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INTRODUCTION

This booklet was prepared for the readers to easily understand about Vietnamese Pangasius and Pangasius industry.

Vietnamese Pangasius are highly appreciated by local and international consumers, not only for its high nutritious value, white muscle, without horizontal bones, without smell of sediment and seaweed, a little of taste, lipid content, but also for its safety to all consumers in all age groups.

Vietnamese Pangasius is a species of traditional farming by farmers in the Mekong River Delta. To meet high demand of global and domestic consumers, after 10 year development since 1996, fish farming area has been expanded nearly 6,000 hectares in 10 Mekong Delta provinces.

Most of fish farming area are strictly managed in accordance with national regulations on food safety and environmental protection. Until June 2012, over a half of fish farming area nationwide is audited and certified by internationally sustainable standards such as GlobalGAP, AquaGAP, BAP/GAA and ASC (recently certified). The process of auditing and certifying for Vietnamese pangasius is being carried out strictly according to requirements of consumers which proved that Vietnamese pangasius is not only loved by tasty smell with high nutritious value but it also satisfies strict requirements of the market.

Vietnam has nearly 70 pangasius exporting and processing companies in which their processing facilities are equipped modern equipments and controlled in accordance with HACCP. Pangasius
products are being exported to 145 countries and territories worldwide such as EU, the U.S., ASEAN, Canada, the Middle East, China, Japan, etc. Fish export volume and value to markets reported steady annual growth of 10 - 18 percent, worth by US$1.8 - 2 billion per year in two recent years.

The booklet compiled under the Q & A form provides basic knowledge of pangasius, techniques of farming and processing, quality management, information of importers and the government’s regulations on breeding, processing and exporting specific fish products.

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In which provinces of Vietnam have Pangasius been raising?

Map of Pangasius aquaculture regions in Vietnam
Pangasius have been raising and developing mostly in 10 Mekong Delta River provinces of Vietnam, including: An Giang, Dong Thap, Tien Giang, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Ben Tre, Hau Giang, Soc Trang, Tra Vinh, Kien Giang, and two provinces (Tay Ninh and Quang Nam) with total farming area of 5,509 hectares (in 2011) and up to 7,600 – 7,800 hectares in 2020. Provinces of Can Tho, An Giang and Dong Thap are the leading culture regions of Pangasius in the Mekong Delta, account for over 75% of the total national Pangasius production.

These provinces are mostly located in the lower part of Mekong River, which is divided into two main streams (Tien River - Mekong River and Hau River - Bassac River), connected to a huge number of rivers and canals, where are living a various of aquatic plants and animals, producing abundant feeds source.

**2 What are species of Pangasius in Vietnam?**

Following are fish belong to Pangasiidae family (Tra family) with Vietnamese name:

- *Helicophagus waandersii* - Ca Tra chuot
- *Pangasius gigas* - Ca Tra dau
- *Pangasius kunyit* - Ca Tra ban
- *Pangasius hypophthalmus* - Ca Tra nuoi
- *Pangasius micronema* - Ca Tra
- *Pangasius larnauidii* - Ca Vo dem
- *Pangasius sanitwongsei* - Ca Vo co
- *Pangasius bocourti* - Ca Basa
- *Pangasius macronema* - Ca Xac soc
- *Pangasius pleurotaenia* - Ca Xac bau
- *Pangasius conchophilus* - Ca Hu
- *Pangasius polyuranodon* - Ca Dua
- *Pangasius krempfi* - Ca Bong lau

12 species among 13 as mentioned above belong to Pangasius family and one to Helicophasus family. However, two species of *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*; *Pangasius hypophthalmus* (Tra) and *Pangasius bocourti* (Basa) have been culturing and developing in Vietnam.

### 3. When does the Pangasius rearing exist in Vietnam?

Pangasius rearing has traditionally been carried out in the Southern of Vietnam since the 1950s. Tra fish can be reared in pond or cage and Basa fish mainly in cage.

Cage rearing was originated from Tonlesap of Cambodia and has initially been applied in Chau Doc, Tan Chau (An Giang province) and Hong Ngu (Dong Thap province) since 1950s by repatriate Vietnamese. With the advancement and completion of experience and techniques, cage rearing became complete and stable. The greatest number of cages in 2004 was 2,333 units. Up to April, 2009, the number of cages was just over 100 units.

Rearing Tra fish in pond has been started in Mekong River Delta since 1970s and until now most of Pangasius to process for export is used this way of aquaculture.

Where is the source of the breeding stock:

The source of Tra and Basa breeding stock initially depended on natural capture. Annually, at the beginning of lunar May, when rainwater from the upstream of the Mekong River drained out, fishermen in
Tan Chau (An Giang) and Hong Ngu (Dong Thap) used a funnel shaped net, called “day” to catch fry. The later were transported to ponds and reared into fingerlings with a length of 7 - 10cm which were then sold to farmers in the whole Southern regions to be raised in pond or cage. Hatcheries were mostly located in Tan Chau, Chau Doc, Hong Ngu and islands of Tien river, such as Long Khanh, Phu Thuan. During the 1960s and 1970s, number of annually caught fry varied from 500 to 800 millions individuals, and of fingerlings from 70 to 120 millions.

Researches on artificial propagation of Pangasius in Vietnam were respectively undertaken in 1978 and 1990. The first successful artificial propagation had been done in May 1995 in laboratory of Can Tho University, under the framework of joint research between the “Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement” (CIRAD) - France, University of Can Tho and Fisheries Import and Export Joint Stock Company (AGIFISH Co.). Until 1999, as Vietnam became active and socialized the artificial propagation of Tra and Basa breeding stock, the wild fry catching had been stopped. Since then, Pangasius culture in Vietnam becomes stable and has been dramatically increased.

4 What are scientific and commercial names of Vietnamese Pangasius?

The two following species are mainly reared in Vietnam:

- *Pangasius hypophthalmus*; *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*
Other scientific names: *Pangasius sutchi,* *Helicophagus hypophthalmus,* *Pangasius macronemus.*

Common names: Tra, Swai, Sutchi catfish, Striped catfish, Silver striped catfish

Vietnamese name: Tra

- *Pangasius bocourti*

  Other scientific names: *Pangasius pangasius*

  Common names: Basa, basa fish, bocourti, Bocourti fish, Bocourti catfish.

  Vietnamese name: Basa.

---

5 What are biology characteristics of Tra and Basa fish?

*Pangasius hypophthalmus/Pangasianodon hypophthalmus* - Tra

Tra is a fish with long body, grey black back, little white belly, big mouth and two pairs of barbells. The raising period varies from 6 to 8 months to reach the weight of 0,8 - 1,3 kg/fish. Tra fish mainly live in fresh water but also in blackish water (with salinity percent of 7 - 10%).
can bear in alum water (with pH level > 5), in hot temperature up to 39°C but be easily died at temperature below 15°C. The volume of red corpuscles in Tra fish are much more than other fish. As the fish has an accessory respiratory organ and can also breathe with air bladder and skin, they can bear in the water lacking dissolved oxygen. The oxygen consumption and activity level of Tra fish is three times lower that the ones of a silver barb.

_Basa_

Basa is also a fish with long body. The standard length of the body is equivalent to 2.5 times of the height of the body. It has a short, slight round and flat head, a wide forehead and a small mouth of which the width is less than 10% of the standard length and which is lightly askew the snout. Its teeth of the lower jaw are big and wide and can be seen when the mouth is close. It has two pair of barbells, the length of the pair at upper jaw is equal to the one of the head, and the whiskers are long to or over the end of pectoral fin. It has big eyes, belly and spleen, the back side of the body is flat, the back and the head have the grey green colour, and the belly has the silver-white colour. The height of the tail-end is more than 7% of the standard length of the body. The raising period varied from 10 to 13 months to reach commercial weight of 1 - 1.5 kg/fish.
As Basa fish has no accessory respiratory organ and requires an oxygen level higher than the one of Tra fish, it can poorly bear in water with low dissolved oxygen level. Basa mainly live in freshwater, can lightly bear in brackish water and in alum water with pH level > 5.5. The supported temperature is from 18 - 40°C and the minimum oxygen level is about 1.1 mg/litre. In general, Basa fish can not support in severe environmental conditions as much as Tra fish. Therefore, they are mainly raised in floating cage.

What are nutritional values of Pangasius?

### Pangasius hypophthalmus

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<th>Serving size:</th>
<th>60 oz (170g) per piece</th>
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### Pangasius bocourti

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<td>Protein:</td>
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How many countries/territories do they accept and consume Pangasius originated from Vietnam?

Vietnamese Pangasius are highly appreciated by local and international consumers, not only for its white muscle, high nutritious value, a little of tasted lipid content, without horizontal bones but also for its safety, without smells of sediment and seaweed.

**Importers of Vietnamese Pangasius from 2001 to October 2014**

Vietnamese Pangasius products have been exported and consumed in 5 continents with over 150 countries and territories:

- EU (26/27 member countries: Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, France, United Kingdom,...).
- Eastern Europe (Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Poland,...).
- North America (USA, Canada, Mexico).
South America (Venezuela, Panama, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina...).
- ASEAN countries (Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, ...).
- China mainland and Hong Kong (China).
- Asia (Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan, India, Thailand, Singapore...).
- Australia.
- Middle East - North Africa (Egypt, UAE, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel, ...).

How do the foreign consumers appreciate Vietnamese Pangasius products?

“It tastes better than catfish and America consumers have validated that. It’s Basa. Call it that and take pride in what a good product it is” - John Stamell, Director of Stamell & Associates, US.

