



THE PAKISTAN FISH INSPECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL ACT, 1997



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THE PAKISTAN FISH INSPECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL ACT, 1997

ACT XXXV OF 1997

An Act to regulate quality and promote export of fish and fishery products from Pakistan

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate quality and promote export of fish and fishery products and to prevent export of substandard quality of fish and fishery products and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.-(1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Fish Inspection and Quality Control Act, 1997.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-

- (a) "certificate of quality and origin" means a certificate issued by the Director-General or an officer authorized by him certifying that the fish is wholesome and fit for human consumption or for any other purpose specified therein;
 - (b) "Director-General" means Director-General, Marine Fisheries Department,;
 - (c) "export" means export of fish and fishery products from Pakistan by any means to any place outside Pakistan;
 - (d) "fish" means all aquatic animals of inland, marine and brackish water origin, alive or dead, and includes prawns, shrimps, lobsters, crabs, oysters, clams, scallops, turtles, in salted, unsalted, semi-dried, dried, frozen, preserved, cured, or canned form and any other aquatic animal or animal product which the Director General, Marine Fisheries Department, may by an order declare to be fish for the purposes of this Act ;
 - (e) "fish exporter" means a person engaged in carrying on the business of export of fish and fishery products and registered with the registration authority;
 - (f) "fish inspection" means inspection of fish and fishery products by a Fishery Officer for the purpose of assessing the quality of the fish
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by inspecting sanitary and hygienic conditions and the physical, chemical and bacteriological examination of fish and fishery products;

- (g) "fish processing" means cleaning, filleting, icing, packing, canning, freezing, pickling, cooking, drying, semi-drying, salting, chilling, smoking, extraction of oil, conversion into fish-meal or preparing fish in any other manner for marketing;
- (h) "Fishery Officer" means an Officer duly authorized by the Federal Government to exercise the powers and perform the functions for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- (i) "Fishery product" means anything originating, produced or made, whether in whole or in part from a fish;
- (j) "Inspection Committee" means a committee constituted under section 5;
- (k) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (l) "processing plant" means an establishment, place or premises where fishes are processed;
- (m) "quality" in respect of fish means a fish or fishery product conforming to the established standards prescribed under this Act;
- (n) "quality control" means quality assurance of fish and fishery products conforming to standards prescribed under this Act or the rules made thereunder;
- (o) "registration" means registration of a fish processing plant under this Act and "registered" shall be construed accordingly;
- (p) "registration authority" means a Fishery Officer authorised by the Director-General, by an order in writing, to register fish processing plants under this Act or the rules made thereunder;
- (q) "rules" means rules made under this Act; and
- (r) "unwholesome" means fish or fishery products that have an offensive or objectionable odour, flavour, colour, texture or substance associated with spoilage.

3. Registration of fish processing plants, etc.-(1) No fish processing plant shall process fish and fish products unless it is registered with the registration authority.

(2) The registration authority may, on receipt of an application from a fish processing plant, on payment of such fees and conditions as may be prescribed, issue a certificate of registration.

4. Registration of fish exporters.-(1) No person shall export fish or fishery products unless he is registered with the registration authority.

(2) The registration authority may, on receipt of an application from a fish processing plant, on payment of such fees and conditions as may be prescribed, issue a certificate of registration.

5. Constitution and functions of Inspection Committee.-(1) The Federal Government shall constitute an Inspection Committee consisting of one representative each of the Export Promotion Bureau, the Marine Fisheries Department and a broad based trade association of fish processing plants.

(2) The functions of the Committee shall be—

- (a) to conduct a survey, or surveys, of fish processing plants with a view to determining their fitness for registration;
- (b) to hear appeals against orders, decisions, action or omissions of Fishery Officers;
- (c) to make recommendations to the Federal Government for the efficient functioning of the industry, the removal of malpractices therein and the enhancement of exports; and
- (d) to discharge such other functions as may be conferred on it under the rules.

6. Inspection of fish processing plant.-(1) A Fishery Officer may inspect any fish processing plant to ensure the observance of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(2) A Fishery Officer may, without any order from a Magistrate and without a warrant, arrest any person operating a fish processing plant without a valid registration granted under section 3.

7. Fish Export. No person shall process and export or market for export or have in his possession for export or deal in, any fish or fish products intended for human consumption which are decomposed, unwholesome or contaminated with pathogenic organisms.

8. Handling of fish and fishery products. No Person who is suffering from leprosy, tuberculoses, polio or such other contagious diseases as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify, shall handle, carry or process fish or work in a fish processing and packing plant or establishment.
