



Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

SENT VIA FEDEX

28 August 2017

«Company_name»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear Sir/Madam,

****IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED****

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is notifying you that starting on March 1, 2016, FSIS began inspecting establishments that slaughter and process Siluriformes fish and fish products, which include fish commonly known as catfish. Siluriformes fish have been under the authority of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and your firm was identified as a potential exporter of these types of fish.

The 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills mandated FSIS inspection of Siluriformes fish. On December 2, 2015, FSIS published the final rule "Mandatory Inspection of Fish of the Order Siluriformes and Products Derived from Such Fish," which can be accessed on the FSIS Website at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/45f61995-b867-4a5b-a4e0-064ad052725c/2008-0031F.htm?MOD=AJPERES>. As the final rule explains, fish of the order Siluriformes are amenable to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601(w) (2)) and the rule establishes the inspection program and its regulatory requirements.

Through this letter, FSIS is informing you of immediate steps you must take to comply with federal requirements for exporting these products. First, before September 1, 2017 you must apply for FSIS export certification services. To apply for export certification services, please contact the District Office listed below for the state in which your facility is located.

Second, effective September 1, 2017 Siluriformes fish and fish products will require FSIS inspection and an FSIS export certificate, form 9060-5-S, signed by FSIS inspection personnel prior to export. Please review the export checklist at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-checklist> to ensure that you are aware of FSIS requirements and any requirements specific to the countries to which you wish to export these products.

If by September 1, 2017 you do not comply with the FSIS export requirements and any specific requirements of the country to which you are exporting, you will not be issued export certificates for Siluriformes fish and fish products.

Please note that numerous fish species will require FSIS inspection and export certification, as there are many families of fish within the order of Siluriformes. A list of species can be accessed at <http://www.itis.gov>. On this site, type “Siluriformes” in the search box, on the next screen, under Kingdom Animalia, click “Siluriformes” and the list of families will be displayed.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or need to apply for FSIS export certification services, please contact the appropriate District Office for the state in which you wish to apply.

Sincerely,

**WILLIAM
SMITH**

Digitally signed by WILLIAM SMITH
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=Department of Agriculture,
cn=WILLIAM SMITH,
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William C. Smith
Assistant Administrator
Office of Field Operations
Food Safety and Inspection Service

District Offices

ALAMEDA, CA (District 05)

States: Arizona, California, Nevada

620 Central Avenue
Building 2C
Alameda, CA 94501
Phone: (510) 337-5000; Ext. 1 for District Manager or Deputy District Manager
Fax: (510) 337-5081

ATLANTA, GA (District 85)

States: Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virgin Islands

100 Alabama St., SW; Bldg. 1924
Suite 3R90
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: (404) 562-5900
Fax: (404) 562-5877

CHICAGO, IL (District 50)

States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

1919 South Highland Avenue
Suite 115C
Lombard, IL 60148
Phone: (630) 620-7474
Fax: (630) 620-7599

DALLAS, TX (District 40)

States: Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

1100 Commerce Street
Room 516
Dallas, TX 75242
Phone: (214) 767-9116
Fax: (214) 767-8230

DENVER, CO (District 15)

States: Alaska, American Samoa, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Northern Mariana Islands, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

1 Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 45, Door S3
P.O. Box 25387
Denver, CO 80225
Phone: (303) 236-9800
Fax: (303) 236-9794

DES MOINES, IA (District 25)

States: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Room 985, Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 727-8960 or 1-800-990-9834
Fax: (515) 727-8992

JACKSON, MS (District 90)

States: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee

713 South Pear Orchard Road
Suite 402
Ridgeland, MS 39157
Phone: (601) 965-4312
Fax: (601) 965-5901

PHILADELPHIA, PA (District 60)

States: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mellon Independence Center
701 Market Street, Suite 4100A
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: (215) 597-4219
Fax: (215) 597-4217

RALEIGH, NC (District 80)

States: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia

6020 Six Forks Road

Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: (919) 844-8400 or 1-800-662-7608

Fax: (919) 844-8411

SPRINGDALE, AR (District 35)

States: Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri

Country Club Center

Bldg. B, Suite 201

4700 South Thompson

Springdale, AR 72764

Phone: (479) 751-8412

Fax: (479) 751-9049

Additional Resources

The Small Plant Help Desk

1-877-FSIS-HELP (1-877-374-7435)

infosource@fsis.usda.gov

FSIS export website

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products>