



Marine
Management
Organisation

Labelling Fisheries Products

FAQs



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Amendments:

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Marine Management Organisation

1. Why do I need to label?

Labelling of fisheries products and lots is important for industry traceability and is mandatory under the Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

2. Who is responsible for labelling fisheries products?

As a fisher, buyer, seller, agent, transporter, or keeper of fisheries products you are responsible for ensuring that your fish or fisheries products are traceable from point of capture, through landing, up until the point of sale.

3. When do I need to label?

A label should be present on fisheries products from point of capture, throughout transportation and/or storage and up to the point of sale.

4. What information should be included on a label?

At minimum, a label should contain the following information:

- a) The ID number of each lot
- b) PLN and name of the fishing vessel, or aquaculture production unit
- c) The FAO code, common name or scientific name of each species
- d) The date of catches or production
- e) The quantities of each species in kg expressed as net weight (or number of individuals where appropriate) *
- f) Name and address of suppliers
- g) Relevant ICES area
- h) Production method (e.g. caught or farmed)
- i) Gear code, e.g. beam trawl – TBB
- j) The 'date of minimum durability' – also referred to as best before date

* *Where any fish are present in these quantities below the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS), separate information on the quantities in kg or total number of individuals should be provided.*

This information should be available to the consumer at the point of retail sale. This does not apply to fisheries products imported into the UK with submitted catch certificates.

Further details on the minimum labelling requirements can be found on our website by following this link: [Traceability and labelling information.](#)

5. I sell small quantities of fish/fisheries products direct to the public; do I need to label these items? When am I exempt from using a label?

Small quantities of products sold directly from a vessel to the general public do not require a label, provided sales do not exceed the value of £45 per day.

6. What is a lot and relevant geographical area?

Quantities of the same species can be grouped together into a 'lot', provided they are of the same presentation, come from the same fishing vessel or group of fishing vessels, and come from the same relevant geographical area. Relevant geographical area means a sea area, expressed by reference to a FAO sub-area, division, or sub-division, or where applicable an ICES statistical rectangle, fishing effort zone, economic zone or area bounded by geographical coordinates.

a. Lots - Mixed quantities of less than 30 kg per species

Quantities of less than 30 kg per single species coming from the same management area from several fishing vessels may be put into lots by the Producer Organisation of which the operator of the fishing vessel is a member, or by a registered buyer *prior to first sale*.

b. Lots - Fish below Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)

Quantities of fishery products of several species, consisting of fish below the respective MCRS coming from the same relevant geographical area and the same fishing vessel or group of fishing vessels, may be put into lots *prior to first sale*.

7. What if I split/merge my lot/fisheries products?

Fisheries products may be merged or split *after first sale*, but only if it is possible to trace them back to the *catching stage*.

8. How should I measure the quantity of my fish?

The quantity of the fish should be expressed as net weight in kilogrammes on a label. This means the weight should be the total weight of the product, without the addition of its container or packaging, i.e. excluding box and ice weight.

9. Which fish do I need to label?

All fish, including shellfish need to be included on a label. This includes any species below minimum conservation reference size that are subject to the landing obligation.