

**MINISTRY OF OCEAN ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES,
FISHERIES AND SHIPPING**

CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OF IMPORTERS

The Import of fish and fish products is controlled by the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in accordance with the “Fisheries and Marine Resources (Import of Fish and Fish Products) Regulations 2012, made under the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007”.

Prior to importation of any consignment of fish or fish products a person/company shall have to:

- be registered to the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping;
- pay to the Mauritius Revenue Authority – Custom Department, an Annual Import Fee; and
- comply with the requirements and standards stipulated in the “Fisheries and Marine Resources (Import of Fish and Fish Products) Regulations 2012 and conditions of the import.

The person/company intending to import fish or fish products into Mauritius should have: –

- (a) a valid trade Licence issued by the Municipality or District Council;
- (b) Food Handlers Certificate (s) issued by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life for importers of fish/fish products for Human consumption;
- (c) a certificate of incorporation issued by the registrar of companies.

the name, address, phone, e-mail address and proof of address or location of the company shall have to be provided also as per the application for registration of importers.

Appropriate storage facilities commensurate with the product intended for import should be available. For frozen fish or fish product, the cold storage facilities should be capable of maintaining the temperature of product at -18 degree C or colder and for the purpose of importing chilled fish or fish products the chilled storage facilities should be capable of maintaining the temperature of the product as close as possible to 0 degree C, but not more than +4 degree C.

The cold room shall be fitted with a temperature recording device to ensure effective temperature control.

Dried, salted and canned fish or fish products shall have to be stored in appropriate storage facilities under good hygienic and sanitary conditions.

Appropriate facilities shall have to be available for the transport of frozen fish or fish products. The refrigeration equipment in the vehicle shall be capable of maintaining the temperature of the product at -18 degree C, with minimal temperature fluctuation during transportation. Chilled fish shall be transported in vehicles capable of maintaining the temperature of the product as close as possible to zero degree C.

Importers of live ornamental fish should have appropriate Quarantine facilities.

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

(FOR IMPORT OF FISH OR FISH PRODUCTS)

DATE:

I of (company) hereby apply for registration to import fish and fish products from foreign countries. I undertake to abide by all the terms and conditions imposed by the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping.

(2). Details of the applicant/company (Copies of Documents to be submitted)

Address:

Residential address:

E-mail address:

Phone/mobile number: Fax No.

Trade Licence number: Validity:

Food Handlers Certificate: Validity:

Business Registration Card:

Certificate of Incorporation: Date issued:

Intended activities (Business):

(3) Facilities

Means of transport (type of vehicle, No., horse power etc.):

Warehouse / Cold room (details-location, size, capacity etc.):

Quarantine facilities (location, size, No of aquarium etc.):

Processing establishment (location, size, type of processing etc.):

Signature of applicant: ID number:

(4) For Official use

(i) Checked and verified by: Signature/Designation:

(ii) Recommended/Not Recommended:

Signature/Designation: Date:

(iii) Approval:

Signature/Designation: Date:



**MINISTRY OF OCEAN ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES,
FISHERIES AND SHIPPING**

APPLICATION / AUTHORISATION TO IMPORT FISH & FISH PRODUCTS

I (applicant)of (company).....
hereby apply for an authorization to import into Mauritius the fish / fish products listed below / on the
annexed sheet.

SN	Common name	Scientific name	Type*	Quantity (Units/Kg/ T)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

***please specify: Live/chilled/frozen/dried/smoked/canned/paste/processed or others**

Purpose of importation: (Sale on local market/processing/ sample)

Country of origin:.....Country from which consigned:.....

Name of approved establishment in country of origin:.....

Establishment number:.....Brand name:.....

Mode of transport:..... Expected date of shipment:.....

Signature and name of applicant:.....

ID. No.:.....Date:.....

Tel No.:.....Mob:.....Fax. No:.....E-Mail:.....

For official use

Authorisation has been granted to the above named applicant to import the fish / fish products
listed above / on the annexed sheet.

Authorisation No:..... **Signature:**.....

