

§ 635.44

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that the document meets the information requirements of the ICCAT recommendation. In such case, NMFS will provide a list of countries for which BSDs are approved, with examples of approved documents, to the appropriate official of the U.S. Customs Service. Effective upon the date indicated in such notice to the U.S. Customs Service, shipments of bluefin tuna or bluefin tuna products offered for importation from said country(ies) may be accompanied by either that country's approved BSD or by the BSD provided to the foreign country exporter by NMFS.

[64 FR 29135, May 28, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 42805, Aug. 15, 2001]

§ 635.44 Validation requirements.

(a) *Imports.* The approved BSD accompanying any import of bluefin tuna, regardless of whether the issuing country is a member of ICCAT, must be validated by a government official from the issuing country, unless NMFS waives this requirement for that country following a recommendation to do so by the ICCAT Secretariat. NMFS will furnish a list of countries for which government validation requirements are waived to the appropriate official of the U.S. Customs Service. Such list will indicate the circumstances of exemption for each issuing country and the non-government institutions, if any, accredited to validate BSDs for that country.

(b) *Exports.* The approved BSD accompanying any export of bluefin tuna from the United States must be validated by a U.S. Government official, except pursuant to a waiver, if any, specified on the form and accompanying instructions, or in a letter to the permitted dealer from NMFS. Any waiver of government validation will be consistent with ICCAT recommendations concerning validation of BSDs. If authorized, such waiver of government validation may include:

(1) Exemptions from government validation for fish with individual BSD tags affixed pursuant to § 300.26 of this title or § 635.5(b)(2)(ii); or

(2) Validation by non-government officials authorized to do so by NMFS under paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Authorization for non-government validation.* An institution or association seeking authorization to validate BSDs accompanying exports from the United States must apply in writing to the Director for such authorization. The application must indicate the procedures to be used for verification of information to be validated, list the names, addresses, and telephone/fax numbers of individuals to perform validation, and provide an example of the stamp or seal to be applied to the BSD. NMFS, upon finding the institution or association capable of verifying the information required on the BSD, will issue, within 30 days, a letter specifying the duration of effectiveness and conditions of authority to validate BSDs accompanying exports from the United States. The effectiveness of such authorization will be delayed as necessary for NMFS to notify the ICCAT Secretariat of non-government institutions and associations authorized to validate BSDs.

[64 FR 29135, May 28, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 42805, Aug. 15, 2001]

§ 635.45 Products denied entry.

(a) All shipments of bluefin tuna or bluefin tuna products, or swordfish or swordfish products, in any form, harvested by a vessel under the jurisdiction of Belize or Honduras will be denied entry into the United States.

(b) All shipments of bluefin tuna or bluefin tuna products, in any form, harvested by a vessel under the jurisdiction of Equatorial Guinea will be denied entry into the United States.

[65 FR 77527, Dec. 12, 2000, as amended at 66 FR 42805, Aug. 15, 2001]

§ 635.46 Import requirements for swordfish.

(a) *General.* To facilitate enforcement of domestic regulations, a swordfish, or part thereof, less than the minimum size specified at § 635.20(e) may not be imported, or attempted to be imported, into the United States unless it is accompanied by the swordfish certificate of eligibility as specified in paragraph (b) of this section attesting either that the swordfish was harvested from an ocean area other than the Atlantic Ocean or that the fish part was derived