

# Choosing the Right Certificate Requirements for the Right Reasons

Krissana Sukhumparnich  
Department of Fisheries, Thailand  
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# Reasons for Requiring Official Export Certificates (paper/electronic)

- A condition for clearance of food presented for international trade
- Ensuring food safety and compliance to the standards and regulations of the importing country
- Ensuring fair trade practice
- Prevent commercial fraud or fraudulent use of official certificates (appropriate means should be used)

# Certification Process

- On-line inspection
- Auditing of quality assurance systems
- Examination of finished products
- Monitoring and surveillance for plant or animal health

# Attestations Required in Certificates

- Containing essential information and avoiding extensive details with an aim to ensuring food safety and fair trade practices
- Requirements for specific attestations should be communicated to exporting countries
- Communication should be consistent and transparent and be able to be applied in a non-discriminatory manner

## Attestations Required in Certificates (continued)

- Should be practical and scientific based
- Commercial or marketing specifications should not be required in the official certificates
- Certificates should be in a single sheet to avoid multiple or redundant certificates

# Examples of Attestations

- Compliance with particular standards, production or processing requirements
- The status (e.g. licensing details) of production, processing, packaging and/or storage establishments in the exporting country
- The exporting country's animal health status, if it may affect the safety of the food; and
- Reference to any associated bilateral/multilateral agreement

# Attestations from Several Agencies

- Must avoid the need for redundant or duplicative certificates
- May include food safety and animal or plant health
- Requiring close collaboration among the different competent authorities/agencies in the exporting country and source country of the raw material
- Importing country should fully understand the control and management systems of the exporting country
- May require industry collaboration

# Examples of Attestations from Different Authorities

- Aquatic animal health certificate for live aquatic animal for human consumption (Korea)
- Health certificate for bivalve molluscan shellfish (other than live) and products containing bivalve molluscan shellfish intended for human consumption
- Health certificate for fresh, chilled and frozen salmonid products destined for Australia exported from....to Thailand for further processing (New Zealand)



# Process to Obtain Collaborations

- Within the same agency (Competent Authority): close consultation, provision of monitoring results and/or analytical results
- Among national competent authorities/agencies: close consultation, written agreements (eg. Arrangement, MOU)
- Between national and international competent authorities: contact through official/diplomatic channels, request for cooperation (eg. EU requirements, catch certificate)

Thank You