“... As might be expected in an area where fried catfish is almost a staple, they preferred fried to baked, whatever the species, But fired Basa got better scores overall, as well as for texture and flavour, when compared to fried local catfish. And baked Basa fillets got better taste scores the baked channel cats, too...” - according to study conducted by Dough L. Marshall, Professor of food science and technology at Mississippi State University and graduate student Amit Pal.

“It is even better than the salmon salar as its taste is so neutral, and it fits in every culinary landscape and is welcome in every ethnic kitchen” - Herby Neubacher, Director of Vietnam Food Promotion Company.
How are Pangasius breeding stock produced and selected?

Farming pond and location selection:

Pond has area of 1,000 square meters-2,000 square meters, water's depth level from 1.5-2 meters.

Hatching pond should be located near canals, irrigation ditches where it is easy for water supply and sewerage and care control. Do not plant big trees around the pond which will cover the sunlight and the leaves falling pollutes the water and environment.

Pond renovation:

Drain out of water; clean layer slop; fill spelaean of crabs, frogs, rats, eels; repair border; cut the grass surrounding the pond bank to prevent crop pests in the period of stocking fries.

The amount of powdered lime to scatter the pond is 10-15kg per 100 square meters of pond. After spreading the powdered lime, the pond must be deposited for 2-3 days.

Supply water into the pond and add nutrition into the water:

After water supply flows into the ponds by aqueduct, awueduct has barrier with wire netting to prevent eggs, waste fish, crustacean. Water supply need to be deposited in sedimentation pond from 5-7 days before flowing into the pond.

Supply the water into pond 1 day before stocking fries

In seed hatching, need to add the water with natural feed in the early stage for fish fries.

With pond area of 1,000 square meters: Manure 2 kg fishmeal contained 40 percent protein plus 2 kg flour soy-bean to feed fish with natural food.
Before discharging fish, check up factors of water environment to ensure:
- pH: 7 - 8
- Temperature: 28-30°C
- Oxygen ≥ 3mg/litre

*Seed and density:*

Fish stocks need to be carefully selected to ensure the quality and growth rate of fish during the raising period. They are selected from credible hatcheries with high traceability of broodstock which can meet veterinary and hygiene conditions as required.

The selection of fish stocks:
- The fish looks healthy with no signs of illness, scratches, misshapen fish are eliminated. Observations in fish holding tools shown that fish move fast, near out of citellus, bright colour.
- The fish size must be equal.
- The most suitable time for stocking fries is in the early morning and the late afternoon.
- Density: 500 units/square meter.

*Feed and Diet of feed:* The following instructions are served for 1 million fries.

- The first week:
  - Feed mixture for 1 time feeding
    + flour soy bean: 300g
    + flour milk: 300g
  - Frequency of feeding: 5 times/day at 7h, 10h, 14h, 17h, 20h.
  - Way to feed: dissolve the mixture and disperse the whole surface of pond,
The second week:
- Feed 5 times per day at 7h, 10h, 14h, 17h, 20h. Feed is industrial feed flour with 40 percent of protein. Dosage: 0.5kg for 1 time feeding (5 times a day equal to 2.5 kg per 1 million fries a day).
  
  Gradually increase the 20 percent amount of feed each day (depend on fish’s feed consuming ability).
- Way to feed: dissolve the mixture with water and scatter the whole surface of pond.

The third week:
- Use industrial feed with the protein of 35-40 percent.
- Times for feeding: 4 times per day (8h, 1h, 14h, 17h).
- Gathering fish and feeding at one position to determine the suitable amount of feed.

From the fourth week and later:
- Use floating industrial feed with protein content 30-35 percent and suit with fish’s mouth.
- Fish is fed 3 times a day. Fish must be fed with feed that is full of quantity and quality.
- In the end of fourth week, to start classifying fish to distribute them in pond with density of 150-200 pecies/square meter.

Control and care:
- Prevent pests (snake, eel, waste fish, harmful fish) to penetrate into hatching pond.
- Observe the water colour in the ponds which must be between green and yellowish.
- When feeding fish, ensure 4 factors “quantity, quality, place, and time to help fish grow well and limit pollution at hatching pond.
- Periodically use some bioproducts to clean the water such as EM, Zeofish,
- After the first rains of the rain season, use dissolved lime (settle down), about 20-30kg/1000 square meter to spread the whole surface of the pond.
- Use vitamin C regularly to raise resistance for fish
- Fish seed for commercial farming must ensure traceability and meet requirements of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), must have quarantine certificate from relevant agencies. Breeding season: obey each locality’s yearly harvest crop schedule.

**What are farming techniques of Pangasius in Mekong River Delta in Vietnam?**

Since 1940-1950: farming in small farms mainly in An Giang, Dong Thap (wild-caught fingerlings).


Since 1996-1999: intensive farming in pond and cage (wild-caught and artificial fingerlings).

Since 2001-2004: Develop farming in cage and pond with change from self processed feed to industrial feed (artificial fingerlings).

Since 2005 so far: switch from cage farming, net enclosure to super-intensive farming pond (artificial fingerlings).

Now, Vietnam farmers raise fish in system of advanced farming ponds which meet safety and sustainability
requirements, satisfying consumers’ requirements such as VietGAP, GlobalGAP, BAP, ASC...

Which standards have been applying in Pangasius farms in Vietnam?

Pangasius farms are required to meet hygiene and veterinary conditions and to be in compliance with following Vietnamese regulations:

- Circular No.22/2014/TT-BNNPTNT dated July 29 2014 regulating National Technical Standards on conditions for aquaculture.

- QCVN 02-20:2014/BNNPTNT on national technical standards pangasius farms (Pangasianodon hypophthalmus Sauvage, 1878) - ensuring veterinary hygiene, environmental protection, food safety.


- Decree No. 36/2014/ND-CP dated April 29, 2014, on raising, processing, and exporting pangasius.

- Decision No. 130/2008/QD-BNN dated December 31, 2008 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgating the Regulation on control of harmful substances residues in aquaculture fish and products thereof.

- Circular 44/2010 / TT-BNN dated July 22, 2010 on conditions on food safety and hygiene-guaranteed intensive pangasius rearing area.

- The Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated January 21st 2011 regulating traceability and
revoking aquatic products which fail to ensure food safety and hygiene.

Apart from the respect of master plan of farming zones, environment and food safety aspects as required by Vietnamese regulations, rearing zones and establishments have also applying international standards as required by client to ensure sustainable development with 4 criteria: food safety, environment responsibility, social responsibility and traceability. International standards include:

- VietGAP;
- GLOBALG.A.P (Global Good Agricultural Practice);
- BAP (Best Aquaculture Practice);
- ASC;
- SQF 1000\textsuperscript{CM} (Safe & Quality Food).

**12 How does the Vietnamese Government control the water source quality for Pangasius farming and what are the results?**

The Vietnamese Government and people living in the Mekong Delta pay much attention to the food safety issues and sustainable development of Pangasius farming industry. The quality of farming water becomes the first interest factor. The setting up of regulations and standards, of competent authorities in charge and the operation of Research Aquaculture Institutes and Monitoring Centers for Aquaculture environment and Epidemic are three main topics to be particularly focused.

1. **Regulations and standards:** Based on scientific results of Codex, importing countries and
researches on Vietnamese conditions, the Vietnamese Government has promulgated several effective regulations and standards on planning aquaculture zones and environment, quality of water source and food hygiene conditions, etc….

- National Standards QCVN 01-80:2011/BNNPTNT on establishment of aquaculture for human consumption -. Condition for veterinary hygiene.
- The decision No. 130/2008/QĐ-BNN dated December 31st 2008 of MARD promulgating regulations of contaminant residue control in animal and aquatic products.
- The circular No.44/2010/TT-BNN dated July 22th 2010 of MARD providing for conditions on food safety and hygiene-guaranteed intensive pangasius-rearing establishments and zones.

2. *Competent authorities*: in charge of state management and enforcement of regulations on planning, safe and hygiene conditions and quality of farming water source. Vietnam has a system of competent agencies from central to local in charge of implementing state management in aquaculture.
Competent authorities under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) include:

a/ Central level:
- The National Agro-Forestry-Fisheries Quality Assurance Department (NAFIQAD) with 6 Branches nationwide.
- Department of Animal Health.
- Department of Aquaculture (under Department of Fisheries)

b/ Local level:
- Provincial Sub-Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development.

3. Research Institutes and Monitoring Centers for Aquaculture Environment and Epidemic:

Monitoring Centers for Aquaculture environment and Epidemic under Research Institutes for Aquaculture have implementing the “Surveillance and Monitoring Program for aquaculture environment in Mekong River valley” in the riverhead, middle and lower parts of the Mekong River. Monitoring results showed that parameters on the quality of farming water source (pH, turbidity, salinity, DO, BOD, NH₃,...) were at tolerance levels and met standards for freshwater fish farming.

In 2009, scientists of Aquaculture and Fisheries Group-Wageningen University (Netherlands, researching agencies under MARD (Aquaculture Department, Research Institute for Aquaculture No. 2-RIA2), Van Lang University, Can Tho University, Vinh Long Department of Agriculture and Rural Development implemented the research

The result of the research indicated that about 2% of the Mekong river water passed through the pangasius ponds. The effect on water quality was limited because sedimentation, mineralisation, and infiltration occur in ponds. The contribution of the production ponds to water pollution depends on the way farmers manage their sludge. In the worst case, the sector contributes 2.4% to the N and 3.7% to the P content of the river; while on-land sediment recovery and recycling may reduce these to less than 0.05%. You can click the link for more information (http://edepot.wur.nl/8332).

