

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

14-18

3/5/18

ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO EXPORT SILURIFORMES FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) at official import inspection establishments for actions to take when they receive imported Siluriformes fish and fish products from the following countries: Bangladesh, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, The Gambia, Guyana, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

II. BACKGROUND

Although Bangladesh, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, The Gambia, Guyana, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Pakistan have been eligible to export Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States, they failed to provide sufficient equivalence documentation within the required time frame. Thus, shipments of Siluriformes fish and fish products from these countries that are certified on or after March 1, 2018, are no longer eligible to enter the United States.

III. IPP RESPONSIBILITIES

A. IPP are to verify that the certification date (date signed) on foreign inspection certificates of Siluriformes fish and fish products certified by Bangladesh, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, The Gambia, Guyana, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Pakistan is before March 1, 2018. Siluriformes fish and fish products from these countries certified on or after March 1, 2018, are not eligible for entry into the United States. Therefore, for shipments from these countries accompanied by certificates signed and issued on or after March 1, 2018, IPP are to fail the Certification type of inspection (TOI), enter the remark "Country is Ineligible," and refuse entry on the entire lot.

B. PHIS will direct IPP to conduct product exam reinspection and collect applicable residue samples on all shipments of Siluriformes fish and fish products from the ineligible countries with certification dates on foreign inspection certificates on or before March 1, 2018.

C. IPP are to be aware that Vietnam, The People's Republic of China, and Thailand have submitted sufficient equivalence documentation; therefore, those countries are eligible to continue exporting Siluriformes fish and fish products to the United States.

IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Import Export Policy Development Staff (IEPDS) through [askFSIS](#). When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab and enter the following information in the fields provided:

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 3/1/19

OPI: OPPD

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 14-18**.
Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible.
Product Field: Select **Import** from the drop-down menu.
Category Field: Select **Public Health Information System** from the drop-down menu.
Policy Arena: Select **International (Import/Export)** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

NOTE: Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander J. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development