

FCD/IED / Abalone Cir 001/07

CIRCULAR – REMINDER

**To: Seafood Importers and Traders
Declaring Agents**

LABELLING OF ABALONE/SHELLFISH PRODUCTS

1 This circular serves to remind all importers or traders, importing and selling prepacked (including canned) abalone/shellfish products to comply fully with the labelling requirements of The Sale of Food Act, Wholesome Meat & Fish (Import, Export and Transshipment) Rules and The Food Regulations. This includes the naming of the product, which should reflect the true nature of its contents and the appropriate designation of each ingredient used. Some of these requirements are listed in Sections 16 and 17 of The Sale of Food Act, Section 7 of the Wholesome Meat & Fish (Import, Export and Transshipment) Rules and Regulations 5, 6, 7, 8A, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of The Food Regulations. You may want to refer to these legislations in our Website at <http://www.ava.gov.sg/Legislation/ListOfLegislation/>

2 Any person who is guilty of an offence under the Sale of Food Act or its Regulations shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both. Under the Wholesome Meat & Fish (Import, Export and Transshipment) Rules, the penalty is up to \$10,000 fine upon conviction of the offence. AVA could also stop sale of the affected consignment and destroy it. AVA will recover cost and expenses incurred from the importers.

3 Please also be reminded to ensure that the naming of these products should reflect the true contents of the products. As 'abalone' commonly refers to molluscs of the genus *Haliotis*, it should not be used for other genus of shellfish.

4 The basic labelling requirements under the Food Regulations as listed below.

- Name or description of the food
- List of ingredients (appropriate designation of each ingredient must be declared)
- Net quantity
- Name and address of the manufacturer or importer
- Country of origin

5 Under Wholesome Meat & Fish (Import, Export and Transshipment) Rules, the labeling requirements for seafood products, excluding seafood that is landed directly from fishing vessel, are as follows:

- a description of the fish product;
- the country from which the fish product originates;
- the brand name of the fish product, if any;

- the name and designation number of the processing establishment in which, and the date on which, the fish product was processed, if applicable;
- the name and designation number of the establishment in which, and the date on which, the fish product was packed;
- the batch number and, where the fish product is canned, the canning code; and
- the net weight of the fish product as contained in each basic packaging unit and outer carton thereof.

6 You may also want to visit our website:

<http://www.ava.gov.sg/FoodSector/FoodLabelingAdvertisement/> for more information on the labelling requirements of food products or contact Ms Tan Yi Ling at tel: 6325 8556 or Ms Neo Mui Lee at tel: 6325 8551 for further enquiry.

Circular is jointly issued by:

IMPORT & EXPORT DIVISION & FOOD CONTROL DIVISION
FOOD AND VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION
for Director-General
AGRI-FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICES