysters

The panel concludes that norovirus is often detected in EU oysters but that the infective dose is not known. It recommends that risk managers should establish acceptable limits and that an EU baseline study is needed to estimate consumer exposure. The report can be found here <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2500.htm>

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EFSA report on cadmium exposure

The panel concludes that although cadmium levels are highest in some foods including crustaceans it is not the highest foods that increase exposure, but those foods most commonly eaten. Foods that contribute the most cadmium to the diet were potatoes, bread and root vegetables. The report can be found here <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2551.htm>

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Requirements for frozen batches

Newly published Regulation 16/2012 specifies requirements for frozen fishery products not yet labelled for the consumer. Food businesses holding frozen fishery products have to make the following information available to customers and, upon request, to the competent authority:

- the date of catching or harvesting, and
- the date of freezing, if different from the above mentioned date

For frozen food made from a batch of raw materials with different dates of production and of freezing, the oldest dates must be made available. The requirements apply from 1 July 2012.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 16/2012 of 11 January 2012 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the requirements concerning frozen food of animal origin intended for human consumption: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:008:0029:0030:EN:PDF>

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Testing of seafood from Japan

Following the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the Commission recommended the testing for radionuclides, on a random basis, of fish originating in the Pacific region. All the results of these tests have proved negative or well within safety limits. They are available on the DG Energy website here:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/fukushima_en.htm

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Importing composite products: new Regulation

Commission Regulation (EU) No 28/2012, applicable from 1 March 2012, lays down requirements for the certification for imports into and transit through the European Union of certain composite products. The Regulation applies to products that are composed of both fishery product and a product of plant origin will be covered by this legislation if the fish content is 50% or more.

Where such products are to be imported, the fishery product fraction must comply with all the requirements that would be necessary if the fishery product was being imported alone i.e. it must originate from an approved establishment (or production area) in a "listed" third country, it must be accompanied by a health certificate and it has to be presented at the Border Inspection Post for veterinary checks. The health certificate will need to be based on the one in the Annex of the new Regulation.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 28/2012 is available here: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:012:0001:0013: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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Consultations

Consultation on the Food Hygiene (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

The Food Standards Agency is seeking views on current draft of the Food Hygiene (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 which is due to come into force in April 2012 and corresponding impact assessment. The proposal aims to

- give effect to recent EU food hygiene legislation
- provide for an 'ambulatory reference' that will automatically give effect to certain changes to the technical annexes of EU food regulations in future without the need to make new national regulations to give effect to the changes

The FSA also asks for stakeholders' views on the two Impact Assessments on composite product imports

Comments are requested by March 2nd 2012. Full details can be found here

<http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2011/foodhygieneregs2012eng>

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Comments wanted on reform of CMO

Euro MP Struan Stevenson has issued a call for feedback from the fishing industry on the final draft of his report to the European Commission on a key section of Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform.

The report is divided into 12 sections, making recommendations to the European Commission on the following areas:

1. The role of producer organisations (POs) in the day-to-day management of fisheries under a regionalised system;
2. Safeguarding the interests of local fishermen under a system of Transferable Fishing Concessions (TFCs);
3. The creation of POs, aquaculture POs, inter-branch organisations, transnational POs and associations of POs;
4. The role of POs in handling the proposed ban on discards;
5. Utilising modern technology to improve market intelligence;
6. The introduction of a single storage mechanism as the only system of market intervention;
7. Rewarding sustainable fishing with an EU eco-label;

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8. Consumer information on labels;
9. Maintaining a level playing-field between EU fisheries products and products imported from outside the EU;
10. Marketing standards;
11. The role of the CMO in the expansion of a successful EU fish-farming sector;
12. The role of Regional Advisory Councils.

Those wishing to view Struan's 'Proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the common organisation of the market's in fishery and aquaculture products' can visit: http://www.struanstevenson.com/parliamentary-work/report/Common_Fisheries_Policy_CMO_Reform/

Responses to the report should be emailed to struan.stevenson@europarl.europa.eu before Friday 16 February 2012.

Seafish Regulation will respond on items 7, 8 and 10

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