

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE
INSPECTION OF FISH PRODUCTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES THE DEPARTMENT OF
FISHERIES AND OCEANS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

I. PURPOSE

The mutual goals of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada (DFO) in entering into this Memorandum of Understanding are to:

1. Provide reasonable assurance that canned or frozen fish products from "Preferred Status" producers in the Philippines will not be tainted, decomposed or unwholesome, and will otherwise meet the requirements of Canada.
2. Minimize the need for extensive sampling in Canada of products produced by "Preferred Status" processors from the Philippines.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this memorandum:

Canned fish - means any fish or fish flesh which is in an hermetically sealed glass or metal container and has been commercially sterilized.

Cannery - means an establishment where canned fish is produced for human- consumption

"Chemical Evaluation" denotes the analyses, tests, or observations or series thereof performed on a sample (consisting of a number of sample units) taken to represent a lot to determine the presence of additives or contaminants listed in **ANNEX** to this document.

Code - A "code" is a quantity of a specific product type and form produced and handled under uniform conditions within a limited time period normally identified by means of a production code.

"Container Integrity Evaluation" denotes the analyses, tests, or observations or series thereof performed on a sample (consisting of a number of sample units) taken to represent a lot, to determine the metal or glass container acceptability as set out in **ANNEX** to this document.

"Frozen Fish" are fish which have been subjected to a freezing process sufficient to reduce the temperature of the whole product to a level low enough to preserve the inherent quality of the fish and which have been maintained at this low temperature during transportation, storage and distribution up to and including the time of final sale.

"Good Manufacturing Practices" (GMP's) - means those processing requirements, which if applied in the production process should result in

products which are safe, wholesome and of good quality.

Inspection - An "inspection" with respect to fish is an evaluation, analysis, test or activity, or a series thereof, based on a recognized sampling plan, which leads to a decision on the acceptability of a lot.

"Label Evaluation" denotes the inspection of a sample label carried out to determine compliance of the label with the criteria set out in annex to this document.

Lot - A "lot" is a quantity of a specific product type and form which may be comprised of several production codes.

"Sensory Evaluation" denotes the sensory analysis done on a sample (consisting of a number of sample units) taken to represent a lot, to determine the acceptability to a recognised standard.

"Shipment" is an import of the same product type, arriving to the same location on the same vessel or vehicle at the same time and imported from the same producer by the same importer.

III. SUBSTANCE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

A. PRINCIPLES

1.The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) of the Department of Health is the Philippine Government agency responsible for monitoring compliance to the requirements of this document.

2.The Inspection Services Directorate (ISD) of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is the Canadian government agency responsible for the inspection of fish products imported into Canada.

3. Philippine fish processors who wish to have "Preferred Status" pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding (as included in the Annex to this Memorandum) must:

- adhere to Canadian GMP's, as described in the Annex, for those products being processed for export to Canada;
- have in place a DFO approved quality control program;
- maintain a minimum "B" plant rating as determined by the plant rating system to determine compliance with Schedules I and II of the Canadian Fish Inspection Regulations; and
- submit to periodic audits by DFO or BFAD to ensure the above conditions are being met.

4. Those Philippine fish processors who maintain the conditions set out in section 3 above and who meet the requirements of sec. B(2) will be given "Preferred Status" and will be listed on Schedule A of this MOU.

5. Imports of products of processors on "Preferred Status" will be eligible for reduced inspection and monitoring by the Inspection Services Directorate.

B. APPROVAL PROCEDURE AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING