



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



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**IMPORTED FOOD PROGRAM NOTICE 19/01
V2
5 July 2001**

Distribution

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SUBJECT: Inspection of Soy sauce, Soy sauce powder, Oyster sauce and sauces containing soy or oyster sauce

The Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) have advised that a number of soy sauces, oyster sauces and sauces containing soy or oyster sauce as an ingredient, may contain a chemical contaminant, 3-MCPD (3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol), a chemical that potentially poses a risk to human health. ANZFA have therefore advised AQIS that these sauces should be classified as a risk category food and they have requested that the *Imported Food Control Orders* be amended accordingly.

Effective from 6 July 2001 all imported soy sauces, soy sauce powders, oyster sauces and sauces containing soy or oyster sauce as an ingredient will to be monitored by the Imported Food Program and tested for the presence of 3-MCPD (3-monochloropropane-1, 2-diol). The sauces will be inspected on a test and hold basis and therefore products must be held pending the results of the laboratory analysis for 3-MCPD.

Application of tests in the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS)

For Soy sauce

IFP have established a separate commodity code in AIMS for soy sauce only (soy sauce has its own tariff classification) and AIMS has been set to apply the test for 3-MCPD to consignments of soy sauce which will have the "Test and Hold" direction applied.



AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE
AND INSPECTION SERVICE



1901-2001
Centenary of Federation

Edmund Barton Building
Barton ACT
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
ph +61 2 6272 3933
fax +61 2 6272 5161
www.affa.gov.au

ABN 24 113 085 695

For Oyster sauce and sauces containing soy or oyster sauce as an ingredient

Oyster sauce and sauces containing soy or oyster sauce as an ingredient are included in the “other” sauces tariff classification. To separate the sauces of concern from other sauces, a declaration question has been established in COMPILE for brokers/importers to answer. **“DO GOODS CONTAIN OYSTER SAUCE OR SOY SAUCE?”**

Please note there is also a declaration question that relates to sauces containing peanuts on the “other” sauce tariff.

As oyster sauce, sauces containing soy or oyster sauce as an ingredient, sauces containing peanuts and a variety of other sauces all come under the same tariff “Other sauces”, AIMS can only be set to apply the tests to cover these commodities collectively. The tests that will appear in the tests screen in AIMS for sauces in this group will be Organochlorines & Organophosphates (OC & OP), Aflatoxins, 3-MCPD, Visual and Labelling.

Officers processing a food entry in AIMS for these products will be required to delete the test that is not applicable to the kind of sauce being inspected. If the kind of sauce to be inspected cannot be established from the information provided in the customs entry or from associated documentation provided by the broker/importer at the time of processing, the officer conducting the inspection in the field will need to determine the appropriate test at the time of inspection.

Tests other than 3-MCPD

With regard to the soy sauces, soy sauce powders, oyster sauces and sauces containing soy or oyster sauce as an ingredient, now categorised as risk, only the test for 3-MCPD will be required. Do not apply the other default tests set out in the random category list to these products.

Samples

Each variety of soy sauce, oyster sauce and sauces containing soy or oyster sauce must be sampled and the number of lots from each variety to be sampled must be determined in accordance with the appropriate tables for risk food in Schedule 1 of the *Imported Food Control Regulations*. Do not consolidate different varieties of these sauces into a single lot.

The sample size for 3-MCPD analysis

For bulk products

Bulk products must be agitated before samples are taken.

A minimum sample size of 100 ml must be taken aseptically from each lot sampled and placed into clean leak proof containers of appropriate type and size.

For packaged products

A minimum sample size of 100 ml (grams for powders) must be taken from each lot to be sampled.

Where the smallest package for a lot contains a volume greater than 100 ml, (other than for bulk) officers must take one of these packages unopened as the sample.

Choice of laboratory, sample security and delivery

From Monday 9 July 2001 two laboratories are available to conduct the 3-MCPD analysis. Other laboratories may also be appointed at a later time to conduct 3-MCPD testing. Importers may elect to send samples for 3-MCPD analysis to laboratories other than AGAL but may only elect from those laboratories appointed as analysts to conduct the 3-MCPD analysis. Information as to additional laboratories appointed to do this testing will be made available as they come on line.

Currently the following laboratories have been appointed as analysts to conduct testing for 3-MCPD;

Virotec Global Solutions
34 Norfolk Court
Coburg,
Melbourne VIC 3058
Telephone (03) 9350 4800
e-mail global@virotec.com

Australian Government Analytical Laboratory (AGAL)
1 Suakin St
PYMBLE NSW 2073
Phone 02 9449 0111

51-65 Clarke St
Sth MELBOURNE Vic 3205
Phone 03 9685 1777

3 Clive Rd
COTTESLOE WA 6011
Phone 08 9384 1511

Wynnum Rd (Cnr Creek)
CANNON HILL QLD 4170
Phone 07 32142161

8 Butler Drv
HENDON SA 5014
Phone 08 8244 3933

Where samples are forwarded to laboratories by courier they must be adequately packaged to prevent breakage and after closing the package must be sealed using the imported food security seals (order item No. PI 1406 from Moores). The security seal numbers must be recorded on the imported food inspection report and the sample receipt advice. Ref to IFP Notice 15/98 New Security Seals.

Normal sample delivery arrangements will remain with respect to AGAL. Where samples are forwarded by courier to laboratories other than AGAL, the courier cost must be borne by the laboratory. AQIS officers will however collate samples for laboratories other than AGAL at their respective regional AQIS offices and will contact the laboratory nominated by the importer, advising that the samples are ready for collection by the courier.

Sample receipt at laboratories other than AGAL
The laboratory must acknowledge receipt of the couriered samples through the use of the imported food sample receipt proforma. This proforma has been prepared for this purpose and each region and laboratory will be advised of requirements separate to this notice.

Ron Southgate
Imported Food Program
Canberra