The National Monitoring Program for certain harmful substances residues in aquaculture fish has been implementing since 2000 by NAFIQAD but contaminants residues (heavy metals, pesticides...) have not been detected or been detected below MRLs in pangasius farming water and flesh.

Results of the above mentioned Programs show that the water source of the Mekong River has not biologically and physically been polluted and is suitable for aquaculture, in compliance with regulations on food hygiene and safety.

The effective control of safety and hygiene conditions in aquaculture and processing of fishery products in general, Pangasius in particular for export to the EU has been recognized by the European Competent Authorities (Food and Veterinary Office - FVO, Directorate General for Health and Consumers) during its recent regular inspections.
Have Pangasius farms been inspected and certified?

Yes, they have!

To avoid and control the use of chemicals and antibiotics in aquaculture and pangasius farming in particular, the NAFIGQAD has implementing since 1999 the National Monitoring Program for certain harmful substances residues in aquaculture fish and carrying out inspections on veterinary and hygiene conditions, in line with Vietnamese regulations. The program is monthly carried out. The program result has not detected or detected below MRLs for contaminants residues (heavy metals, pesticides...). The Program has regularly been inspected by competent authorities of the EU, USA, Canada... that gave also good evaluation on organizational structure, legislation system and practical control.

Up to now, nearly 3,000 hectares (around 50 percent) of pangasius farming area have been receiving different sustainable certificates: GlobalGAP, AquaGAP, BAP, SQF-1000, ASC...

What kinds of feeds are used in Pangasius farming? What are relevant regulations on feed control?

Currently, most feeds are commercially produced in palleted form, manufactured in factories with good quality control. Some farms produce homemade feeds. Raw materials are selected and processed to ensure protein content of 15-25%. Some methods of mixing feed are shown as below:
### Feeds and additional ingredients:

- Feeds and additional ingredients must belong to the list of aquatic feed legally circulated in Vietnam.


---

#### How can the chemicals and antibiotics be used in aquaculture?

The use of chemicals and antibiotics, bioproducts, treated and renovated substances in aquaculture must belong to the list legally circulated in Vietnam.
Circular No. 15/2009/TT-BNN dated March 17, 2009, to promulgate the List of medicines, chemicals and antibiotics banned or limited from usage.

Circular No. 29/2009/TT-BNNPTNT dated June 4, 2009 on supplementing and adjusting the Circular No.15/2009/TT-BNN dated March 17, 2009, signed by the Minister of MARD on the List of medicines, chemicals and antibiotics banned or limited from usage.

Circular No. 20/2010/TT-BNNPTNT dated April 2, 2010 on supplementing and adjusting the Circular No.15/2009/TT-BNN dated March 17, 2009, signed by the Minister of MARD on the List of medicines, chemicals and antibiotics banned or limited from usage.

Circular No. 03/2012/TT-BNNPTNT dated January 16, 2012 on amending and supplementing the Circular No. 15/2009/TT-BNN of March 17, 2009, promulgating List of medicines, chemicals and antibiotics banned or limited from usage.
1. **List of chemicals and antibiotics banned for use in fishery production and trading**

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Chemicals, antibiotics</th>
<th>Applied for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td><em>Aristolochia</em> spp and its by-products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chloramphenicol</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chloroform</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nitrofuran (including Furazolidone)</td>
<td>Animal feed, veterinary medicines, chemicals, environmental treatment substances, disinfectants, preservation substances, hand cream used in seed production, aquatic animal and amphibians culture, fishery services, preservation and processing activities</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ronidazole</td>
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<td>Other Nitroimidazole</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Clenbuterol</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dithyylstibestrol (DES)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Glycopeptides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Trichlorfon (Dipterex)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Gentian Violet (Crystal violet)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Fluoroquinolones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Trifluralin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Cypermethrin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Deltamethrin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Enrofloxacin</td>
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2. List of chemicals and antibiotics banned for veterinary use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Chemicals, Antibiotics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chloramphenicol (Other name: Chloromycetin; Chlornitromycin; Laevomycin, Chlorocid, Leukomycin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Furazolidon and Nitrofurans metabolites (Nitrofuran, Furacillin, Nitrofurazon, Furacin, Nitrofurantoin, Furoxon, Orafuran, Furadonin, Furadantin, Furaltadon, Payzone, Furazolin, Nitrofurmethon, Nitrofuridin, Nitrovin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dimetridazole (Other name: Emtryl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Metronidazole (Other name: Trichomonacid, Flagyl, Klion, Avimetrodin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dipterex (Other name: Metriphonat, Trichlorphon, Neguvon, Chlorophos, DTHP); DDVP (Other names: Dichlorvons, Dichlorovos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Eprofloxacin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ciprofloxacin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ofloxacin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Carbadox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Olaquidox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bacitracin Zn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tylosin phosphate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Green Malachite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gentian Violet (Crystal violet)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### 3. List of chemicals and antibiotics restricted for use in fishery production and trading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Chemicals, antibiotics</th>
<th>MRLs (ppb)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amoxicillin</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ampicillin</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Benzylpenicillin</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cloxacillin</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dicloxacillin</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oxacillin</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oxolinic Acid</td>
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</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Colistin</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Diflubenzuron</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Teflubenzuron</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Emamectin</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Erythromycine</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tilmicosin</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tylosin</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Florfenicol</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lincomycine</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Neomycine</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Paromomycin</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Spectinomycin</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chlortetracycline</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Oxytetracycline</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Tetracycline</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sulfonamide (all types)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Trimethoprim</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Ormetoprim</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Tricainemethanesulfonate</td>
<td>15-330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Danofloxacin</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Difloxacin</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Ciprofloxacin</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sarafloxacin</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Flumequine</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. List of chemicals and antibiotics restricted for veterinary use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Chemicals, Antibiotics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improvac (Registration number: PFU-85, manufactured by Pfizer Australia Pty Limited)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Spiramycin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Avoparcin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Virginiamycin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Meticlorpidol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Meticlorpidol/Methylbenzoquate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Amprolium (powder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Amprolium/ethopate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nicarbazin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Flavophospholipol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Salinomycin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Avilamycin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Monensin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which models of Pangasius organic farming have been applied in Vietnam?

In the future, demand for sustainable seafood products will be on an upward trend. Achieving certificates of international standards will help enterprises raise its competitiveness and create a firm position in the international markets.

Several Pangasius farms have been set up and implemented organic farming models, in compliance with international standards:

1. Model of Green Farm (applying AquaGAP standard) have been undertaking in Dong Thap province, by
Vinh Hoan Joint-Stock Company. Principles to be respected: compliance with Government master-plan, environment protection and friendliness, social responsibilities, farmed fish health, food safety and traceability.

2. Model of Organic farming in An Giang province, jointly invested by BINCA Seafood (head office located in Germany) has been inspected and certified by NaturLand. Organic farmed Tra fish are exported to Germany and certain European countries during the recent years.

3. Tra farming model by applying GlobalGAP (with principles: social and environment responsibilities, food hygiene and safety, friendly and sustainable traceability) has been highly appreciated by European wholesalers and consumers.

4. Fresh fish raising models such as PurePanga, TracePanga are highly appreciated by authorities and customers.

5. Many businesses have been applying and achieved BAP (Best Aquaculture Practice). BAP, set of standards developed by Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA), is the leading standard for supply chain. This has been taken into consideration by many retailers and distributors across the US.

6. Many businesses have been applying and achieved standards of Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC). ASC certified pangasius products are suggested by retailers and consumers to promote food safety and responsibility to society and environment.

7. VietGAP standards, harmonizing international standards on sustainability including ASC, GlobalGAP, BAP, are applied to Vietnamese pangasius industry from 2014.
17 Which models are applied to link together fishery processing establishments for export in Vietnam?

Vertical Linkage in pangasius production chain becomes the optimal approach which is based on the value chain to maximize the quality control of pangasius from farm to table, minimize risks and improve responsibilities of all stakeholders. The model has been set up and applied by the majority of pangasius processing establishments in Vietnam to ensure the highest quality of exported fishery products as committed to clients.

18 How can we do to ensure that harvested fish for processing are totally free of antibiotics residues?

Strict procedures have been respected during the aquaculture and sampling for banned antibiotics residues tests:

1. The use of chemicals and antibiotics in aquaculture is required to be recorded and in compliance with current regulations and standards.
2. The competent authority in charge of food safety carries out regular control and inspections, including the use of chemicals and antibiotics in aquaculture.

3. The third party undertakes regular control and inspections to ensure the compliance with current regulations.

4. Before harvesting, processing establishment will come to the farm and sample at each pond for antibiotics tests. Only in case of negative testing result, fish can be harvested and supply to processing plants.

**19** Is it required that pangasius supplied to processing plants are alive? What are harvesting and transportation procedures?

Yes, it is! This is a technology requirement to ensure the freshness of pangasius fillet afterward.

Despite ponds or floating cages can be located a dozen kilometres far away from processing plant, with satisfactory testing results for antibiotics residues, fish will be harvested and transported by boat (the boat with many holes for water exchange to keep the fish still be alive during the transport to processing plant).

**20** How many Pangasius processing establishments are there in Vietnam? Are the processing equipments and technologies of these establishments advanced?

There are nearly 100 pangasius factories in Vietnam. Mostly locate in Mekong Delta.
The majority of these establishments are equipped with advanced equipments and technologies which allow to automating several stages of production line and producing added value products. Advanced equipments include:

- Continuous contact belt for filleting.
- IQF system imported from the EU and Japan.
- Metals detectors and vacuum machine.
- Packaging and labelling equipments.
- Advanced equipments for microbiological and antibiotics residues tests.
- Treatment system for processing water and waste water.

