



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM  
CHOSAINT  
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES  
PROTECTION  
AUTHORITY

# Guidance Note on Completing Catch Certificate for Importers

**V4.0**

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# Document Control

## Version History

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## Review Record

Version	Review Date	Reviewed By	Review Outcome
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# Foreword

## Purpose of this document

This guide is written for importers who wish to import fishery products to the European Union (EU) from a third country, under the EU Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Regulation 1005/2008 which came into force on the 1st January 2010. The IUU Regulation is one of the three pillars of the control system for fisheries in the European Community. The second pillar is Council Regulation (EC) No. 1006/2008 concerning authorisations for fishing activities of Community fishing vessels outside Community waters and the access of third-country vessels to Community waters. The third pillar concerns control of compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy rules by EC vessels and by third country vessels fishing in Community waters. For this purpose, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Community control system ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy on 14 November 2008, which entered into force at the same time as the IUU Regulation, on 1 January 2010.

## Audience for this document

This document is intended for the following audiences:

- Importers of fishery produce into the EU

*This document is provided for guidance and information purposes only. This document will be subject to amendment and review periodically and the most up-to-date version will be published on the SFPA Intranet: <http://connect.sfpa/> If you have any particular queries on this document then please contact [SFPATradeandAudit@sfpa.ie](mailto:SFPATradeandAudit@sfpa.ie)*

# 1. General

## 1.1. Glossary of Terms

Below is a glossary of terms and acronyms used in this document.

Terms / Acronyms	Description
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
EU	European Union
EC	European Community
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
BCP/BIP	Border Control Post/Border Inspection Post

## 1.2. Relevant Legislation/ Documents

The following legislation is of particular relevance to this Guidance Note:

- EC Regulation 1005/2008
- EC Regulation 1010/2009

## 1.3. Confidentiality and Data Protection

With regards to information obtained in the performance of their duties, SFPA personnel are subject to confidentiality obligations laid down in section 58 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 and shall have regard to SFPA's Data Protection Policy and to the obligations of SFPA with respect to the processing of personal data as set out in Data Protection Legislation and GDPR.

