



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

March 1, 2018

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C.
20250

Dear Importer or Customs Broker,

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is notifying you of several changes in the eligibility of certain foreign countries to process Siluriformes fish and fish products for export to the United States. Commercial shipments of Siluriformes fish and fish products certified on or after March 1, 2018 from the following countries will no longer be eligible for importation into United States commerce:

Guyana	Myanmar	Dominican Republic	The Gambia
Nigeria	Bangladesh	Canada	
Pakistan	El Salvador	Mexico	

Consistent with the FSIS 2015 Final Rule “Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived from Such Fish”

(<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/878aa316-a70a-4297-b352-2d41becc8f73/2008-0031F.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>), countries exporting Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States and that wished to continue after September 1, 2017 were required to submit a completed self-reporting tool (SRT) and supporting documentation demonstrating the equivalence of their documented Siluriformes inspection systems to that of FSIS by March 1, 2018. Only those foreign countries that FSIS has determined have met the equivalence documentation requirements and are in the process of scheduling an on-site equivalence audit will be permitted to continue shipping Siluriformes fish products to the United States.

Siluriformes fish and fish products from the countries listed above that are certified for export on or after March 1, 2018 will be refused entry to the United States. FSIS will continue to reinspect and allow entry to any Siluriformes fish and fish products from these countries that are currently in transit and certified prior to March 1, 2018 provided these products meet all other FSIS requirements.

If you have any questions about this information, please feel free to contact us at foimports@fsis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

William C. Smith
Assistant Administrator
Office of Field Operations