

# Choosing The Right Certificate For The Right Reasons

February 2010



- 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



- Regulated products
  - Certification process is formal and requires management of the details
- Improvement
  - Standardise as much as possible, wording, layout, content, approval(s)



- 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](#)



- 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

Dry Finished Goods

ocean

bringing earth's resources to life

7<sup>th</sup> September 2008 v2

life earth

- 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Letterhead  
(MUST be issued by the packer or supplier of the goods and MUST include the company's name AND address)

FCL  LCL  PACKING DECLARATION  
[Boxes to be marked in the appropriate place]

Vessel Name: ..... Voyage Number: .....

Consignment identifier or numerical link: .....

**PROHIBITED PACKAGING MATERIAL STATEMENT**  
(Prohibited packaging material such as straw, bamboo, peat, hay, chaff, used fruit & vegetable cartons)

Q1 Have prohibited packaging materials or bamboo products been used as packaging or dunnage in the consignment covered by this document?  
A1 YES  NO

**TIMBER PACKAGING/DUNNAGE STATEMENT**  
(Timber packaging/dunnage includes: crates, cases, pallets, skids, and any other timber used as a shipping aid.)

Q2a Has timber packaging/dunnage been used in consignments covered by this document?  
A2a YES  NO

**ISPM 15 STATEMENT**

Q2b All timber packaging/dunnage used in the consignment has been treated and marked in compliance with ISPM15  
A2b YES  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 from document when not relevant)

The container(s) covered by this document has/have been cleaned and is/are free from material of animal and/or plant origin and soil.

Signed: ..... Printed name: .....

(Company Representative)

Date of issue: .....

(DD/MM/YYYY)



- 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

