



AV (HS) 160702

30 April 2007

Seafood Importers/Declaring Agents/Retailers

(All declaring agents are requested to inform your importers of the contents of this circular)

Seafood Importers/Declaring Agents

Dear Sir/Madam

**NEW REQUIREMENT OF PRE-EXPORT NOROVIRUS TESTING
FOR FROZEN OYSTERS EXPORTED TO SINGAPORE**

Due to an increase of food poisoning outbreaks associated with the consumption of frozen oysters because of norovirus contamination, AVA will impose pre-export testing for norovirus in every consignment of frozen oysters, whether in half-shell, whole-shell or meat exported to Singapore with effect from **1 June 2007**. This will therefore require the competent relevant government authority of the exporting countries to certify in the health certificate that the consignment of frozen oysters has been tested and found free of norovirus. This certification will be in addition to the existing certification requirements, which will be read as follows:

- a) the oysters were harvested from approved waters and processed in an approved establishment/plant in a sanitary and hygienic manner;
- b) the oysters have not been treated with chemical preservatives and additives injurious to health;
- c) the oysters have been tested and found free of norovirus; and
- d) the product is fit for human consumption.

Please contact Mr Thomas Lee at Tel 63257102 or me at 63257879 if you need further clarifications.

Yours faithfully

KOH CHENG LIAT
IMPORT & EXPORT DIVISION
FOR DIRECTOR-GENERAL
AGRI-FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICES

This is a computer-generated letter and requires no signature.