Have Vietnamese processing establishments been applying quality management programs and food safety guarantee?

Yes, they have and very well! Vietnam is classified in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} rank in the world, in term of the number of EU
approved fishery processing establishments. 461 factories, accounting for 75.5% Vietnamese factories certified by EU on 13th October 2014, taken into power from 26th October 2014.

During the last ten years, the Vietnamese Government has promulgated regulations and standards in compliance with the EU and US Food and Drug Administration and also required establishments to set up and implement HACCP based quality management programs.

The majority of establishments meet not only Vietnamese regulations and standards but also international ones and is certified by foreign accreditation bodies and clients with BRC, IFS, ISO 9001, ISO 14001, SQF2000, BAP, Halal, etc...

**Does the Vietnamese Government regulate and carry out inspections on hygiene conditions of pangasius processing plants?**

Yes, it does! NAFIQAD, the competent authority in charge, has been recognized by the EU, Canada, Korea,...) equivalent in term of competencies to effectively control the quality and safety of fishery products intended for export.

The Vietnamese Government has promulgated regulations on the control of hygiene conditions at fishery processing establishments (including pangasius), specifically:

1. Decree No. 36/2014/ND-CP dated April 29, 2014, on raising, processing, and exporting pangasius.
2. Circular No 48/2013/TT-BNNPTNT stipulating the inspection and certification of food safety for export fishery product.


5. QCVN 02-02: 2009/BNNPTNT: National technical standard on seafood trading and producing plants - Food safety and quality guarantee program under HACCP regulation.


23 The use of food additives in pangasius processing, is it in compliance with requirements of importing countries and controlled by Vietnamese competent authority?

Yes! On April 29, 2014, the government issued Decree No. 36/2014/ND-CP dated, on raising, processing, and exporting pangasius.

For food additives:

The Decision regulates that food additives used in processing should be in the list of food additives
authorized for use by competent authority of importing country (for export products) and of Vietnam (for domestic consumption products). The quantity of food additives used in the product is not allowed to exceed the MRLs authorized for each type of product.

For the labelling:

The labelling of frozen fish products should be in compliance with Vietnamese regulations (for domestic consumption products) and importing country's requirements (for export products) which are to ensure the accuracy of the product nature and do not be opposite to Vietnamese regulations. Apart from labelling information as required by Vietnam and importing countries, net weight and gross weight (including fish, glazing water and package) or quantity of glazing water in the fish have to be clearly stated on the label.

Non-compliance consignments shall not be granted with a certificate for export or placing into domestic market and be treated in compliance with current Vietnamese regulations. Competent authorities of importing countries and client shall be informed of intentional violation cases.

What Vietnam has done to switch Pangasius from “red list” to “toward certification” in WWF’s seafood guide for fish lovers in EU countries?

WWF’s members in 6 EU countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Norway and Denmark put Vietnam pangasius in to the Red List” (product shouldn’t be used) from the Orange List (product that can be considered for use) in WWF’s Seafood Guide for
fish lovers 2010. The information was withdrawn from survey on assessing over 100 fish species in the world under WWF’s renewed criteria for sustainable development.

Vietnam rejected WWF International’s assessment on Vietnam pangasius at some respects. If the assessment was carried out in right way with consultation of relevant multi-sides and experts in fish production, pangasius should be placed at blue or near blue list.

WWF based on data collected from 89 farms with area of 360 hectares and 28 farming establishments and 4 hatcheries from an other document to release evaluations on pangasius.

The organizations didn’t use to visit Vietnam and provided evaluations only based on available documents. Research method set out by WWF International, the North Sea Foundation (NSF), the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) was relied on 19 questions. These questions depend on answers from many different people, leading different conclusions.

**December 15th 2010:**

Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish), Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), Viet Nam Fisheries Society (VINAFIS) and some other Ministries had a dialogue with WWF International delegation led by Mr. Mark Powell, WWF's Global Seafood Programme director. At the direct dialogue, WWF agreed to remove Vietnam Pangasius from the Red List in Seafood Guide and recommended consumers to continue using this product.

Mr. Mark Powell was highly appreciated Vietnam pangasius quality that is on sale in the EU markets and
a lot of other foreign markets. He himself loves this product. He emphasized that Seafood Guide for Consumers was just a guide to advice consumers on purchasing environmentally friendly and sustainable products and should not be seen as a trade barrier that the U.S imposed on Vietnam fish.

Mr. Mark Powell admitted his mistake in assessing the facts on Vietnam Pangasius only based on available data of 2008-2009 without considering reality.

December 17th 2010:

Being witnessed by D-Fish; WWF International and WWF Vietnam, VINAFIS and VASEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sustainable development cooperation of pangasius production sector. Accordingly, VINAFIS and VASEP were in charge of popularizing information and training fish farmers and producers towards sustainable development. WWF International and WWF Vietnam must realize its 5 commitments, including the withdrawal of pangasius from WWF’s Red List, financial and human resource assistance to help Vietnam fish industry develop in a sustainable way.

After the MoU, WWF’s members in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Norway and Denmark withdrew Vietnam fish out of the Red List. WWF Sweden is the last one to implement this commitment.

Vietnam Pangasius is now placed in a new “towards certification” category of WWF’s Seafood Guide for consumers in EU countries.
Main types of products originated from Pangasius?

Live Tra and Basa fish are processed to different types of products, including frozen and added value ones. Following are types of Tra and Basa fish products for export:

- Whole fish
- Slices
- Fillet
- Breaded fish
- Basa cooked in clay pot
- Steaks

What are the developments of Vietnamese pangasius anti-dumping case in the US?

◊ General information of the case

- **Starting date:** 28th June 2002
- **Product:** pangasius HS-code 1604.19.4000, 1604.19.5000, 0305.59.4000, 0304.29.6033
- On 12th August 2003, DOC announced antidumping tariff for Vietnamese pangasius at 36.84-63.88%.
- There have been 10 periods of reviews (POR), the first Sunset Review in 2009 and the second Sunset Review in 2014.
- International Trade Commission (ITC) voted that the revoke of tariffs would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to the domestic catfish industry. The antidumping tariff is then continued to be applied.
US regulations on Sunset Review

Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) of the US ruling that Department of Commerce (DOC) must lift an anti-dumping duty or countervailing duty after five years, unless DOC and ITC concluded that lifting of tariffs could lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and injure the US domestic industry.

ITC will announce the reviews, requesting related parties to show possible damages when the antidumping tariff is lifted and other information. Normally within 95 days from the announcement, ITC will decide whether a full review is needed or not, basing on replies of related parties. A full review consists of a public hearing and questionnaire. Public hearing or additional investigation is not carried out in expedited reviews. ITC concludes on expedited review basing on the available data, including the previous conclusions on damages and reviews of ITC, replies from related parties, related data collected by ITC and information from DOC.

Final POR results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POR</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Mandatory respondents</th>
<th>Tarriff for mandatory respondents</th>
<th>Tariff for other Vietnamese companies</th>
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</thead>
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<td>POR 1</td>
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<td>6.81</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------</td>
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<td>1/8/2011 - 31/7/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1/8/2012 - 31/7/2013</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Appendix 1: How has pangasius from Vietnam been considered?**

Pangasius production and exports in Vietnam have considerably developed, accounting for 22-27% of total seafood exports from Vietnam. This quick development, however, raised a concern on negative impacts on the environment and the society and requested producers, exporters, managers and law makers to consider the sustainability of the industry. Pangasius industry in Vietnam therefore, has been innovating and improving to adapt strict requirements from the market on food safety, tracibility and responsibility to environment and the society.

There are 2 outstanding projects for pangasius from Vietnam.
1. **SUPA project (Establishing a sustainable pangasius supply chain in Vietnam)**

With the vision that by 2020, the pangasius producing, processing and exporting sector in Vietnam is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, **SUPA project (Establishing a sustainable pangasius supply chain in Vietnam)**, funded by the EU (under the Switch-Asia Program) and cooperated by Vietnam Cleaner Production Centre (VNCPC), Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), WWF-Vietnam and WWF-Austria along with many organizations, universities, companies which raise, process and export pangasius, was launched in April 2013 and is expected to end in March 2017.


2. **Pangasius - Your everyday fish - a website to promote pangasius**

Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI) cooperating with VASEP conducted project to promote pangasius to end-users through the program “Pangasius - Your Everyday Fish” from 2012 and promotions in global seafood shows.

Pangasius, with a diverse in cooking methods, richness of nutrition and reasonability of price comparing to other whitemeat fish, have been popular for European markets and listed in top 10 most consumed seafood in the US.

Visit [www.youreverydayfish.com](http://www.youreverydayfish.com) to learn more about values that come with pangasius.
Pangasius 26 Q&A
Appendix 2: Decree 36 on farming, processing and exporting pangasius

THE GOVERNMENT

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

No. 36/2014/ND-CP

Hanoi, 29 April 2014

DECREE

Pursuant to the Law on organization of Government dated December 25, 2001

Pursuant to the Law on Fisheries dated November 26, 2003

Pursuant to the National Assembly on product and goods quality dated June 17, 2010

Pursuant to the Law on Food Safety dated November 21, 2007

Pursuant to the Law on Trade dated June 14, 2005

At the proposal of Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Government issues the Decree on farming, processing and exporting pangasius.

Chapter I

GENERAL PROVISION

Article 1: Corrected Range

The decree is to assign on pangasius farming, processing and exporting.

Article 2: Object of applying

The decree applies to Vietnamese organizations and individuals; international organizations and foreigners that involve in Pangasius farming, processing and exporting in Vietnam territory.
Chapter II
PANGASIUS FARMING AND PROCESSING

Article 3: Planning of Pangasius farming and processing

1. Planning Principles:
   a/ Planning of Pangasius farming and processing has to promote local advantages and potentials, consistent with the possibility of pangasius consumption in the domestic and overseas markets;
   b/ Detail planning of Pangasius farming and processing at local level has to consistent with the general planning of pangasius farming and processing.
   c/ Planning of Pangasius farming and processing has to compatible with economic development planning at each region

2. Planning content:
   a/ To analyze the natural conditions, economic-social impacts to pangasius farming, processing and consumption.
   b/ To estimate the actuality of pangasius farming, processing and consumption.
   c/ To analyze, estimate and predict the demand, price and competitiveness of Vietnam pangasius at domestic and overseas markets.
   d/ To determine the area and production of pangasius farms as well as the capacity of pangasius processing factories.
   d/ To determine the technical conceptions, mechanism and policies for planning.
   e/ To determine the solution of environmental protection for pangasius farming and processing.
3. Authority of planning establishment and approval:
   a/ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will host and coordinate with other Ministries, Sectors and localities to establish and approve the general planning of pangasius farming and processing.
   
b/ The provincial People’s Committees shall review, establish and approve the detailed planning of pangasius farming and processing based on the general planning of pangasius farming and processing approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

4. The State should issue the policies to encourage pangasius farming, processing and exporting; invest infrastructure for pangasius farming and processing areas according to approved planning of pangasius farming and processing.

**Article 4: Standard conditions for pangasius farming**

1. Location and area for pangasius farming has to consistent with the planning of pangasius farming and processing approved by Provincial People’s Committees.

2. The area and production of pangasius farming should be registered by local authorities of aquaculture management.

3. Pangasius farms must qualify regulations and technical standards for aquaculture; and should be certificated and coded by local authorities of aquaculture management.

4. Use of breed, feed, veterinary medicine, biochemical products and microorganism must follow the regulations by laws.

5. Pangasius farms must apply and be VietGAP certificated on good aquaculture practice or granted the international certifications appropriate to Vietnam laws.
Article 5: Standard conditions for Pangasius processing factory

1. Certificate of business registration on fishery processing issued by authority bodies is a must.

2. Pangasius factory must locate within the area of the pangasius farming and processing planning approved or accepted by provincial People’s Committees.

3. The traceability for pangasius should be applied.

4. The factory must apply quality control systems; implement technical regulations and standards of hygiene and food safety in fishery business and production. The factory must be certificated on qualifying food safety for fishery processing.

5. The factory has to assure the announced quality of finished pangasius; self-check and is responsible for announced pangasius quality; fulfill labeling appropriate to regulations by laws.

6. Regarding to the new factory, it has to be tested and recognized the eligibility for food safety by the MARD before operating.

Article 6: Quality and food hygiene and safety conditions on processed pangasius

1. Pangasius for processing must be raised from qualified farms according the regulations at Article 4 of the Decree.

2. Pangasius products processing must meet the requirements of food quality, hygiene and safety of Vietnam and importing countries.

3. Regarding to frozen pangasius fillet processing:
   
a/ Use of chemical, additive and supplement should be followed to the regulations of Vietnam and importing countries.

b/ Glazing on exported pangasius (water ratio in gross weight) should be appropriate to the
regulations of importing countries. Other circumstances, glazing ratio should not exceed 10%.

c/ Maximum content of water in pangasius fillet should not exceed 83% net weight (the weight of defrozen pangasius fillet).

4. Besides the fulfillment of existing regulations of Vietnam and importing countries on labeling, frozen pangasius fillet should be labeled following information: net weight, glazing, name of chemical, additive and supplement used during processing.

Chapter III

PANGASIUS PRODUCT EXPORTING

Article 7: Conditions for pangasius product exporting

Organizations or individuals (hereinafter referred to as traders) exporting pangasius must meet the following conditions:

1. Having qualified (according to the regulations at Article 5 of the Decree) pangasius processing factory. Unless the trader has qualified pangasius processing factory, he should have the pangasius processing contract or pangasius purchasing contract from a qualified pangasius processing factory (according to the regulations at Article 5 of the Decree).

2. Submitting Registration of pangasius export contract to Vietnam Pangasius Association (VPA) according to the regulations of the Decree’s Article 8. Custom clearance is only accepted for consignment of pangasius exporting contracts approved by VPA.

Article 8: Registration of pangasius exporting contract

2. Object of implement: Pangasius traders.

3. Required document: One (1) set
   
   a/ Application for pangasius production exporting contract.
   
   b/ Legal copy of Registration Certificate on pangasius farming recognized by local aquaculture management authorities (applied for trader who uses the pangasius from his own farm).
   
   c/ Legal copy of material pangasius purchasing contract from qualified farm according to the regulations at Article 4 of the Decree (applied for trader who uses the pangasius from other farms).
   
   d/ Legal copy of Certificate of eligibility on food safety for fishery processing factory (including cases which trader purchases or processed pangasius from other factories).
   
   d/ Legal copy of processed pangasius purchasing contract or pangasius processing contract from qualified pangasius processing factory according to the regulations at article 5 of the Decree (applied for trader who does not have pangasius processing factory).

4. Method and duration of implement
   
   a/ Unless the document meets the requirement according to item 3 of article 8, VPA will inform in writing to trader for amendment within one working day.
   
   b/ If the document meets the requirement according to item 3 of article 8, and if purchasing price of material pangasius is higher than/equal to floor price of material pangasius which announced by VPA at the time of document submission (applied for trader who use pangasius from other farm(s), VPA will consider the pangasius exporting
contract for confirmation within 3 working days from the date of document submission.

Unless the document meets the requirement, VPA will not affirm the pangasius exporting contract in writing with refusal explanation.

5. Fee for consideration of pangasius trading business: Follow to the regulations and guideline of MOF.

Article 9: Violation handling in pangasius export

1. Trader who violates the regulations of this decree will be handled according to the regulations by laws applied on administration violation, he also be handled according to the regulations at items 2,3,4 of Article 9.

2. Suspend the consignment which does not meet the requirement on quality, food safety according to the regulations of Vietnam and importing countries.

3. Pause the right of pangasius exporting of trader who is required to halt by the authority of importing country due to the violation on quality and food safety.

4. In case of importing country does not require Vietnam authorities to test and certificate on exporting pangasius products, however, if there are many violated consignments, and this results the suspension of pangasius exporting from Vietnam, MARD will inspect the quality and food safety of all factories, therefore handle the violation of trader, factory whose consignment is violated according to Laws on Food safety, Laws on product and goods quality.

Chapter IV

IMPLEMENT

Article 10: Responsibility of Authorities

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
a/ Establishing, approving the general planning of pangasius farming and processing; instructing, inspecting, supervising the establishment and implement of planning of pangasius farming and processing at provinces and cities under the central government.

b/ Instructing, inspecting local aquaculture management authorities to confirm the registered area and production of pangasius farming, and coding the identification for pangasius farms.

c/ Instructing, inspecting, supervising the application of aquaculture practice program and recognizing the program.

d/ Constructing, issuing/submitting to authorities to issue national regulations, standards, specifications on pangasius farming, processing and exporting.

d/ Instructing, conducting, implementing the inspection of pangasius farms, factories; inspecting, supervising the quality of farming, processing and exporting pangasius at its authority.

e/ Instructing, inspecting and supervising VPA to fulfill the regulations of consideration, affirmation and pangasius trading consideration fee’s collection.

g/ Instructing, inspecting, handling the violation of pangasius farming, processing and exporting at its authority.

h/ Providing, informing the regulations of food safety on pangasius of the markets importing pangasius from Vietnam.

i/ Suspending the consignment that does not meet the requirement of quality and food safety according to the regulations of Vietnam and
importing countries; pausing the right of pangasius exporting of trader who is requested to pause due to the violation on food quality and food safety according to the regulations at items 2, 3, 4, Article 9 of the Decree. To assign the inspection and violation handling according to the regulations at Article 9 of the Decree.

k/ Making the traceability on Vietnam exporting pangasius according to regulations by laws

2. Ministry of Industry and Trade

a/ Hosting, coordinating with MARD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other authorities to handle the trade disputes and technical barriers on pangasius exporting.

b/ Inspecting and handling the violation of pangasius farming, processing and exporting at its authority.

c/ Conducting the Vietnam oversea commercial affairs bureaus to assist and support on pangasius promotion activities.

d/ Inspecting, supervising the implement of the Decree according to regulations on anti-dumping.

3. Ministry of Finances

a/ Instructing the price evaluation on material pangasius.

b/ Assigning on pangasius trading consideration fee; instructing the implement of regulations on fee collecting, paying, managing and using.

c/ Directing Bureau of custom to implement, inspect and supervise pangasius exporting according to regulations of the Decree; monthly reporting the production, exporting price and market information to MOF, MOIT and MARD.
Article 11: People’s Committees of Provinces and Cities under the Central Government (hereby named as Central Cities)

1. Establishing, approving and managing the detailed planning of pangasius farming, processing in accordance with the general planning of pangasius farming and processing approved by MARD.

2. Conducting local aquaculture management authorities to confirm the registered area and production of pangasius farming, and coding the identification for pangasius farms.

3. Directing the implement of pangasius farming, processing and exporting at local according to regulations by laws.

4. Inspecting the implement, handling the violation of pangasius farming, processing and exporting at its authority according to regulations by laws.

