

COMMISSION DECISION

of 11 December 1992

approving certain treatments to inhibit the development of pathogenic micro-organisms in bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods

(93/25/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/493/EEC of 22 July 1991 laying down the health conditions for the production and the placing on the market of fishery products⁽¹⁾, and in particular Chapter IV (IV) (2) of the Annex thereto,Whereas bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods harvested in the areas referred to in Chapter I (1) (b) and (1) (c) of the Annex to Council Directive 91/492/EEC of 15 July 1991 laying down the health conditions for the production and the placing on the market of live bivalve molluscs⁽²⁾ constitute a potential threat to consumers if they are not subjected to appropriate treatment;

Whereas Spain and United Kingdom have put forward treatments to inhibit the development of pathogens in bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods;

Whereas these processes are adequate to ensure the health of the products and it is not necessary therefore to subject them in advance to purification or relaying;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The treatments set out in the Annex to this Decision for inhibiting the development of pathogenic micro-organisms in bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods harvested in the areas referred to in Chapter I (1) (b) and (1) (c) or the Annex to Directive 91/492/EEC and which have not been subjected to relaying or purification before being placed on the market are hereby approved.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 11 December 1992.

For the Commission

Ray MAC SHARRY

Member of the Commission⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 268, 24. 9. 1991, p. 15.⁽²⁾ OJ No L 268, 24. 9. 1991, p. 1.

*ANNEX***A. Sterilization**

Bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods may be subjected to sterilization in hermetically sealed containers which comply with the requirements of Chapter IV (IV) (4) of the Annex to Directive 91/493/EEC.

B. Other heat treatments

Bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods in shell and not frozen may undergo one of the following processes :

1. — immersion in boiling water for the period required to raise the internal temperature of the mollusc flesh to not less than 90 °C;
 - maintenance of this minimum temperature for a period of not less than 90 seconds;
 2. — cooking for three to five minutes in an enclosed space where :
 - the temperature is between 120 and 160 °C,
 - the pressure is between 2 and 5 kg/cm², followed by shelling and freezing of the flesh to a core temperature of - 20 °C.
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