



Ref: CTO 2018 030 [G]

Aquatic Animal Product: Molluscs with Shells

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to molluscs with shell

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Vicki Melville, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following direction for clearance of consignments of molluscs with shells for human consumption in relation to the *Import Health Standard for the Importation of Marine Fisheries Products for Human Consumption from All Countries* (FISMARIC.ALL; 6 October 2008).

Clause 6.5 of the above Import Health Standard allows importation of molluscs for human consumption provided they are without their shell. However, there is a demand for importing molluscs with shells. Under Clause 2.1(a) of the *Import Health Standard: Ornamental Products of Animal Origin* (INETROIC.GEN; 22 November 2013), shells can be imported for ornamental purpose provided they are “free of adherent fat, muscle, sinew, blood, extraneous organic material, pest infestation, and evidence of decay” (Clause 3.1(1) of INETROIC.GEN). The shells in molluscs imported for human consumption serve the same purpose, meaning the shells are included only to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the product. If food processing procedures can establish that the shells are cleaned thoroughly enough to meet the requirements in Clause 2.1(a) of INETROIC.GEN then molluscs with shells for human consumption can be considered for importation under the permit assessment system. Each consignment will be required to include an original Manufacturer's Declaration that has the processing statement equivalent to meeting the requirement in Clause 3.1(1) of INETROIC.GEN. Further, the Manufacturer's Declaration must be endorsed by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or by a reputable independent corporate entity specialising in providing certification services.

The reason for this direction is that the biosecurity risk associated with molluscs with shells has been assessed and managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.