Article 12: Vietnam Pangasius Association

1. Hosting and implementing following activities:
   
a/ Implementing the registration, consideration, affirmation on pangasius trading business; collecting the considering fee according regulations.

b/ Basing on the guideline of MOF on price calculation of material pangasius, announcing the floor price for material pangasius at least biannual and revising the floor price in accordance with market situation.

c/ Managing and using the fund from collecting pangasius trading business consideration fee according to the regulations by laws.

d/ Providing custom the approved list of pangasius exporters.
d/ Having statistic figure on farming, processing and exporting; reporting to MARD, MOIT and MOF monthly, quarterly and annually.

2. Coordinating with involved associations to fulfill the following activities:

a/ Instructing, campaigning its members to follow the regulations of pangasius farming, processing and exporting.

b/ Carrying out promotion activities for pangasius; analyzing, forecasting and informing the pangasius market situation.

c/ Protecting exporting activities, handling trade disputes and technical barriers in pangasius farming, processing and exporting.

d/ Assisting, providing the updated information of pangasius farming, processing and exporting to farmers, processors and exporters.

Article 13: Pangasius farmer, processor and exporter

1. Farmer, processor and exporters are responsible for following regulations by laws of pangasius farming, processing and exporting in accordance with the regulations of this Decree and other related regulations.

2. Responsibility of Pangasius exporter:

a/ Follow the regulations on quality management, inspection, certification, food safety according to the regulations of importing countries and Vietnam.

b/ Register pangasius exporting contract according to the regulations at Article 8 of the Decree, and responsible for the truth of the registered contract.

c/ Pay fee for pangasius trading business consideration according to regulations.
Chapter V
EXECUTIVE PROVISION

Article 14: Assignment Provision

1. Despite of unsuitable to pangasius farming planning, pangasius farms have been operated before the validity date of this Decree and meet the requirement of pangasius farming according to regulations at items 2, 3 Article 4 of this Decree, are allowed to remain their activities.

2. From the validity date of this Decree until 31 December 2015, traders are allowed to buy the material pangasius for processing and exporting from farms that do not meet the requirement according to regulations at item 5 Article 4 of this Decree.

3. Before the validity date of Circular of Registration on Pangasius farming area, production and coding (according to the regulations at Point b, Item 4, Article 8), the certificate of Pangasius farming Registration is not a compulsory document for pangasius exporting contract registration.

4. From the validity date of this Decree until 31 December 2014, pangasius fillet meets the requirement of quality and food safety according to the regulations of importing country, is still allowed to export in spite of not meeting the requirement of quality according to the regulations at Point b, c, Item 3, Article 6 of the Decree.

Article 15: Validity of the Decree

This Decree is valid from 20 June 2014

Article 16: Responsibility for instruction and execution

1. Base on the assignment of specific responsibility according to the regulations of this Decree and other
related regulations by laws, MARD, MOIT and MOF are responsible for instructing the execution of this Decree.

2. The ministers, Directors of Authorities, Head of Governmental Bureaus, Chairmen of Provincial and Central City People’s Committees, Chairman of VPA, chairmen of other involved associations are responsible for executing this Decree.

To:
- Secretariat of the Party Central Committees
- Prime Minister, Vice Prime Ministers
- Ministry, ministerial-level authorities, Governmental Bureaus
- Provincial and Central City People’s Committees
- Central offices and Committee of Party
- Office of General Secretary
- Office of the President
- Ethnic Council and Committees of Congress
- ONA
- The Supreme People’s Court
- Institute of Supreme People Prouracy
- Committee of the National Financial Supervision
- The State Auditor
- Bank for Social Policies
- Vietnam Development Bank
- Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front
- Central Authority of the Unions
- Governmental offices: Chairman, Vice chairmen, Assistant to Prime Minister, CEO of Governmental Electronic information gateway, Departments, subordinate departments, Gazette
- Save: Clerical, KTN (3b)

ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT
THE PRIME MINISTER

(signed)
Nguyen Tan Dung
Chapter 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Scope and object of application

1. Adjusted scope: This regulation stipulated procedures and implementation, duties and authorities of relevant units of monitoring Programs for certain substances and toxic residues thereof in animals and aquaculture animals products used for foodstuffs (hereinafter called monitoring Program).

2. Object of application: This Regulation shall apply to manufacturing and trading establishments of breed; aquaculture establishments; manufacturing and trading establishments of feedstuffs, veterinary drugs; aquaculture environment treating agents used in aquaculture; aquaculture collecting,
Article 2: Explanation of terms

In this regulation, terms are understood as follows:

1. Residues of toxic substances (hereinafter called residues) means the remainder of veterinary drugs, growth-promoting and gonadotropic substances, aquaculture environment treating agent, harmful substances originated from feedstuffs, from aquaculture environment and their metabolites remain in aquaculture being harmful to the health of consumers.

2. Aquaculture areas (hereinafter called aquaculture areas) means a collection of zonolimnetic areas (rivers, lagoons, ponds, reservoirs, etc.) used for aquaculture under general influence of environmental agents.

3. Aquaculture establishments: means places having directly aquaculture, in which ponds/lagoons/rafts being in the same of aquaculture manner and use the same of supply water source and waste water systems, by an organization or individual owns.

4. Manufacturing and trading establishments of breed: means places having manufacturing or hatching/residing activities of breeds used for raising aquaculture or selling to other aquaculture establishments by an organization or individual owns.

5. Lots of aquaculture products means a set of many individuals of an aquaculture objects harvested at the same time and at an aquaculture area/establishment of raising aquaculture.

6. Laboratories means laboratories meeting requirements of analysis capacity of the residues of
toxic substances are assigned by agencies decided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Article 3: Basics to implement residues monitoring programs
National rules, technical standards of environment and aquaculture safety quality; national rules, technical standards for feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, and environment treating agents in aquaculture, or other concerned rules of the State.

Article 4: Inspecting agencies, monitoring agencies
1. National Agro-forestry and fisheries quality assurance Directorate (including subordinated units) is the inspecting agency: chairing to submit plans to the Ministry to approval and organize implementation, inspect the implementation of residues monitoring programs.

2. Agencies are assigned tasks of seafood quality management by Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development: chairing to set up, plan, implement monitoring residues program in local areas.

Chapter II
PROCEDURES OF SETTING UP AND IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM

Article 5: Setting up annual monitoring plans
1. In fourth-quarter of each year or at the end of the last harvest of each year, monitoring agencies shall chair to organize the investigation, collect information, survey some steps as follows:

a/ Collecting necessary information about real aquaculture situation at the subordinated areas.
b/ Organizing groups of practical survey at every locations being less than necessary information.

2. Determining aquaculture areas and objects need to monitor

a/ Aquaculture areas and monitored objects of each region are determined based on the results of surveys and administrative frontiers, feasibility of implementing the monitoring program at local.

b/ Each aquaculture area shall be signed in accordance with united instructions of inspection agencies.

c/ Drawing a map of aquaculture areas supervised in residues monitoring programs and updating when having the adjustment, the supplement.

3. Monitoring agencies shall plan implementation annually on management areas in accordance with instructions of inspecting agencies and reporting to the inspection agency before 31st December each year.

4. Approval and notice of monitoring plans annually

a/ Inspecting agencies shall collect and handle reports from monitoring agencies to plan annual residue monitoring programs. National Agro-forestry and fisheries Quality assurance Directorate shall submit the Ministry to approve the program.

b/ In necessary cases, inspection agencies shall organize groups to verify information reported by monitoring agencies or shall coordinate with monitoring agencies to implement surveys.

c/ Annual monitoring plans after approval of the Ministry shall be informed to monitoring agencies and other related agencies to implement monitoring programs by inspecting agencies.
Article 6: Implementation of residues monitoring programs

1. Updating, adjusting monthly sampling plans:
   a/ Before 22\textsuperscript{nd} every month, monitoring agencies shall send monitoring reports of the aquaculture situation of aquaculture areas in residues monitoring programs to inspecting agencies and shall propose adjustment of next month sampling plans (if necessary).
   
   b/ Before 26\textsuperscript{th} every month, based on information provided by monitoring agencies, the inspecting agency shall adjust monitoring sampling plan (if any) and shall inform the official monitoring sampling plan next month to monitoring agencies. In necessary cases, the agencies shall carry out verification and request explaining inappropriate contents (information) of monitoring agencies.

2. Sampling, designated criteria, sending analysis samples:
   a/ Pursuant to notified plans, monitoring agencies shall carry out determining locations, objects of sampling, taking samples, designated specific analysis criteria for each sample and send to inspecting agencies.
   
   b/ Procedures of sampling, storage, delivering and receiving are implemented unitedly as the instruction of inspecting agencies.
   
   c/ Within 03 working days after sampling, monitoring agencies must send to inspecting agencies.
   
   d/ Within 02 working days of receiving the samples, the inspecting agencies must send to assigned laboratories to analyse.
d/ Periodically 6 months (or extraordinary), the inspecting agencies shall organize to verify sampling operation of monitoring agencies.

3. Analysing samples and reporting monitoring results:

a/ Within 05 working days of receiving the samples, the laboratories must analyze and provide results to the inspecting agencies.

b/ Within 05 working days since having the analysis results, the inspector agencies shall send reports of monthly monitoring results to monitoring agencies and other agencies mentioned at Article 10, Article 11 of this Regulation.

c/ For analysis samples detected residues exceeding the maximum residue limitation: the laboratories must inform results to the inspecting agency within 01 working day right after having official analysis results (including confirmed analysis results of samples detected positive by screening methods). Within 01 working day after receiving the results, the inspecting agencies must inform in writing to the monitoring agencies and other agencies mentioned at Article 10, Article 11 of this Regulation in order to require to determine causes, implement appropriate measures based on the procedures described in Chapter III.

d/ Right after finishing determining causes and implementing measures to overcome those cases detected residues exceeding the maximum residue limitation described at point b, Clause 3 of this Article, the monitoring agencies shall report the results in writing of the implementation to the inspecting agencies and the relevant agencies mentioned at Article 10, Article 11 of this Regulation and shall propose
authority agencies to treat establishments depending on the level of violation.

