

**THE PROTOCOL BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
AND THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS OF
THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON THE INSPECTION, QUARANTINE AND VETERINARY SANITARY
REQUIREMENTS FOR SALMON PRODUCTS TO BE IMPORTED FROM THE
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA TO THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia (hereinafter referred to as MORA) and the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as GACC) have reached an agreement through friendly consultation on the inspection, quarantine and veterinary sanitary requirements of salmon products to be exported from the Republic of Estonia (hereinafter referred to as ESTONIA) to the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as CHINA).

Article 1

In implementing this Protocol, the GACC and the Veterinary and Food Board (hereinafter referred to as VFB) governing the production of products of animal origin, reporting to MORA are the competent authorities of China and Estonia, respectively.

Article 2

This protocol refers to the farmed Salmonidae family fishes (Latin scientific name: *Salmonidae*) and products meant for human consumption, which are chilled, frozen, salted, smoked, including fish belly, fish heads, fish roe and other edible parts. Live salmon is not included.

The catalogue of salmon products exported from Estonia to China, which comply with the Assessment and Review Requirements has been attached. This catalogue can be updated upon VFB request transmitted to the Chinese authorities that is listed as an annex to this protocol.

Article 3

VFB shall be responsible for the inspection and quarantine of the frozen (chilled) salmon products intended to be export to China in accordance with the requirements of the GACC, and for the issuing of Veterinary (Health) Certificates confirmed by both sides.

Article 4

VFB shall inform the GACC of changes in its’ domestic laws (in case the valid legislative act will be replaced by a new one or a new legislative act will be enforced) and provide information on regulations, criteria, procedures and other mandates governing every aspects of quality, safety and

sanitary supervision of salmon products such as farming, processing, storage and transportation, epidemic disease control and testing, etc., as well as providing inspection and quarantine procedures, test items, laboratory test methods and criteria, etc.

VFB shall periodically provide the GACC with the national chemical residue monitoring, epidemic disease, microorganism surveillance plan and corresponding annual summary report of the previous year. When deemed necessary, nuclear radiation and other environmental pollutants reports will be included.

VFB shall regularly provide the GACC with dynamic verification information of the competent authority on sanitary production and export of the farming, fishing vessels, and processing establishments of the frozen (chilled) salmon products for export to China.

VFB will notify the GACC at least one month in advance for any impending changes to the above.

Article 5

The establishments (including processing plant, Freezing Vessel, Transporting Vessel, Factory Vessel and cold store) which intend to export salmon products to China shall be under supervision of the competent authorities of Estonia and in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations of Estonia and China on veterinary and public health.

The establishments for export of salmon products to China shall be registered with the GACC as per the Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China. Salmon products from establishments that are not registered with the GACC shall not be allowed to import into China.

Article 6

Estonia should officially confirm that salmon products exported to China:

- (i) have been farmed in domestic waters, or imported from the listed establishments of countries or regions eligible for export to China;
- (ii) the materials and products are not in the problem-area in reference to Article 10 of this Protocol;
- (iii) do not use chemicals or additives prohibited by China directly or indirectly (such as added in the feed), and if needed, use chemicals or additives restricted or approved by China scientifically;
- (iv) in accordance with relevant laws of China and Estonia, as ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, no infected evidence of epidemic disease exist in original material fish;
- (v) breeding Farming, fishing, processing, packaging, storage, transportation and export should meet the hygiene and traceability requirements of both parties, and the cold chain control should be guaranteed to operate normally.

Article 7

Salmon products to be exported to China shall be packaged in new packaging materials, which meet the requirements of international hygienic standards. The label on the package should indicate the following in Chinese: commodity name and scientific name, specification, date of

processing, batch number, storage conditions, producing method (farmed), producing area (county), as well as the name and registration number of the establishments (including processing plant, factory vessels and cold store), destination (the People's Republic of China only).

The Chinese label of pre-packaged salmon products to be exported to China should comply with the requirements of pre-packaged labels for import food of China.

Article 8

Each batch of salmon products to be exported from Estonia to China will be accompanied with at least one original Veterinary (Health) Certificate attesting that the products comply with the veterinary and public health rules and regulations of China and Estonia, as well as relevant requirements in this Protocol.

The certificate should be typed in Chinese and English (the English version is compulsory when filling out the certificate). The format and content of the certificates shall be consented by both sides mutually in advance.

VFB should provide the GACC with samples of the official stamp and the certificate at least one month prior to the certificate coming into effect for record. Any amendments should be notified to the GACC at least one month in advance.

Article 9

On the Veterinary (Health) Certificate, VFB should attest that:

- (i) the products come from an establishment which is registered with the competent authority.
- (ii) the product is produced, packaged, stored and transported under hygienic conditions and the supervision of the competent authority;
- (iii) the product was inspected and quarantined by the competent authority and free from pathogens microbiology, toxic and harmful substances and foreign substances prescribed in the laws and regulations of China.
- (iv) the product meets veterinary hygiene requirements and fit for human consumption.

Article 10

If the following occurs:

- (i) there is an outbreak of an OIE notifiable aquatic animal disease in Estonia with infected or possibly infected salmon products for export to China;
- (ii) a major food safety incident occurs in Estonia affecting or possibly affecting salmon products for export to China,
- (iii) salmon products for export to China violate Chinese laws and regulations and provisions of this Protocol seriously, then

VFB should immediately stop exporting salmon products originating from the corresponding

regions or even the whole country to China, recall products with problems or potential risks, inform the GACC, and provide the GACC with detailed information on the incident investigation, disposal and next control measures.

After the relevant risks are eliminated and there is a wish to restore the product's export to China, negotiations should be conducted between the GACC and VFB according to international practice. Only after an agreement by both sides can the export of the product to China be resumed.

Article 11

The GACC will impose inspections and quarantine on imported salmon products at the border post. Only salmon products in conformity with requirements of China's laws, regulations and standards will be permitted to enter. For unqualified products, actions including rejection, destruction and other measures will be imposed. Those processing establishments whose products have been found to have serious or repeated problems will be subjected to intensified inspections and quarantine by the GACC or face being banned from import.

Both sides should establish an efficient information notification mechanism, investigating and handling existing problems cooperatively, taking relevant rectification and preventive measures timely, and ensuring that salmon products exported to China meet the requirements of China continuously.

Article 12

Estonia's salmon products safety administrative systems shall be in compliance with the requirements of China with continuous efficacy.

Where necessary, the GACC may send experts to Estonia to conduct an on-site audit, assess and verify the compliance of the systems or programs. Estonia should provide necessary assistance and convenience.

Article 13

This Protocol shall be in force for 5 years and shall be automatically renewed for a subsequent period of 5 years unless one side notifies the other side in written of the intention of amending or terminating this Protocol at least two months prior to the expiration date of this Protocol.

This protocol may be amended by the mutual consent of both sides. Any side may terminate this protocol by giving a written notice to the other side 6 months in advance of the date of termination.

Article 14

The protocol is signed in the city of _____, on the date of _____ in duplicate, each in Chinese and English. Both texts have equal legal effect. In case of differences in the interpretation, the English version shall govern. This protocol will take effect on the date of its last signature by both sides.

On behalf of
The Ministry of Rural Affairs of
the Republic of Estonia

On behalf of
The General Administration of Customs of
the People's Republic of China

Annex

**Catalogue of Salmon Products Exported to China from Estonia which
Comply with the Assessment and Review Requirements**

No.	Products	Producing method
1	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [chilled, frozen, salted, smoked]	Aquaculture
2	Rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) [chilled, frozen, salted, smoked]	Aquaculture