

NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

Due to unacceptable biosecurity risk relates to the risk of live Tilapia fish carrying Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV), Malaysia has introduced temporary emergency measures for the importation of live Tilapia Fish under "The notice of the detailed conditions on importation of live fish into Malaysia" in accordance with Section 40. Control of Live Fish of the Fisheries Act 1985 (Act 317). These temporary emergency measures are due to unacceptable biosecurity risks of live Tilapia fish carrying Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) and shall come into effect for a period of six months starting from 24 July 2017.

Temporary Emergency Health Requirements for The Importation of Live Tilapia into Malaysia 2017

Malaysia has received notifications from the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA), World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) confirming that TiLV has been detected in Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Israel and Thailand with reports indicating heavy fish mortalities in most countries. Recent reports have listed Taiwan as an affected area as well. Report published under NACA has identified Malaysia as one of the 43 countries at high risk of TiLV.

Therefore, Malaysia has put in place Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures that are designed to (i) prevent entry of live Tilapia fish from affected countries, (ii) tighten screenings for live Tilapia fish imports, (iii) increase awareness of TiLV among farmers and importers, (iv) immediate notifications of suspected or confirmed TiLV case(s), (v) monitor health status of live Tilapia in Malaysia and (vi) contingency plans specific for TiLV case(s).

Under Section 40. Control of Live Fish of the Fisheries Act 1985 (Act 317), the Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF) will introduce emergency measures to control importation of live Tilapia into Malaysia. Malaysia is notifying all countries regarding these emergency measures. The main contents of the notification are as follows:

1. Exporting country shall ensure that the Tilapia fish are sourced from approved farm and under official control of the Competent Authority (CA).
2. Health Certificate shall be issued by the Competent Authority (CA) of the exporting country.
3. Exporting country shall ensure that the fish consignment originated from OIE-Listed diseases and Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) free zone. There should not be any disease outbreak for a period of two years prior to export.

Temporary Emergency Health Certificate Conditions for importation of Live Tilapia fish into Malaysia 2017

The exporting country shall only export to the importers who are registered with the Department of Fisheries Malaysia. A health certificate must be presented at the entry point together with the live fish consignment. The health certificate must be issued by the competent authority of the exporting country, signed by an authorized officer and contained with the following information:

1. Name and address of exporter
2. Name and address of destination/importer
3. Name (scientific and common name), size and number of live fish.
4. Origin of the live fish.
5. The live fish must come from an officially recognized zone unaffected by OIE listed diseases and Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV). The live fish have been subjected to an aquatic animal health surveillance program according to the procedures as described in the *Office International Des Epizooties (OIE) Aquatic Animal Health Code*.
6. The live fish have been inspected by the competent authority of the exporting country within 72 hours of export date and showed no clinical sign of diseases.
7. The live fish must not come from any source that had an unusual mortality during the previous six (6) months, which the cause could not be confirmed. The fish have not been subjected to any prohibitions due to unresolved increased mortality.
8. Live fish must be quarantined for at least 14 days in approved quarantine area in the exporting country and showed no clinical sign of diseases prior to export.
9. Exporting country shall ensure that the fish consignment originated from OIE listed diseases and Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) free zone. There should not be any disease outbreak for a period of two years prior to export. The imported live fish is subjected to quarantine at the registered importer's premise for at least 14 days. Registered importers shall also comply with any post import measures imposed by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia.

Import conditions will remain in place pending the outcomes of the review of the biosecurity risks of, and import conditions for, live Tilapia fish. If during this time the biosecurity risks for these products change, the department may amend the import conditions to ensure that biosecurity risk meets Malaysia's appropriate level of protection.