

Guidelines for Monitoring of Fishing Vessels



Developed by
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Guidelines for monitoring of Fishing Vessels

1 Introduction

Minimum requirements for Fishing Vessels engaged in fishing activities have been notified vide Government Notification S.O. 612 dated 15.02.2007.

The principal rules for conditions applicable to Fishing Vessels were published in the GOI vide Notification no.S.O. 730(E) dated the 21.08.1995 and subsequently amended vide Notification No.S.O.415 (C) dated 11th April 2002, S.O. 1029 (E) dated 24th September 2002, SO 1034 (E) dated 09.09.2003 and S.O. 717 dated 25.02.2005.

Fishing Vessels means: - Vessels engaged in fishing activities and where fishery products are stored in optimal conditions for further processing, Freezing and Packing on land. On the basis of which, the Fishing Vessels are being monitored by hygiene inspectors belonging to landing centres/Fishing harbours and supervisory checks are carried out by the competent authority (Export Inspection Council / Export Inspection Agency).

2 Responsibilities of the Fishing vessel operators:

Fishing Vessels need to harvest fishery products from their natural environment or to handle or process them after harvesting comply with the structural and equipment requirements as laid down in SO 612(E) dated 12.02.2007.

Fishing Vessels should abstain from fishing from areas, if any, found to be polluted or notified for environmental/ biological contamination by Competent Authorities/ State governments / any authorities authorised by Government of India..

- Operations carried out on board of vessels shall take place in accordance with the rules laid down in S.O. 730(E) dated the 21.08.1995;

Vessels must be designed and constructed so as not to contaminate the products with bilge water, sewage, smoke, fuel, oil, grease or other objectional matters.

- Operators must ensure that fishing vessels used to harvest shall meet the requirements and get registered with MPEDA and Port Trust Office;
Fishing vessels and staff engaged in fishing activities shall comply the hygiene rules stipulated in S.O. 730(E) dated the 21.08.1995.
- Surface of Fishing Vessels where fishery products come in contact shall made of suitable corrosion free material i.e. smooth, non-toxic and easy to clean
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Fishing vessel Operators shall ensure that the staff shall exercise proper control at all stages of fishing activities and maintain proper records thereof.

Fishing Vessels designed and equipped to preserve fresh fishery products for more than 24 hours shall be equipped with holds, tanks or containers or the storage of fishery products at a temperature approaching that of melting ice:

The holds shall be separated from machinery and crew quarters by partitions, which are sufficient to prevent any contamination of the stored fishery products.

The fish holds shall be designed to ensure that melt water cannot remain in contact with fishery products.

As soon as possible after the hauling, the fishery products must be segregated and protected from contamination and from the effects of sun or any other source of heat.

- Fishery Products immediately after hauling shall be washed either by potable water or by clean sea water.
- Fishery Products shall be segregated from other foreign matters and waste shall be kept away separately from the fishery products.
- Storage of cleaning agents, disinfections and other potentially toxic substances shall be kept separately in lockable cupboards and they must not pose any risk of contamination to the fishery products.
- Fishing vessel operators and staff shall ensure that after every repair or dry-docking the surface, the Fish hold, etc shall be washed to prevent contamination with oil or grease.

- If a fishing vessel move from one landing centre/ fishing harbour to another, it shall inform the Chief Executive or the concerned authority of the landing centre/ fishing harbour under whose jurisdiction it started to operate..

3 Guidelines for Monitoring Officials – (Hygiene Inspector)

Landing centre's hygiene inspectors shall carry out the monitoring of fishing vessels to ensure that fishing vessels shall maintain the minimum infrastructural and hygiene requirements as laid down in S.O. 612 dated 15.02.2007 and S.O. 730(E) dated the 21.08.1995.

The hygiene inspectors shall monitor all fishing vessels operating from that landing centre at least once in three months. Monitoring shall be done while the fishing vessel is in the harbour / Landing centre or in operation.

- Hygiene inspector during monitoring shall ensure that the fishing vessels shall exercise proper control at all stages of fishing activities and maintain proper records thereof.
- During monitoring the Hygiene Inspectors shall ensure that the fishing vessels are maintained at maximum level of hygiene, cleanness and strict discipline in the behaviour of staff;
- Hygiene Inspectors shall ensure that adequate care shall be taken to protect fishery products as soon as the hauling is over;
- Hygiene Inspectors shall also ensure that the fishery products are chilled immediately after the hauling over and shall kept chilled
- Hygiene Inspectors shall check the temperature of the fishery products wherever material are available during the monitoring;
- Hygiene Inspectors shall ensure that ice used for chilling the products are made from potable water or clean sea water;
- Hygiene Inspectors shall ensure that the staff assigned to handle fishery products shall maintain high standards of cleanness and prevent contamination of the fishery products by handling;
- Hygiene Inspectors shall ensure that cleaning products, disinfectious and other potentially toxic substances are stored in separate lockable cupboards and they must not present any risk of contamination to the fishery products.

- In case of major non-compliances observed during monitoring the frequency monitoring shall be increased to once in a month till six monitoring are found satisfactory.
- If a fishing vessel move from one landing centre/ fishing harbour to another, the hygiene inspector of the landing centre/ fishing harbour under whose jurisdiction it started to operate may monitor such vessel as long it operate in the same landing centre.

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4 Guidelines for Supervisory checks –

- Supervisory checks shall be carried out by an officer from EIAs/EIC;
- Such Supervisory checks shall cover at least 10% of the Fishing Vessels available in a particular landing centre;
- Such Supervisory checks shall be conducted once in a year;
- Proper records of monitoring may also be verified during the Supervisory checks;
- Supervisory check shall ensure the quality of monitoring carried out by
- The Hygiene Inspectors

5 Sampling Procedures

- Hygiene Inspectors during the monitoring shall draw the following samples at least once in six months to check the sanitary and hygiene conditions from each Fishing Vessels;
- The samples shall be drawn on rotational basis to cover all the Fishing Vessels.
- The samples thus drawn may get analysed either in EIA labs or EIC approved labs;
- The cost of analysis shall be born by the operator of fishing vessels;
- Swab samples shall be drawn from any surfaces from where the fishery products may get in contact..

6 Details of samples

- a) Ice- available in the ice hold /storage to be used for the chilling of fishery product)
- b) Swab- Fish contact surface in the fishing vessels

c) Product sample- available in the fishing vessel

7 Reporting systems –

- Hygiene Inspectors shall prepare the monitoring report (Annexure –I) and Non-Conformity Report, if any, (Annexure –II) to the Chief Executive of Landing Centre with a copy to concerned EIA and to the Chief Executive of Fishing Vessels;
- In case of failure of samples drawn during monitoring the same shall be intimated to the Chief Executive of Fishing Vessels with a copy to the concerned EIA.