



농림수산식품부
Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries

1 Joongang-dong, Gwacheon city, Gyeonggi-Do,

Republic of Korea, 427-760

Tel: +82-2-500-2123

Fax: +82-2-504-9427

E-mail: redjoo@korea.kr

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Dear Representatives of the Fishery Products Inspection Authority

On behalf of the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MIFAFF) of the Republic of Korea (Korea), I would like to express my deep appreciation to you.

As circulated to WTO Members on 23 March 2009 (Notification G/SPS/N/KOR/320) based on the WTO/SPS Agreement, the Korean Food & Drug Administration (KFDA) amended 'the Criteria and Standards for frozen fish heads and frozen fish intestines for human consumption' on 16 June 2010. The implementation of this notification will be supervised by MIFAFF which is responsible for inspection and quarantine of fishery products.

The important points of the notification are as follows;

○ **The expansion of the species and parts of frozen fish heads for human consumption**

The species for frozen fish heads approved as fit for human consumption (before 16 June 2010, only the head of cod (*Gadus morhua*, *Gadus ogac*, *Gadus macrocephalus*) was approved as fit for human consumption) have been expanded to Southern hake(*Merluccius australis*) and tuna. Also the parts that can be consumed as food, now include the frozen head cut with pectoral and ventral fin attached, and frozen edible parts around the head(neck, lower jaw and cheek etc.) collected from any edible fish species(excluding puffer).

○ **New establishment of the sanitary management criteria for frozen fish intestines for human consumption**

Sanitary management criteria have been newly established for the visceral by-products of fish such as edible fish roe (except puffer eggs), Pollack entrails, hard roe and nidamental gland of squid.

According to this notification, MIFAFF has established specific procedures and methods to manage the imports of the above-mentioned products such as how to confirm that the products meet the necessary requirements, and will only allow the importation of frozen edible fish heads and frozen edible fish intestines which meet these requirements.

The procedures for confirming that the above products imported into Korea meet the requirements are as follows;

1. The Government of the exporting country should recognize the exported frozen fish heads and intestines as fit for human consumption (Frozen edible fish heads : HS 0303, Frozen edible fish intestines : HS 0303, HS 0306 or HS 0307) according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding system of the World Customs Organization (WCO).
2. The Government of the exporting country should submit the list of processing establishments where the edible fish heads or intestines to be exported to Korea is collected or processed according to the form (Attachment1).
3. The Government of the exporting country should issue a sanitary certificate for each shipment of frozen fish heads and intestines exported to Korea according to the form (Attachment2). However, in the case of countries that have an 'Arrangement on import and export fisheries hygiene and safety' with Korea, the aforementioned sanitary certificate can be substituted by the agreed certificate.
4. The processing establishment where the edible fish heads or intestines to be exported to Korea are collected or processed shall be subject to an on-site inspection by MIFAFF and they should be located in the country approved by MIFAFF.

The above four requirements will be applied as follows;

- Processing establishments in the country with record of having exported frozen edible fish heads or intestines to Korea before 16 June 2010, a grace period shall be granted for the implementation of above points 1 to 3 until 15 June 2011 and with regard to point 4, after monitoring inspection, some establishments may be subject to an on-site inspection by MIFAFF. But all points (1 to 4) will be applied to the establishments planning to export new fish species or items to Korea.
- Countries without record of having exported frozen edible fish heads or intestines to Korea before 16 June 2010, all points 1 to 4 are applied with immediate effect from 16 June 2010.

In order to facilitate bilateral trade of fishery products, I ask for your kind cooperation in on-site inspection of MIFAFF in the future and in ensuring that the above measures are implemented as soon as possible by your Government.

With kind regards,



Kiyoon Chang

Director of Quarantine Policy Division

Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries