

**ARRANGEMENT ON THE FOOD SAFETY OF
FISHERY PRODUCTS EXPORTED TO
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND DRUG SAFETY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AND
THE NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY OF
THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) of the Republic of Korea and the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) of the Kingdom of Norway (hereinafter referred to as the “Sides”);

Deeming it necessary to strengthen mutual cooperation in the control of the food safety of fishery products meant for export to the Republic of Korea;

Considering that the Imported Food Safety Policy Bureau of the MFDS is responsible for all policy and system improvements, proactive safety management (including on-site inspections) and inspections at the customs clearance and distribution stages of imported food; and

Considering further that the NFSA is the competent body under the Norway Food Act and Animal Welfare Act for the control of the food safety of fishery products which are exported to the Republic of Korea;

Have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph 1 (Purpose)

The purpose of this Arrangement is to ensure that fishery products exported from Norway to the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the “ROK”) are safe for human consumption and to promote cooperation in the field of food safety control.

Paragraph 2 (Scope of Application)

1. This Arrangement will apply to the following fishery products exported from Norway to the ROK for human consumption:
 - (a) aquatic products, including aquatic animals and seaweed as raw material,
 - (b) fish, aquatic animals and seaweed that have been simply processed, such as being cut, heated, fully-cooked (steamed or boiled), dried, salted, preserved in brine, smoked, chilled, or frozen to the extent the original shape can be identified.
2. Fishery products with food additives or other ingredients, except for edible salt, are not within the scope of this Arrangement.

Paragraph 3 (Operational Procedure)

1. Fishery products exported to the ROK from Norway will be produced by establishments approved by the NFSA. The NFSA will regularly provide the MFDS with a list of the approved establishments, including the name, address and other information jointly decided upon by the Sides. The MFDS will provide information on any establishment suspended from exporting fishery products to the ROK due to non-compliance with the regulations on the food safety.
2. The NFSA will verify whether the approved establishments comply with the ROK's sanitary requirements for fishery products. The MFDS may streamline sanitary inspection procedures, including the frequency of inspections for imported fishery products produced by an approved establishment.
3. The NFSA will conduct inspections of all approved establishments in accordance with a risk-based control plan in order to assure the compliance of the approved establishments with sanitary controls of ROK, and will maintain records of the inspection results.
4. In order to facilitate the implementation of this Arrangement, the NFSA will ensure that the MFDS may conduct on-site inspections of Norway's approved establishments.

Paragraph 4 (Issuance of Health Certificates)

1. The NFSA will issue health certificates which verify that fishery products exported to the ROK originate from approved establishments and meet requirements regarding food safety.
2. Health certificates will be in a format jointly decided upon by the Sides, and electronic certificates will be accepted when sent through government networks recognized by the MFDS.
3. Information, such as the name and registration code of the approved establishments, will be printed or marked on the packages of the fishery export products of Norway in an indelible manner.

Paragraph 5 (Notification Procedure)

1. When a food safety issue arises related to fishery products exported to the ROK from an approved establishment in Norway, the MFDS will immediately notify the NFSA and provide relevant information on the situation to the NFSA. The NFSA will investigate the cause of the issue in order to prevent the recurrence of similar cases. In such cases, the MFDS may temporarily suspend the import of fishery products from the relevant establishment until the issue is completely resolved.
2. As a response to the above-mentioned notice from the MFDS, the NFSA will notify the MFDS of the results of the investigation. If one Side requests a joint investigation into the results of the other Side's investigation, then the other Side will accede to it if such request complies with its international commitments.
3. The temporary suspension of imports may be lifted upon the mutual consent of the Sides.

Paragraph 6 (Points of Contact)

The Sides hereby establish the following direct points of contact for discussing administrative procedures, information exchange, and other matters under this Arrangement:

- (a) for the MFDS: the Imported Food Inspection Management Division of the Imported Food Safety Policy Bureau of the MFDS;
- (b) for the NFSA: the Export and Import Section of the Fish and Seafood Department of the NFSA.

Paragraph 7 (Expert Exchange)

The Sides may exchange inspectors/experts, and the Side sending the inspectors/experts will bear all the expenses of travel and accommodation. For the purpose of furthering cooperation in the fields of sanitary inspection and the monitoring of inspection methods of fishery products, the Sides will provide a supportive environment for conducting inspections.

Paragraph 8 (General Provisions)

1. This Arrangement is not intended to create any legally binding obligations under international law.
2. This Arrangement will be carried out within the framework of the respective laws and regulations of the two countries. The implementation of the Arrangement will be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and personnel of the Sides.

Paragraph 9 (Resolution of Differences)

Any differences which may arise from the interpretation or implementation of this Arrangement will be resolved through consultations between the Sides.

Paragraph 10 (Entry into Effect, Duration, and Amendment)

1. This Arrangement will come into effect one (1) year after the date of signature and will remain in effect for five (5) years. This Arrangement will continue to have effect thereafter for subsequent periods of five (5) years unless either Side notifies the other Side in writing of its intention to terminate this Arrangement, at least six (6) months in advance.
2. This Arrangement may be amended with the mutual written consent of the Sides.

Signed in duplicate in the ROK and Norway, on September 23, 2020, in the Korean and English languages, all texts being equally valid. In the case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

For the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
of the Republic of Korea

For the Norwegian Food Safety Authority
of the Kingdom of Norway

Director-General
Imported Food Safety Policy Bureau



Director-General
Norwegian Food Safety Authority