Chapter III

PROCEDURES OF IMPLEMENTING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO OVERCOME WHEN DETECTING RESIDUES EXCEEDING THE MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITATION

Article 7: Cases of detected residues exceeding the maximum residue limitation in aquaculture

1. At the stage of producing, trading breed: monitoring agencies shall have notice in writing to warn, determine causes and require establishments to implement appropriate measures to overcome; intensify the sampling at producing and trading aquaculture establishments of breed and hatchery using breed from detected establishments.

2. At the time of raising: The monitoring agencies shall have notice in writing to warn, determine causes and require establishments to implement appropriate measures to overcome; intensify residues monitoring sampling. The time of sampling shall depend on the level of elimination in accordance with united instructions of the inspecting agencies.

3. At the time of preparation or harvesting:

   a/ The monitoring agency shall suspend harvesting temporarily in writing, determine causes, require establishments to implement appropriate measures to overcome; require and monitor relaying, intensify the sampling in accordance with the instruction of the inspecting agencies. When analysis results are negative, the
monitoring agencies shall inform in writing to the establishments to allow harvesting.

b/ For slow eliminated substances (following the specific instructions of the inspection agencies): The inspecting agencies shall coordinate with the monitoring agency to allow harvesting when meeting the specific requirements of the consumption markets or change purposes of use.

4. Cases of harvesting establishments: The monitoring agencies shall have notice in writing to warn, determine cause and require establishments to implement appropriate measures to overcome; trace lots of aquaculture products originated from establishments; intensify the sampling in accordance with the instructions of the inspecting agency.

5. Aquaculture collecting, pre-processing, processing establishments: The monitoring agencies shall have notice in writing to warn, determine causes and require the establishments to implement appropriate measures to overcome; require traceability and isolate the lot of aquaculture products, take samples to verify.

a/ When the results are negative, just allow lots of aquaculture products free.

b/ When the results are positive, just allow using like foodstuffs, as meeting the specific requirements of consumption markets or change the purpose of use.

Article 8: Detection of toxic substances in foodstuffs, aquaculture environment treating agents, veterinary drugs exceeding the maximum residue limitation

1. The inspecting agencies shall have notice in writing to relevant agencies mentioned at Article 10, Article 11, Article 12, Article 13 of this regulation.
2. The monitoring agencies shall have notice in writing to warn, determine causes and require establishments to implement appropriate measures to overcome.

3. The agencies mentioned at Article 10, Article 11 of this Regulation shall chair to implement treatment measures appropriate according to authorities.

Chapter IV
DUTIES, AUTHORITIES OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS RELATING TO RESIDUES MONITORING PROGRAMS

Article 9: National Agro-forestry and fisheries quality assurance Directorate (the inspecting agency)

1. Guiding monitoring agencies to plan the implementation in local areas; collecting implementing plans of annual residues monitoring programs to submit Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for approval; organizing implementation of approved plans, periodically checking the implementation of contents mentioned at Chapter II;

2. Chairing, coordinating with monitoring agencies to implement procedures described at Clause 5, Article 7 of this Regulation on the jurisdiction.

3. Updating, promulgating annual lists of aquaculture areas and objects of aquaculture in residues monitoring programs.

4. Chairing and coordinating with relevant agencies mentioned at Article 10, Article 11 of this regulation, setting up and issued implementing guide of monitoring programs.

5. Updating, promulgating lists of analysis criteria and the maximum residues limitation in monitoring
programs based on Vietnamese rules, technical standards and rules, technical standards of States/international organizations.

6. Chairing, organizing training courses on implementing monitoring programs, for agencies, organizations, individuals concerned;

7. Reporting lists of laboratories participated in monitoring programs;

8. Reporting periodically, suddenly on the request of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the result of implementation; proposing the contents needed to modify in implementing the monitoring programs;

9. Managing, using and allocating the approved budget for relevant agencies to implementing the monitoring programs in accordance with current regulations of the Ministry of Finance;

10. Requiring monitoring agencies to report periodically or suddenly the contents mentioned at points a, Clause 1, Article 6 and other information related to the monitoring programs.

**Article 10: Veterinary Departments**

1. Chairing to build procedures of handling issues related to veterinary drugs manufacturing and trading establishments when detected forbidden substances in monitoring programs;

2. Coordinating with the inspecting agencies to diffuse, guide and examine the implementation of the monitoring programs for the monitoring agencies and objects related.

3. Chairing and directing the subordinate agencies coordinate with the monitoring agency in
implementing measures mentioned at Article 8 under the scope of management.

4. Updating, publishing lists of veterinary drugs allowed circulating.

**Article 11: Department of Aquaculture**

1. Chairing to build procedures of handling issues related to manufacturing and trading establishments of breed, aquaculture environment treating agents, propagation establishments detected toxic substances exceeding the maximum residue limitation of monitoring programs.

2. Coordinating with the inspecting agencies to diffuse, instruct and examine the implementation of the monitoring programs for monitoring agencies and other relevant objects.

3. Chairing and directing the subordinate agencies coordinate with the monitoring agencies in implementing measures mentioned at Article 8 under the scope of management.

4. Updating, publishing lists of feedstuffs, aquaculture environment treating agents allowed circulating;

5. Coordinating with local functional agencies to set up measures when having any problems of aquaculture environment.

6. Reporting timely results of warning aquaculture environment to the monitoring agency to adjust monthly sampling plans (if any).

**Article 12: Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development**

1. Assigning and directing monitoring agencies to chair and implement the monitoring programs at management areas.
2. Directing popularization, instruction for subordinate agencies to carry out rules on the monitoring programs.

3. Directing subordinate agencies to coordinate with monitoring agencies to carry out procedures of implementation of measures when detected residues exceeding the maximum residues limitation.

4. Examining and monitoring implementation of the monitoring programs.

5. Reporting periodically or suddenly when required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development about the residues monitoring operation at management areas.

**Article 13: Monitoring agencies**

1. Chairing the implementation of activities mentioned at clauses 1, 2, 3, Article 5, Point a, Clause 1, Clause 2, Article 6, Article 7 of this regulation at management areas.

2. Guiding manufacturing and trading establishments of breed, veterinary drugs; aquaculture environment treating agents; aquaculture establishments; aquaculture collecting establishments to comply with the provisions in this regulation, coordinating with the inspecting agencies and relevant agencies to plan and organize training courses on implementation of the monitoring programs for objects related.

3. Chairing and coordinating to carry out measures to in accordance with procedures mentioned at Chapter III of this regulation.

4. Regularly updating lists of manufacturing and trading establishments of breed, veterinary drugs; aquaculture environment treating agents; aquaculture establishments on management areas;
5. Diffusing and guiding establishments carry out rules, standards of residues in aquaculture.

6. Requiring manufacturing and trading establishments of breed, veterinary drugs; aquaculture environment treating agents; aquaculture establishments; aquaculture collecting establishments to execute in taking samples, provide relevant information; measures implemented in the monitoring programs.

7. Managing and using an allocated budget annually in monitoring programs in accordance with current regulations of the Ministry of Finance.

Article 14: Laboratories

1. Complying exactly with regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Department for assigned laboratories

2. Ensuring analysis results accurately, objectively and reporting results on time, being responsibility for analysis results implemented by laboratories.

3. Reporting the analysis results in the monitoring programs just for the inspecting agencies.

Article 15: Manufacturing and trading establishments of breed; aquaculture establishments

1. Do not use feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, aquaculture environment treating agents which are not allowed in lists of circulated substances in Vietnam or contain substances in lists of prohibited substances. In case of using substances with the maximum allowed limitation in aquaculture, stopping using before harvesting in accordance with instructions of the manufacturers;

2. Observing, storing fully and providing for monitoring agencies information about species, raising aquaculture manner and raising areas/volume, time
of harvesting, feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, chemicals used (if any) and other information related to the process of raising aquaculture requested.

3. Execution of sampling and monitoring measures of monitoring agencies after analysis results exceeding the maximum residue limitation.

4. Providing fully information to buyers about the origin of Lot of breed, aquaculture products harvested;

5. Participated in training courses, diffusion of knowledge about food safety in aquaculture organized by functional agencies.

6. Provided analysis results of samples collected at their establishments when required.

**Article 16: Aquaculture collecting, pre-processing, processing establishments**

1. Regularly updating monitoring results from the inspecting agencies, monitoring agencies and relevant agencies.

2. No buying aquaculture animals harvested from suspended areas/establishments or unknown origin; creating and storing fully forms of origin of each lot of aquaculture products.

3. Execution of sampling and monitoring measures of monitoring agencies after analysis results exceeding the maximum residues limitation.

4. Providing inspection agencies/monitoring agencies on self-controlled results of toxic substances in aquaculture at the establishments and information related to raising situation at collecting establishments (if any) when required.

5. Participated in training courses, diffusion of knowledge about food safety in aquaculture organized by functional agencies.
6. Provided analysis results of samples collected at their establishments when required.