Name:.....

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORT OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS

1. The consignment shall be accompanied by the original official Health certificate from the country of origin stating:

1.1 the scientific name(s) and common name(s) of the fish;

1.2 the date of issue and the authorization number, the name of the importer, the name of the vessel/carrier and the net weight being shipped;

1.3 that the fish/fish products have been caught, handled, stored, transported, processed, and packaged under sanitary and hygienic standards as set out by Codex Alimentarius – General Principles of food hygiene and the Code of Practice for fish and fishery products (CAC/RCP 52-2003, Rev.2-2005);

1.4 that the fish/fish products have been stored, processed and packed in an establishment approved for export by the competent authority (Approval no. of establishment to be mentioned);

1.5.(i) that representative samples of the product(s) have been subjected to bacteriological analysis in an approved laboratory and the results obtained are within the following norms:

- a) Faecal coliforms less than 1 per gram
- b) Anaerobes less than 2 per gram
- c) *Staphylococcus aureus* in sea food except frozen fish - nil
- d) *Staphylococcus aureus* in frozen fish less than 100 per gram
- e) Total viable count at 30°C, less than 10⁶ per gram
- f) Absence of Salmonella and Vibrio organisms in 25 grams.

(ii) in the case of pelagic fish species such as tuna, becune (*Acanthocybium solandri*), dorade (*Coryphaena hippurus*) the histamine content shall be less than **100 ppm** for one sample, and the combined value of the two samples shall not exceed **200 ppm**.

(iii) the mercury content in marlins, swordfish, tuna and tuna like species shall not exceed **1 ppm**.

(iv) the total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) shall not exceed **25 mg** of N per 100 g of fish flesh.

1.6 that the products are free from parasites and viruses capable of causing infection in animals or man;

1.7 that the product is fit for human consumption;

2. If the Official Health Certificate does not conform to the above norms, landing of the fish / fish products shall not be allowed.

3. Any fish intended for human consumption shall be gutted unless it shall be used as bait or for processing (canning, salting, smoking, marinade).

4. Chilled fish and fish products shall be maintained at a temperature as close as possible to the temperature of melting ice (**0°C**). The core temperature of the fish shall not be more than 4°C.

5. Chilled fish and fish products shall be transported in **isothermic** vehicles and shall not be exposed to contaminated material during transportation.

6. Frozen /chilled fish fillet shall be properly packed and labelled as specified at para (12) and shall be presented with the skin on. Fish fillets which are **pre-packed in the country of origin** for retail outlets may be **presented skinless**.
7. Frozen fish and fish products shall be maintained at a temperature **of -18°C (minus 18) or colder, except brine frozen tuna** intended for canning which may be kept at a **temperature of - 9°C (minus 09)**.
8. Frozen fish and fish products shall be imported in **reefer containers** capable of maintaining a temperature of minus 18 (**-18°C**).
9. Frozen fish and fish products shall be transported in **refrigerated vehicles** and shall **not** be exposed to contaminated materials during transportation.
10. Any fish landed into Mauritius shall have to be gutted, and gilled when frozen.
11. For canned products, each tin shall be embossed or otherwise permanently **marked in code or in clear** to identify the producing factory, the date of production and the contents of the container. A decoding list for deciphering the embossed codes emanating from the canning factory shall be produced prior to any imports. The list shall be endorsed by the Competent Authority of the originating country.
12. **All fish or fish products shall be properly packed and labelled to indicate: (a) the common name of the fish or fish product, (b) scientific name of fish or fish product as stated in the import authorisation, (c) country of origin, (d) the name of importer, (e) the authorisation number issued by the Ministry, (f) the name and address of the exporting establishment, (g) the date of manufacture/production/processing consisting of the day, month and year in uncoded chronological form, (h) date of expiry, (i) instruction on storage conditions, (j) the type of preparation/processing or specific treatment which it has undergone, (k) the net weight (g/kg), (l) percentage glazing in frozen fish, (m) the ingredients used, (n) the chemical and common name, EEC serial No and type of food additives used during preparation or processing, (o) type of packaging, and (p) the code number or batch number.**
13. The statement required to appear on the label shall be clear, prominent, indelible and **readily legible** by the consumer under normal conditions of purchase and use.
14. Only those fish and fish **products listed** on the authorisation shall be imported. Should a fish or fish products derived from fish scheduled as toxic be found inadvertently in the consignment, the fish and fish products shall be seized and destroyed without any compensation.
15. Any fish or fish products shall be **authorized for entry into Mauritius** only after a **joint inspection** by officers of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues and analysis of appropriate samples if deemed necessary.
16. An authorisation may **be cancelled** without any compensation at any time in case of **disease outbreak** or suspicion of diseases in the country of export.
- 17. The Ministry shall have to be informed in advance of the date and time of arrival of the consignment to enable clearance at the ports of disembarkation.**
18. An authorisation from this Ministry **does not exempt** the importer to other conditions imposed by other authorities.
19. Should the need arise, any of the conditions above **may be modified** or new conditions added.
20. An authorisation is issued in respect of **one consignment** which should be imported within the validity period.

