

**IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF  
LIVE FISH FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION INTO  
MALAYSIA**

- A. Commodity: Freshwater Live Fish for Human Consumption (Excluding Broodstock and Fry)

*NOTES: According to Fisheries Act 1985, "Fish" means any aquatic animal or plant life, sedentary or not, and includes all species of finfish, crustacea, mollusca, aquatic mammals, or their eggs or spawn, fry, fingerling, spat or young, but does not include any species of otters, turtles or their eggs.*

- B. Country of Export: All  
C. Purpose: Human consumption  
D. Regulations for Importation:

**1. IMPORT CONDITIONS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN MALAYSIAN TERRITORY**

- 1.1. Importers must be registered with, depending on the destination of the consignment;
- 1.1.1. Department of Fisheries Malaysia (for Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak)
  - 1.1.2. Department of Fisheries Sabah
  - 1.1.3. Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak
- 1.2. **A valid import permit issued by (depending on the destination of consignment) the Director General of the Department of Quarantine and Inspection Services, Malaysia (MAQIS) or Director of Fisheries Sabah (DOF Sabah) or Director of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVS Sarawak).**
- 1.3. The consignment is accompanied by a health certificate (details in Clause Number 2), Certificate of Origin, Custom Form K1, Certificate of Analysis (if required) (Disease listed under World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Import Permit, Invoice/ packing List and Airway Bill or Bill of Lading.
- 1.4. Importers must ensure a quarantine area approved by the Director General of the Department of Quarantine and Inspection Services, Malaysia (MAQIS) for the post-arrival isolation of fish is identified before applying for the import permit. Quarantine areas will only be approved, as a place for the isolation of live fish, when they meet the department's standards.
- 1.5. The consignment shall be identified by a legible label on the exterior of

every packing bag or container with the following information:

- 1.5.1. Name of the establishment of origin or harvest
- 1.5.2. Name of importer
- 1.6. Each species and number of fish in the consignment is as listed in the Health Certificate, Invoice and packing list.
- 1.7. The commodity is clearly labelled on each box.
- 1.8. The fish must come from an officially recognized country, zone, farm or establishment unaffected by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) listed diseases. The live fish have been subjected to an aquatic animal health surveillance programme according to the procedures as described in the "*Aquatic Animal Health Code*" from WOAHA.
- 1.9. The live fish must not be from the genus/species list below;
  - 1.9.1. *Serrasalmus/ Serrasalmo/ Pygocentrus/ Catoprian*
  - 1.9.2. *Pygopristis*
  - 1.9.3. *Colosomma/ Piaractus*
  - 1.9.4. *Mylossoma*
  - 1.9.5. *Mylopus/ Myleus*
  - 1.9.6. *Pristobrycon*
  - 1.9.7. *Myletes*
  - 1.9.8. *Salmo*
  - 1.9.9. *Onchorynchus*
  - 1.9.10. *Cichla*
  - 1.9.11. *Esox*
  - 1.9.12. *Cichlasoma*
  - 1.9.13. *Acipenser*
  - 1.9.14. *Arapaima*
  - 1.9.15. *Lepisosteus*
  - 1.9.16. *Cherax destructor*or any family, genus or species listed in Fisheries Rules (Prohibition of Import, etc. of fish) 1990 including its amendment.
- 1.10. The fish has been inspected by the competent authority of the exporting country within 72 hours of the export date and showed no clinical signs of diseases.
- 1.11. All fish imported under these requirements are to be used for human consumption only.

## **2. ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORT OF LIVE FISH FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION INTO MALAYSIA**

The importation shall be accompanied by an original copy of the health certificate

issued by the competent authority (CA) of the exporting country **in English**, to verify freedom from disease(s) and specify the health status of each animal, and provide information on the following:

2.1. Consignment details

- 2.1.1. Name and address of the aquaculture establishment of origin or location of harvest
- 2.1.2. Date of the shipment
- 2.1.3. Name of the exporting country
- 2.1.4. Name and address of the exporter
- 2.1.5. Name of the competent authority of the exporting country
- 2.1.6. Country of destination
- 2.1.7. Name and address of the importer
- 2.1.8. Origin of the live fish.
- 2.1.9. Life stages

2.2. Identification of the animals

- 2.2.1. Species: Scientific name and common name
- 2.2.2. Quantity (in pieces)
- 2.2.3. Total number of packages

2.3. Health Information

- 2.3.1. The fish must come from an officially recognized country, zone, farm or establishment unaffected by the WOAHL-listed diseases. The live fish have been subjected to an aquatic animal health surveillance programme according to the procedures as described in the "Aquatic Animal Health Code" from World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). All fish must be free from WOAHL-listed diseases and diseases of concern.
- 2.3.2. The fish have been examined within seven (7) days before loading and found to be healthy and free from any clinical signs of disease.
- 2.3.3. The fish have not been kept in water in common with koi carp or farmed food fish (fish farmed for human consumption including recreational fishing).
- 2.3.4. The fish was sourced from the approved farm and the populations were not associated with any significant diseases and pests within the previous six (6) months.
- 2.3.5. Additional health information for:
  - 2.3.5.1 Cichlids: Free from *Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV)*

2.4. The aforementioned health certificate may be drawn up taking reference from the model certificate of the Aquatic Animal Health Code of the WOAHL and shall include the following:

- 2.4.1. The certificate reference number on every page
- 2.4.2. Name, address, official position, date, signature and official stamp

of the CA

### **3. IMPORT CONDITIONS ON ARRIVAL IN MALAYSIAN TERRITORY**

- 3.1. All shipments of fish are subjected to inspection (depending on the destination of consignment) by the Department of Quarantine and Inspection Services, Malaysia (MAQIS) or Department of Fisheries Sabah (DOF Sabah) or Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVS Sarawak) on arrival to ensure that:
  - 3.1.1. they have no clinical sign of disease,
  - 3.1.2. the health certification and other required documents are in order,
  - 3.1.3. they are not of the genus listed in Clause 1.9,
  - 3.1.4. they do not contain non-permitted material or material of biosecurity concern.,
  - 3.1.5. MAQIS or DOF Sabah or DVS Sarawak officer(s). will take samples of the consignment at the point of entry if necessary and the sample will be sent to the laboratory for screening of diseases,
  - 3.1.6. All cost incurred during screening activities will be borne by the importer,
  - 3.1.7. Fish not meeting these criteria and non-permitted material will be exported or disposed of at the importer's expenses.
- 3.2. The imported live fish (other than ready to consume as stated in Clause 3.3) is subjected to quarantine at the approved importer's premise within 7 to 14 days depending on the species.
- 3.3. For imported fish which are ready to consume that shall be placed in seafood outlet/ premise/ restaurant are not subject to quarantine measures. However, importers are subject to biosecurity measures required by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia.

**Department of Fisheries Malaysia**  
**Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Malaysia**