



CD/K/533:2010
ICS 65.150

EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Transport of fresh water aquarium fish — Code of practice



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in East Africa. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers which are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

In order to meet the above objectives, the EAC Partner States have enacted an East African Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Test Act, 2006 (EAC SQMT Act, 2006) to make provisions for ensuring standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing of products produced or originating in a third country and traded in the Community in order to facilitate industrial development and trade as well as helping to protect the health and safety of society and the environment in the Community.

East African Standards are formulated in accordance with the procedures established by the East African Standards Committee. The East African Standards Committee is established under the provisions of Article 4 of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006. The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the private sectors and consumer organizations. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the procedures of the Community.

Article 15(1) of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006 provides that "Within six months of the declaration of an East African Standard, the Partner States shall adopt, without deviation from the approved text of the standard, the East African Standard as a national standard and withdraw any existing national standard with similar scope and purpose".

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

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Introduction

The live fish transport has often been practiced in open containers, with renewal of water at intervals. Recent advancements in thermal insulating materials and techniques of packing in polyethylene bags sealed with oxygen have almost replaced the traditional system. The aquarium fish stand well in this type of transport. The fish are properly conditioned to avoid heavy mortality during transport. The conditioning involves isolation of healthy specimen species-wise and keeping them in a tank either made of cement concrete or cloth planted in lenitic or lotic waters for a period (not beyond 6 hrs), which is regulated depending on the length of the distance and duration of transport.

In the preparation of this East African Standard, the following sources were consulted extensively:

IS 10450:1983(R2000), Code for transport of fresh water aquarium fish

IS 4303-1:1975, *Code of hygienic conditions for fish industry — Part 1: Pre-processing stage*

IS 4303-2:1975, *Code of hygienic conditions for fish industry — Part 2: Canning stage*

Codex Alimentarius website: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/mrls/vetdrugs/jsp/vetd_q-e.jsp

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service website: <http://www.mrldatabase.com>

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/Standards>

European Union: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/pharmaceuticals/veterinary-use/maximum-residue-limits/index_en.htm

Assistance derived from these sources is hereby acknowledged.

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Transport of fresh water aquarium fish — Code of practice

1 Scope

The scope of this code is restricted to the conditions for transport of live aquarium fish (tropical and ornamental fresh water species) for exhibition and/or breeding purposes.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

CAC/GL 21, *Principles for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria for foods*

CAC/RCP 1, *Recommended international code of practice — General principles of food hygiene*

CAC/GL 30, *Principles and guidelines for the conduct of microbiological risk assessment*

CAC/GL 31, *Guidelines for the sensory evaluation of fish and shellfish in laboratories*

CAC/GL 48, *Model certificate for fish and fishery products*

CAC/RCP 52:2003(Rev. 4:2008), *Code of practice for fish and fishery products*

CAC/GL 53, *Guidelines on the judgement of equivalence of sanitary measures associated with food inspection and certification systems*

EAS 38, *Labelling of prepackaged foods — Specification*

3 General requirements

3.1 The fresh water fish selected shall be disease-resistant and healthy before conditioning and packing for transport.

3.2 The fish shall be protected from extreme climatic conditions and any kind of stress.

3.3 As far as possible the fish to be packed and transported shall be of the same species/variety/strain and size. The number of fish to be packed in each container shall depend on species/variety/strain and size.

3.4 All aquarium fish shall be transported by air and direct flights for long distances and by the fastest train for short distances.

3.5 The polyethylene bags holding live aquarium fish shall be filled 50 percent of its capacity with oxygen under a pressure of 0.5 kg per cm² and mouth of the bag shall be tied tightly so as to prevent escape of oxygen during transport.

3.6 During transport, as far as possible, jolts, splashes and any other kind of shocks shall be avoided.

4 Packing requirements

4.1 Only tested, leak-proof and thick (not less than 75 micron) polyethylene bags of the following dimensions shall be used for packing of aquarium fish:

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- a) 62 X 40 cm,
- b) 60 X 30 cm, and
- c) 55 X 20 cm.

4.2 The polyethylene bags of the dimensions given above, used to hold live fish, shall be packed in 16.5 litres rectangular oil cans provided with lids or reinforced cardboard cartons of sturdy texture.

4.3 The reinforced cardboard carton shall be insulated with thermocole lining from inside.

4.4 The polyethylene bag shall be filled with fresh, pure and filtered water to 40 to 50 percent of its capacity.

4.5 Certain fishes like trigger fish, catfish, prawns, lobsters, etc, shall first be packed individually in a separate bag having sufficient holes and then put in the outer polyethylene bag containing fresh, pure and filtered water.

4.6 Loading and unloading shall be undertaken quickly and be done immediately after the arrival of the consignment. When cardboard cartons are used they shall be handled carefully and gently during storage operations in aircraft, train, etc.

5 Labelling

5.1 Each packing box, whether rectangular can or cardboard carton, shall bear a label giving following information legibly and indelibly:

- a) Name of the fish species;
- b) Strain of fish;
- c) Name, address and telephone number of the consignor; and
- d) Name, address and telephone number of the consignee.

5.2 Each container shall be also marked with cautionary notice reading as under:

'TOP PRIORITY, LIVE FISH, HANDLE WITH CARE'

5.3 Further the cardboard carton or can shall bear on the face a red arrow showing the upper side.

Standard



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Fish Transport Bags

Draft Standard



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Aquarium Fish: *Pomacanthus navarchus* — The Majestic Angelfish

Draft for comment



Aquarium Fish: *Pomacanthus navarchus* — The Majestic Angelfish

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