

How to export... shrimps to the European Union



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The European Union (EU) is the world's biggest single market, so many businesses around the world would like to export to it to meet consumer demand. Sometimes, potential exporters feel they need more information on how to meet EU standards. Help is at hand. With the Export Helpdesk, you can find all the facts and figures you need: information, forms and contacts. So, if you want to export shrimps to the European market, where do you start?

What requirements must you meet to export shrimps to Europe?

Health standards for fishery products

Fishery products must comply with certain health and safety requirements before entering the EU market. Shrimps can only be exported to the EU if they come from an authorised country, are caught by approved vessels (wild shrimps) or were produced in registered farms (aquaculture), are accompanied by the proper health certificates, and have passed the EU's border inspection control.

How can you, as an exporter, make sure you tick all the boxes?

First, the country of origin shall be on the list of countries which can export fishery products to the EU. This list is based on an assessment by the EU Food and Veterinary Office of the country's compliance with European health standards for fishery products, including shrimps.

Shrimps can only be imported into the EU if they have been dispatched from, obtained or prepared in approved establishments (cold store, processing plant, factory or freezer vessels), so these facilities must be inspected and approved your government (Ministry of Agriculture, Health, Commerce, etc).

Shrimps need a health certificate confirming they meet the standards for export to the EU. This certificate is delivered by your government following a harmonised template. Once your shipment arrives in the EU, veterinary officials check the shrimps (i.e. documentary, identity and physical checks) and their certificates at an approved border inspection post. Once the results from this inspection are satisfactory, your shrimps will enter on the EU market.

The lists of approved countries and establishments, as well as samples of certificates, are available from the Export Helpdesk.

To ensure that food for sale on the EU market is safe and does not contain contaminants that could threaten human health, food imports into the EU must comply with EU food safety standards. For fishery products, there are, for instance, limits on the maximum amount of heavy metals (lead, cadmium, mercury), dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

For aquaculture shrimps, there are controls on veterinary medicine residues. Countries must submit an annual residue monitoring plan to the EU and have it approved to export aquaculture products to the EU market.

Detailed information on the residue monitoring plan is available from the Export Helpdesk

The Export Helpdesk is an online service providing information on how to export to the European Union.

This free, user-friendly service provides all the information you need about EU import requirements, tariffs, preferential trade agreements and statistics in a tailor-made way, *product by product, country by country.*

www.exporthelp.europa.eu





Prevention of illegal fishing

To prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, marine fishery products entering the EU need a catch certificate proving that international conservation and management rules were respected. This certificate must be submitted to the European authorities several days before the exported product reaches the EU border. The certificate must be validated by the fishing vessel's national authority. Fish-exporting countries must have a system in place to make sure that its fishing vessels implement, control and enforce conservation laws, and they need to carry out regular checks to ensure this system operates properly. To make sure such systems work, and to enable all marine fishery products entering the EU to be traced, non-European fishing vessels must carry out landing or transshipment operations at designated ports in Europe. *The list of ports is available from the Export Helpdesk.*

Fish labelling

EU food labelling rules ensure that consumers receive essential information to make an informed choice when purchasing food. To help them choose, all food labels must display certain information, such as:

- The name under which the product is sold. In the absence of EU and national provisions applicable to it, the name should be a customary name or the description of the food. A trademark, brand name or fancy name can be used, but the label must give the generic name. The food's physical condition or the specific treatment it has undergone (deep-frozen, smoked, etc) must also be included if its omission could be misleading for consumers.
- The list of ingredients, including additives. Presence of substances known for their ability to spark allergic reactions and intolerance should always be stated.
- The net quantity (weight) of pre-packaged foodstuffs in metric units.
- The recommended date until which the product retains its specific properties, formatted as day, month and year, in that order, and preceded by the words 'best before'. For highly perishable foods, the date of minimum durability shall be replaced by the "use by" date.
- Any special conditions for storage or use.
- The name and the sanitary approval number of the approved premises from where the products were dispatched from, obtained or prepared
- The name or business name and address of the manufacturer or packager, or of a seller established in the EU.
- Place of origin or provenance, where failure to give such particulars might mislead the consumer.
- Lot marking on pre-packaged foodstuffs, with the marking preceded by the letter 'L' to enable tracing.

For fishery products, the label must also state:

- The commercial and scientific designation of the fish species. A list of those accepted per EU country is available.
- The production method (caught at sea, in freshwater, or aquaculture), as given in the official terminology.
- The catch area. If at **sea**, one of the areas internationally identified by the Food and Agriculture Organisation should be stated. *The full list is available from the Export Helpdesk.* If caught in **freshwater**, the country of origin should be stated. For aquaculture **produce**, the relevant country should be stated.

For *Crangon crangon* and *Pandalus borealis* shrimps, the label must state the country of origin in Latin script as well as the scientific name and trade name, presentation, freshness and size categories, net weight in kg, date of grading and date of dispatch, and the name and address of the exporter. Lots must contain products of the same size and uniform freshness. The freshness category, size category and presentation must be clearly and indelibly marked on labels affixed to the lot.

This information must appear on the package, or on a label attached to pre-packaged foodstuffs. The label must be easy to understand, easily visible, clearly legible and indelible. It must be labelled in a language that is easily understood by consumers. Usually this means the official language(s) in the EU country where the product is to be marketed. However, the use of foreign terms or expressions easily understood by the purchaser may be allowed.

The information in this factsheet can in no way be regarded as a commitment on the part of the European Commission. For further information, please contact the National Authority of the EU country to which the product will be exported

Now that you know the basic conditions for exporting your product to the EU, do you need further details, forms or statistics? Would you like to know whether your country has a special trade agreement with the EU that means import tariffs have been reduced, or even eliminated? Do you need further details on rules of origin?

Check with the Export Helpdesk! www.exporthelp.europa.eu