21. An authorisation is subject to the provisions of the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Import of Fish and Fish Products) Regulations 2012, and the specific conditions depending on the species.

22. If any of the conditions imposed by this Ministry for the import of fish and fish products is contravened, the consignment will be forfeited without any compensation.

Conditions for the import of live crab / lobster

1. The live crabs / lobster should be imported in a **dry state** and should be sold by the next day of arrival to the hotels or restaurants or at the approved retail sale outlets.
2. The importer shall have to produce an accounting statement of sale of the products.
3. The importer shall inform this Ministry in advance of the carrier, flight number, date and time of arrival of the consignment to enable arrangements for clearance at the airport.
4. Each consignment have to be accompanied by the original official **Health Certificate** duly signed by an Authorized Officer of the country of origin certifying that the animals are free of diseases and parasites of human or animal origin.
5. Live crab/lobster shall be exported by an establishment approved for export by the Official Veterinary Services of the country of origin (Approved number of establishment to be mentioned).
6. The live crabs/lobster shall be dispatched free from soil, mud and plant material.
7. The competent authority shall certify that the live crabs/lobster have been caught from a disease free area.
8. The live crab/lobster shall be handled under hygienic and sanitary conditions and packed in sterile packaging / containers prior to shipment.
9. The date and number of the import permit, the name of the importer, the vessel/carrier transporting the consignment, the scientific name and common name of the specimen, the number of packages and the quantity shipped must be stated on the Health Certificate.
10. The animals shall under no circumstances be released into the environment.
11. If any of the above conditions are not complied with, the consignment may be destroyed without any compensation.
12. An authorization does not exempt any clearance needed from other authorities.

13. The above conditions may be modified or new conditions added at any time should such a need arise.

MINISTRY OF OCEAN ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

EXPORT FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS

Export of fish and fish product is controlled by the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in accordance with the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Export of Fish and Fish Products) Regulations 2009 and the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Export of Fish and Fish Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

Any person willing to export fish and / or fish products from Mauritius should apply in writing to the Ministry giving details the following details:

- The scientific name of fish species or the species from which the product is prepared;
- The product type (frozen, chilled, live, canned, processed....);
- The quantity intended for export;
- Source of the fish / fish products;
- Name of establishment;
- Country & address of destination;
- Date of shipment;
- Name of carrier / vessel and container number.

A no-objection letter is issued by the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping subject to specific conditions and is valid for a period of one year (from the date of issue to end December of that year).

An authorisation to export is issued at the One Stop Shop – Seafood Hub after verification of the consignment at the time of shipment.

Export of fish and fish product to European Union countries is authorised to establishment approved by the Competent Authority – Seafood of the Ministry and should be accompanied by a health certificate and validated Mauritius Catch Certificate.

Stuffed fish shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Division of Veterinary of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security According to Section 25 of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, no person shall export from Mauritius any fish and fish product except with a permit issued by the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. A permit issued under the Act may be subject to such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Ministry.