## 2. Guidance

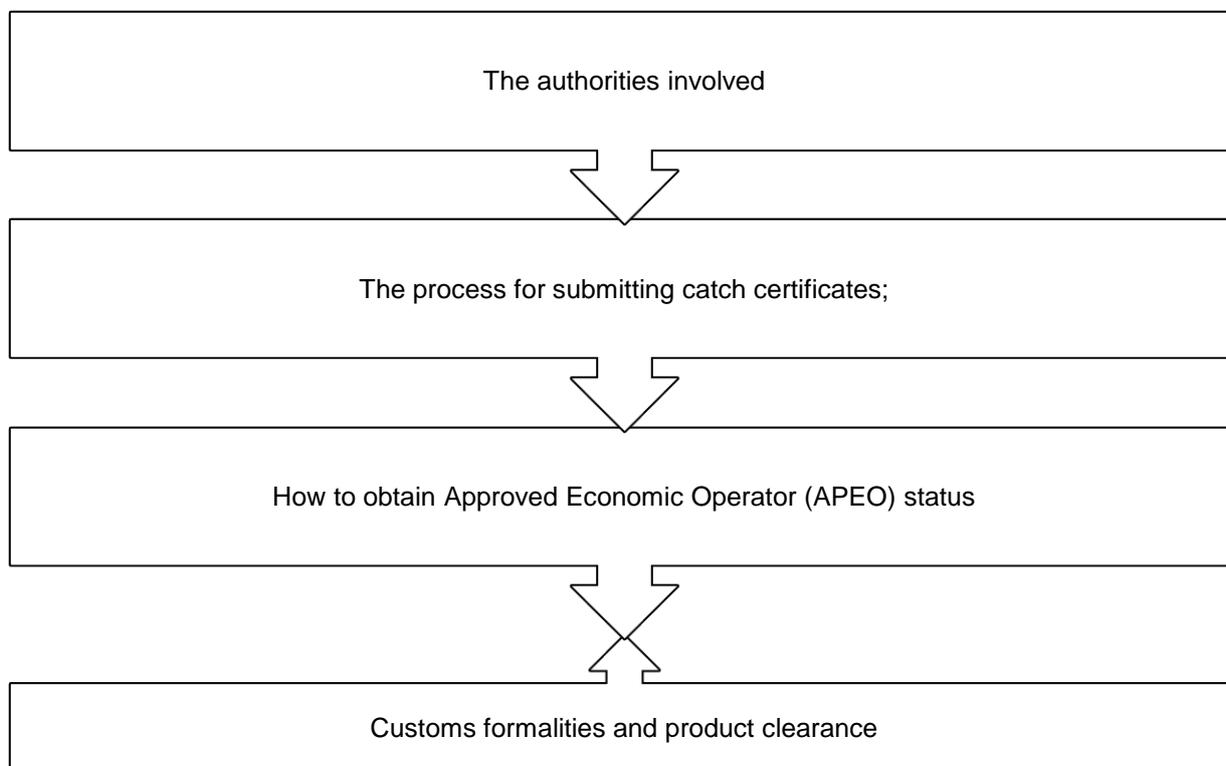
### 2.1. Introduction

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) encompasses unauthorised fishing and all fishing activities that are a serious breach of national, regional or international rules. IUU fishing remains the biggest global threat to the sustainable management of fish stocks. A study done recently in the UK estimated that IUU fishing costs between \$10 and \$24 billion, across the world each year – equivalent to nearly 20% of the worldwide reported value of catches. The EU has therefore introduced a new regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate the import of IUU fishery products into the Community. This legislation came into force on 1st January 2010. Regulation No 1005/2008 creates new requirements on fish and fisheries products entering the EU market from third countries (non-European Union).

All importers will need to take steps to ensure the goods they import have been legally caught, and that his export partner provides a validated catch certificate for every consignment.

The new requirements under IUU do not alter or affect the existing veterinary import rules

#### 2.1.1. Guidance Workflow



## 2.2. Responsibilities

Below is the is an example of who does what under new IUU requirements:

SFPA	Responsibility
<b>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorizing and conducting inspections on landings by third country fishing vessels.</li> <li>• Validation of Irish Catch Certificates by Irish vessels landing to non-EU Countries.</li> <li>• Validation of Irish catch certificates for all exports, where Irish catch certificates are required.</li> <li>• Re-export section of catch certificates from third country landings.</li> <li>• Verification of third country catch certificates for imports into Ireland.</li> </ul>
DAFM	Responsibility
<b>Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examining consignments of fishery imports at border inspection posts (BIP's)</li> <li>• Cross checking of declared weights and species between pre notification document and health certificate; also spot checks on imported products.</li> </ul>



## 3. Catch Certificate Explained

**With a number of exceptions all seafood caught on or after 1 January 2010 which is being imported into the EU will now require a catch certificate.**

If you are an importer, or agent acting on behalf of an importer, it is your responsibility to ensure that all your imports of fish and fisheries products are accompanied by a validated catch certificate(s). There are some exceptions to this rule. A validated catch certificate is not required when:

1. The goods to be imported fall outside the commodity groups described by Chapter 3 and outside Tariff Heading 1604 and 1605 of the Combined Nomenclature (CN). These are the internationally recognised “Customs Codes” that are used to designate the nature of goods and merchandise.
2. The fishery products are included in Annex 1 of EC Regulation 202/2011 which replaces Annex 1 of 1005/2008 and revokes Annex XIII of Commission Regulation 1010/2009.

### 3.1. Responsibilities of the Importer

- To obtain a validated catch certificate(s) from the exporter of the products.
- To complete the Importer Declaration at section 11 of the catch certificate, sign and stamp it.
- To obtain additional documents if your consignment is routed through another third country or processed in a third country other than the flag state of the catching vessel.
- To submit a completed “[Pre-Notification of Consignments of Fishery Products Document](#)”, this should be submitted to the IUU Office of the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority for verification with the Catch Certificate.
- To submit all documentation pertaining to the import to Sea Fisheries Protection Authority within the deadlines for prior notification – for sea freight this is a minimum of three working days before estimated time of arrival, and for air freight a minimum of four hours before estimated time of arrival but the SFPA would advise maintaining the 3 working days period to prevent any delay in the products gaining release at Border Inspection Posts.
- It is acceptable for an importing agent to submit a catch certificate on behalf of an importer and complete section 11 of the catch certificate.

