

Guidelines for Applications for Specific Approvals or for Changes to the IAISs

**Fishing Industry Inspection and Certification Council
Wellington
June 1997**

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Preface

The Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 contain the standards that must be met to ensure that fish and fish products are fit for human consumption and adequately labelled and certificated. The IAISs provide one means of meeting those standards. The regulations allow companies to make an application for an alternative means of meeting the standards. This is done by granting a specific approval for that company under Regulation 20 of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995.

Companies may also write and request that changes be made to the IAISs. These changes are considered by FIICC.

These guidelines have been developed by FIICC to help companies to provide the type of information that is required for a specific approval under the regulations or to make a change to the IAISs.

Andrew McKenzie
Chief Meat Veterinary Officer
MAF Regulatory Authority, Meat and Seafood

Malcolm Cameron
Chairman
Fishing Industry Inspection and
Certification Council

Amendments

Suggestions are welcomed for alterations, deletions or additions to these guidelines to improve them or to make them better suited to the needs of the fishing industry and inspection staff. Suggestions should be forwarded to the co-ordinator, together with reasons for the change and any relevant experimental or documentary data.

Amendments to these guidelines can be identified by the issue number in the page header and a background screen over the changes which have been made. Deletions are marked by a background screen appearing where the entry has been deleted, e.g. .

The co-ordinator of these guidelines is:

Judy Barker
MAF Regulatory Authority (Meat and Seafood)
ASB Bank House
101-103 The Terrace
P.O. Box 2526
Wellington

Phone: (04) 474 4100
Fax: (04) 474 4239

Amendment Record

It is important that these guidelines are kept up-to-date by the prompt incorporation of amendments.

To update these guidelines when you receive an amendment, remove the appropriate outdated pages, destroy them, and replace them with the pages from the new issue. Complete instructions will be given on the covering letter accompanying the amendment. File the covering letter at the back of the guidelines and sign off and date this page.

If you have any queries, please ask your local Inspector.

Issue No.	Date	Initials	Issue No.	Date	Initials
1	June 1997	MAF RA	11		
2			12		
3			13		
4			14		
5			15		
6			16		
7			17		
8			18		
9			19		
10			20		

Contents

	Page
Notice of Copyright	P.2
Preface	P.3
Amendments	P.4
Amendment Record	P.5
Contents	P.6
1. Guidelines for Applications for Specific Approvals under Regulation 20 of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995	1.1
1.1 Background	1.1
1.2 Legislative Requirements	1.1
1.3 Procedure	1.2
2. Guidelines for Applications to Have Changes Made to the Fishing Industry Agreed Implementation Standards	2.1
2.1 Background	2.1
2.2 Procedure	2.1

1. Guidelines for Applications for Specific Approvals Under Regulation 20 of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995

1.1 Background

The purpose of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 is to ensure:

- that fish and fish products (and, where necessary for overseas requirements, fish by-products) are harvested, processed, stored and transported in such a manner as to ensure that the product is suitable for human consumption;
- that adequate labelling and certification accompanies this product.

To ensure that the intent is achieved, the schedules to the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 provide the standards that must be met by a premises producing seafood. The circulars known as industry agreed implementation standards (IAISs) provide one means of meeting the requirements for premises, plant and processes.

Specific approvals may be used to provide an alternative means of meeting the standards in the regulations. Specific approvals are given in writing by the Director-General. These specific approvals will only be given where it is shown that the safety, suitability of use and truth of labelling standards for the fish or fish product will be met.

These guidelines are intended to assist companies which wish to make an application for a specific approval under Regulation 20 of the Fish Export Processing Regulations.

1.2 Legislative Requirements

Regulation 20 of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 states:

“For the purpose of these regulations, the Director-General may issue specific approvals in relation to the drawing up, accomplishment, demonstration, carrying on, or provision of any act, plan, proposal, matter, system, process or thing to which these regulations apply, and the following provisions shall apply in relation to such approvals:

- (a) The approval shall be in writing:
- (b) The approval may be issued to any person or class of persons:
- (c) The approval may be unconditional or subject to such conditions as the Director-General thinks necessary:

- (d) The Director-General may amend or revoke any specific approval if the Director-General believes on reasonable grounds that —
- (i) The approval has not consistently resulted in fish or fish products that are fit for human consumption; or
 - (ii) The licensee cannot be relied on to carry out, or may no longer be capable of carrying out, the conditions on which the approval was issued; or
 - (iii) The premises or appliances used in the premises are no longer suitable for the purpose for which the approval was issued.”

1.3 Procedure

Applications in the first instance should be forwarded by your local Inspector to a
MAF VA Regional Seafood Specialist who, after assessment, will recommend the
application to:

The Director-General
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 2526
Wellington

Attention: Programme Manager (Seafood and Poultry) or
National Manager (Seafood)

Applications for specific approvals should include the following details:

- the name and official number of premises for which specific approval is sought;
- the contact name of the person managing the approval application;
- details of the clause(s) in the First Schedule of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 or Fishing Industry Agreed Implementation Standards for which the company wants a specific approval;
- a full explanation of the specific approval sought;
- an explanation as to how the approval ensures the standard in the regulations will be met;
- details on how the approval sought will ensure a fish or fish product meets safety, suitability of use for human consumption and truth in labelling (as appropriate).

2. Guidelines for Applications to Have Changes Made to the Fishing Industry Agreed Implementation Standards

2.1 Background

The purpose of the Fishing Industry Agreed Implementation Standards (IAISs) is to provide a means of meeting the standards contained in the First Schedule to the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995. This includes requirements for premises, plant and processes to ensure that fish and fish products are harvested, processed and stored in such a manner as to ensure that the product is safe, suitable for human consumption and truthfully labelled.

The content of the IAISs has been agreed to by the Fishing Industry Inspection and Certification Council. This organisation comprises a partnership between the New Zealand Fishing Industry, the Fishing Industry Board and the Ministry of Agriculture and operates under a memorandum of agreement between the three parties.

Amendments to the IAISs may be sought through FIICC. These amendments will be considered and only made where it is shown the safety, suitability of use and truth in labelling of the fish and fish product can and will be met.

These guidelines are intended to assist companies which wish to request a change to the IAISs.

2.2 Procedure

Application for amendments to the IAISs should be made in writing to FIICC and should include the following details:

- the name and address of the person making application;
- details of the regulation or clause from the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 and IAIS reference number to which the amendment is requested;
- a full explanation of the specific amendment sought (proposed wording should be included if possible);
- an explanation as to how any changes to the IAISs will ensure the requirements of the regulations are met;
- details on how the amendment sought will ensure fish or fish product meets food safety, suitability of use for human consumption, and truth in labelling (as appropriate) requirements.

Applications should be sent to:

The Secretary
FIICC
P. O. Box 11240
WELLINGTON