

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
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24 September 2004

**General Memorandum Order No. 225
Series of 2004**

To : **All Accredited Exporters of Aquaculture Products to the European Union**

Subject : **Continued Implementation of the Commission Decision 2003/858/EC by the Fish Health Officers**

This is to reinforce the strict implementation of some of the requirements of the Commission Decision 2003/858/EC – *“laying down the animal health conditions and certification requirements for imports of live fish, their eggs and gametes intended for farming, and live fish of aquaculture origin and products thereof intended for human consumption”*. The Fish Health Officers were instructed to fulfill the provisions of the attached Annex V pertaining *Animal Health Certification for the importation of fish products of aquaculture origin to the European Community (EC) for immediate consumption*, taking into account the explanatory notes in Annex III.

The enclosed Commission Decision paid attention to diseases and emerging diseases exotic to the EU community and also specify the necessity of prevention of introduction of serious diseases into the EU community, affecting aquaculture animals when importing live fish of aquaculture origin and products thereof for human consumption.

The Regional Directors thru the Fish Health officers will assure the consignment complies with the guarantees laid down in Annex V. **Hence, to facilitate the implementation of Commission Decision 2003/858/EC, all accredited exporters of aquaculture products to the EU should notify the Fish Health Officers during plant operation to conduct gross morphological examination of raw materials and attest for the health status of the harvested aquatic animal prior to processing.** The attestation of the Fish Health Officers is a requirement for verification and final endorsement for the issuance of Annex V for export of aquaculture products for immediate consumption.

For your information and proper action.

(SIGNED)
MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, Jr.
Director