### 3.2. Re-exports from Ireland

If you or another operator intends to re-export fishery products previously imported into Ireland which have not been processed in any way, the re-export section of the original catch certificate will need to be completed and validated by the SFPA Office with responsibility for the local area where the exporter of the fishery product(s) is based.

### 3.3. Contact Details

The following is a list of Offices and their contact details:

SFPA Offices nationwide		
<p><b>SFPA Clonakilty</b> T: 023 8859300 F: 023 8859720 E: <a href="mailto:sfpa_info@sfpa.ie">sfpa_info@sfpa.ie</a></p>	<p><b>SFPA Castletownbere</b> T: 027 70439 F: 02770094 E: <a href="mailto:castletownbere@sfpa.ie">castletownbere@sfpa.ie</a></p>	<p><b>SFPA Dingle</b> T: 066 9152122 F: 066 9151489 E: <a href="mailto:dingle@sfpa.ie">dingle@sfpa.ie</a></p>
<p><b>SFPA Dunmore East</b> T: 051 383135 F: 051 383045 E: <a href="mailto:dunmore@sfpa.ie">dunmore@sfpa.ie</a></p>	<p><b>SFPA Howth</b> T: 01 8321910 F: 01 8321911 E: <a href="mailto:howth@sfpa.ie">howth@sfpa.ie</a></p>	<p><b>SFPA Killybegs</b> T: 074 9731264 F: 074 9731819 E: <a href="mailto:killybegs@sfpa.ie">killybegs@sfpa.ie</a></p>
<p><b>SFPA Rossaveal</b> T: 091 572405 F: 091 572585 E: <a href="mailto:rossaveal@sfpa.ie">rossaveal@sfpa.ie</a></p>	<p><b>SFPA Greencastle</b> T: F: E: <a href="mailto:greencastle@sfpa.ie">greencastle@sfpa.ie</a></p>	

### 3.4. Catch Certificate Format

#### 3.4.1. EC IUU Certificate - standard

The format of the standard catch certificate is laid down in Annex II of the Regulation 1005/2008. Third countries will produce their own certificates, but these must contain all the information listed on the EC catch certificate template, so they are likely to be similar in general appearance. Catch certificates must be in one of the official Community languages. It would be in the importers interest to ensure catch certificates are in English to avoid any delays in the import process.

#### 3.4.2. EC Bilateral Agreements with third countries – country specific

A number of countries including Norway, Iceland, USA, Canada, New Zealand and the Faroe Islands have signed bilateral agreements with the European Commission to use their own control and traceability systems to generate and confirm the information provided on catch certificates. This includes specific formats for the catch certificates; they will still contain all of the relevant sections as laid down in Annex II of the Regulation 1005/2008.



### Other catch certificate schemes

The European Commission has approved a number of catch certificate schemes of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO's) which may be accepted as an alternative to the standard IUU catch certificates.

## 3.5. Approved Third Countries

The European Commission has asked all third countries (flag states) to provide a formal notification of its competent authorities that will be implementing this regulation (i.e., validating the catch certificates). Imports from third countries that do not provide this notification, or whose notification is deemed insufficient by the European Commission, will not be permitted EU entry. Importers are strongly advised to ensure they know the nationality of the vessels which provide the fish to be imported, and that these countries are on the European Commission's web page.



## 4. Customs Formalities for Product Clearance

1. Verification of IUU compliant catch certificate(s) and all other relevant import documents by SFPA IUU Office.
2. Verification of Importers Pre-Notification Document by SFPA IUU Office.
3. BIP Staff will need to conduct species and weights checks, included on catch certification and Pre-Notification documents.
4. Conduct all veterinary inspection procedures on imported product.

**For any information or verification of catch certificates and all IUU import documents, contact the Irish Authorities as listed below:**

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority,  
IUU Office,  
Clogheen,  
Clonakilty,  
Co. Cork,  
Ireland.

T: 023 88 59300  
F: 023 88 59720 (Please mark for attention of IUU Office).  
E: [iuuoffice@sfpa.ie](mailto:iuuoffice@sfpa.ie)  
W: [www.sfpa.ie](http://www.sfpa.ie)

**Import Documentation sent to the IUU Office outside of office hours (M-F, 9-5pm) must be sent via e-mail only.**

Any queries of a confidential nature can be forwarded to [iuuprevention@sfpa.ie](mailto:iuuprevention@sfpa.ie)