

Choosing The Right Certificate For The Right Reasons

February 2010





















Certificates - Why have them?



- Attests to
 - Food safety and phytosanitary condition of the product
 - Regulated products (meat, dairy, eggs, fish, etc)
 - Non-regulated products
 - -Sanitary condition of the shipment
 - Containers, packaging, pallets
 - -Financial parameters
 - Customs documents





















Food safety certificates



- Regulated products
 - -Certification process is formal and requires management of the details

- Improvement
 - Standardise as much as possible, wording, layout, content, approval(s)





















Food safety certificates



- Non-regulated products
 - -Required or not?
 - "Don't expect what you don't inspect"
 - *"To help ensure hygienic standards of food, importers are encouraged to obtain health certificates issued by health authorities of countries of origin to accompany their imports certifying that the food products concerned are fit for human consumption."

Reference: Hong Kong

Centre for Food Safety - Imported Food Control - Guide to import





















Food safety certificates



- Approvals from multiple authorities
 - -Current proforma certificates are rarely suitable and generally not set up for this
 - In practice it is hard to coordinate authorities
 - -Separate certificates usually work best















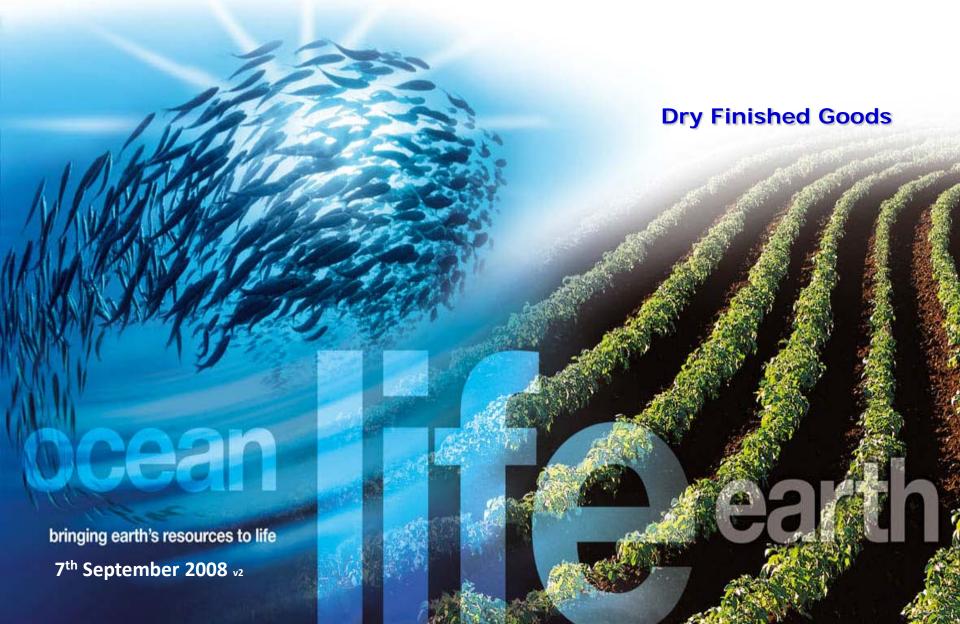








Import Documentation Procedure



Sanitary Condition (example)



- When booking a container with the nominated shipping line/agent, can you please request a 'Food Quality Container'
- Before the container is loaded please check off the following 'Food Quality Container' requirements
 - No internal rust visible
 - Free from oil and other residue
 - No holes (wind and water tight)
 - No odours





















Sanitary Condition (example - continued)



- Packing declaration
 - Submitted by the exporter
 - Approved by an authorised company representative
 - Onus is with the exporting company for compliance

Boxes to be marked in the appropriate place	Boxes to be marked in the appropriate place	(MUST b	Company Letterhead e issued by the packer or supplier of the goods and MUST include the company's na AND address)
Consignment identifier or numerical link	Consignment identifier or numerical link		FCL LCL PACKING DECLARATION [Boxes to be marked in the appropriate place]
PROHIBITED PACKAGING MATERIAL STATEMENT (Prohibited packaging material such as straw, bamboo, peat, hay, chaff, used fruit & vegetable cartons) Al Have prohibited packaging materials or bamboo products been used as packaging or dunnage in the consignment covered by this document? Al YES NO NO TIMBER PACKAGING/DUNNAGE STATEMENT (Timber packaging/dunnage includes: crates, cases, pallets, skids, and any other timber used as a shippin as the stimber packaging/dunnage been used in consignments covered by this document? All timber packaging/dunnage used in the consignment has been treated and marked in compliance with ISPM15 NO N/A BARK STATEMENT (Bark is the external natural layer covering trees and branches. This statement is only required if timber/packaging dunnage is declared using the timber or ISPM 15 statements. A bark statement is required for all timber packaging/dunnage including ISPM 15 compliant packaging/dunnage.) Q3 Is all timber packaging/dunnage used in this consignment free from bark? A3 YES NO N/A CONTAINER CLEANLINESS STATEMENT (for FCL/X consignments only - statement to be removed fror document when not relevant) The container(s) covered by this document has/have been cleaned and is/are free from material of animal plant origin and soil. Signed: Printed name: Printed name: (Company Representative)	PROHIBITED PACKAGING MATERIAL STATEMENT (Prohibited packaging material such as straw, bamboo, peat, hay, chaff, used fruit & vegetable cartons) Q1		• •
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Information and Guides



- Most web-sites are actually not user friendly
- Standardise APEC requirements where possible
- Broadly regulate for food safety and phytosanitary outcomes and eliminate unnecessary documentation
- Recognise what does not need any certificate
- Keep it simple



