Article 17: Manufacturing and trading establishments of Feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, aquaculture establishments

1. No manufacturing, trading chemicals, veterinary drugs, growth-promoting substances, aquaculture environment treating agents which have not allowed circulation yet or have compounds in lists of forbidden substances;

2. Observing, storing fully information (species, quantity/volume, manufacturers, other necessary information) and providing for monitoring agencies information about feedstuff, veterinary drugs, growth-promoting substances, aquaculture environment treating agents at establishments when required;

3. Execution of sampling and monitoring measures of monitoring agencies after analysis results exceeding the maximum residue limitation;

4. Participated in training courses, diffusion of knowledge about food safety in aquaculture organized by functional agencies;

5. Provided analysis results of samples collected at their establishments when required;

Chapter V
COMPLAINTS, VIOLATION TREATMENTS

Article 18: Complaints and resolving complaints

1. Every organization and individual shall have the right to complain and prosecute to competent levels with respect to violations occurred in the implementation of this Regulation in accordance
with rules of the Law on complaints and denunciations and documents guiding the implementation of Law on complaints and denunciations.

2. The official competent authorities are responsible for resolving timely complaints and denunciations related to the monitoring program in accordance with procedures of the Law on complaints and denunciations.

Article 19: Violation treatments

Handling violations for violating behaviors of this regulation depending on the nature and degree of behavior shall be punished administratively or criminally in accordance with regulations of legislation in accordance with the Law.

Chapter VI
EXECUTIVE PROVISIONS

Article 20: Supplementation and amendment of the Regulation

During the implementation, National Agro-forestry and fisheries Quality assurance Directorate, Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development are responsible for collecting proposals of every organization, individual about difficulties in the implementation of this Regulation, Any amendment or supplement of this Regulation's contents shall be decided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

PP. MINISTER OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPUTY MINISTER
(signed and stamped)
Mr. Luong Le Phuong
Appendix 4: Other related documents

To: Dr. Romano MARABELLI  
Department for Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety  
Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Policy  
Republic of Italy

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I would like to present its compliments to you and pay your attention on the following:

On April 3, 2009, via Vietnam Embassy in Italia, we have been informed that Italian media has released, since the end of 2008, inaccurate information on Tra and Basa catfish (Pangasius) of Vietnam by saying that the latter are raised in polluted water. This gives a negative view for Italian consumers over these products of Vietnam (Ref.: RAI3 television report of November 18, 2008 and some Italian newspaper).

Actually, Tra and Basa catfish become key products of Vietnam for export, are raised and processed in compliance with technical regulations. The control of food hygiene conditions in aquaculture and processing of fishery products (including Tra and Basa catfish) for export to the EU have been approved by Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) – DG SANCO during its regular inspections in Vietnam.

To avoid negative impact on good trade relationship between our two countries, we would like to enclose herewith Report on Aquaculture and Control of food hygiene and safety of Vietnam Tra and Basa catfish for export to Italy and kindly request you to provide the right information on Vietnam Tra and Basa catfish to Italian consumers. On this occasion, we would also like to invite you to Vietnam to study the current status of aquaculture and processing of Tra and Basa catfish or we could send a delegation to Italy to clarify the above mentioned information and discuss bilateral cooperation activities to ensure the quality and safety of traded fishery products.

Sincerely Yours,

[Signature]

Luong Le Phuong  
Vice-Director  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Cc: Vietnam Embassy in Italia
Subject: Information about catfish (Pangasius) imported from S.R. Vietnam.

Dear Vice President,

First of all I would like to thank you for your letter of 13th April 2009 by which you drew our attention to a press release issued in Italy.

This press release cast a negative light on catfish reared in Vietnam and imported into Italy due to the pollution of the water where they live.

We believe as well that a negative impact on the good trade relationship between our countries has to be avoided; to this purpose we much appreciate the supporting document you attached to your letter.

It will be very helpful to demonstrate the good health guarantees achieved by aquaculture products in your Country.

Regarding your request to provide correct information to Italian consumers, I would like to assure you that this has already been done by means of an official answer to a Parliamentary inquiry, by which we have informed that no risks exist associated with the Pangasius imported from Vietnam. This statement was confirmed by the inclusion of the results of the checks we performed, which were all negative.

Furthermore, neither our Country nor the EU Commission have ever adopted restriction measures on imports of Pangasius from Vietnam.

Therefore I would like to assure you that no further problems have occurred in Italy concerning the consumption of the fish imported from your Country.

Finally, regarding your last request for an exchange of delegations, I guess this may be useful to improve the relationships between our Countries in the veterinary field, but currently in Italy there are neither problems of consumers' information nor sanitary risks regarding Pangasius.

We thank you in advance for your collaboration and invite you to contact us should you require any further clarification.

Yours Faithfully,

[Signature]

THE CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

[Name]

[Position]
The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Hanoi presents its compliments to the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, following the Former's Note No. 58/2009 dated 26.03.2009 and with reference to the Latter's Note No. 72/KV4 dated 31.03. 2009, has the honour to inform the esteemed Ministry that the Embassy's decision to temporarily suspend the legalization of all documents related to the Vietnamese export of seafood products was based on the Embassy's duties to protect the Egyptian national interest after lots of reports in the Egyptian media regarding the health hazard of the Vietnamese basa fish exported to Egypt. After the clarification of the Vietnamese relevant authorities and following the meeting held between H.E. Egyptian Ambassador ALAA ELLEISSY and General Director of South West Asia and Africa Department of Ministry of Industry and Trade Mr. LY QUOC HUNG taking place on 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2009, the Embassy has decided to lift the temporary suspension of the legalization on the above-mentioned documents, taking into consideration that the suspension had been taken as of the end of 26\textsuperscript{th} March 2009 since then the Embassy just received documents regarding Vietnamese seafood exports to Egypt on 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2009 that was duly legalized, hence the suspension practically did not take place.

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Hanoi avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the assurances of its highest consideration.

To : - Ministry of Industry and Trade
(South West Asia and Africa Department)
Cc : - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(West Asia and Africa Department)
HANOI
(Bản dịch không chính thức)

Đại sứ quán Italia tại Việt Nam xin kính chào Bộ Nông nghiệp và Phát triển Nông thôn và xin truyền thông gửi kèm theo đây bức thư của Ngài Romano Marabelli, Cục trưởng Cục Y tế Công động thú y, Dinh dưỡng và An toàn thực phẩm, Bộ Lao động, Y tế và Chínhs sách xã hội phục vụ đáp bức thư đề ngày 13 tháng 4 năm 2009 của quý Bộ.

Trong bức thư đính kèm, Bộ Lao động, Y tế và Chínhs sách xã hội Italia đảm bảo rằng chứng phú Italia đã thông báo rộng rãi tới Nghi viên và công chúng về việc không có bất cứ một mối nguy hiểm nào ảnh hưởng tới sức khỏe của người dân khi sử dụng cá basa nhập khẩu từ Việt Nam.

Xét thấy tầm quan trọng của thông tin này, Cục Y tế Công động Thú y, Dinh dưỡng và An toàn thực phẩm đã ủy quyền cho Đại sứ quán Italia gửi tới Bộ Nông nghiệp và Phát triển Nông thôn bức thư trên.

Đại sứ quán Italia luôn sẵn sàng đáp ứng những yêu cầu, thắc mắc từ phía Bộ Nông nghiệp và Phát triển Nông thôn và nhận đập nay xin gửi tới Bộ Nông nghiệp và Phát triển Nông thôn lời chào trần trọng nhất.

23 APR 2009

Bộ Nông nghiệp và Phát triển Nông thôn
Cc:
Vụ Hợp tác Quốc tế
2 Ngọc Hà
Hà Nội
Vietnamese catfish imports brave scrutiny

The biological agents detected in catfish (pangasius) imported from Vietnam are not considered a consumer health risk under European regulation, the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumption confirmed last week.

The results of mid-2008 analyses of fish shipments in the ports of Vigo and Bilbao revealed there were no dangerous pathogens present, and as such no “specific measures” were taken on the issue, sanitary authorities stated.

So admitted the European commissioner of Health, Androulla Vassiliou, in response to a parliamentary question posed by European government representative Daniel Vazquez Suances.

The Spanish government had reported finding traces of certain contaminating substances that “did not figure into the criteria of safety of the cited European regulation [2073/2005],” Vassiliou pointed out.

The information provided by the Spanish government will be taken into account during an inspection visit the European Commission (EC) will carry out in Vietnam in the first 6 months of 2009, he indicated.
Inspection services from Brussels, the General Directorate of Health and Consumers, and the Veterinary Office will carefully control that the Vietnamese fish products set for export to the European Union (EU) are in line with EU legislation, he guaranteed.

The shipments of Vietnamese pangasius in question were analysed in July by the SACIB's laboratory in Brussels, a dependency of the Ministry of Health.

On that occasion, the Ministry set down "reinforced" controls after learning of warning transmitted through the Rapid Warning System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and the Coordinated Programme of Food Health Control.

According to the letter sent by the EC's Ministry of Health, the trade of the imported product to the Spanish market cannot be imposed so long as it complies with the legislation in effect.

The points of Border Control inspection are in charge of performing physical controls, which include visual inspections, on-site laboratory tests and official sampling for laboratory analysis in accredited laboratories.

Specifically, in the case of aquaculture products, 133 additional laboratory controls were approved through the end of 2008 for the detection of pathogenic micro-organisms, medications and prohibited substances, EIE reports.

The shipments that do not pass sanitary controls are rejected and reported to the RAE through the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AENSA).

The appeal of the European Executive proved fruitful and now Brussels no longer acknowledges contamination problems with these products, but will carry out inspections in Vietnam.

"It has been a long struggle but we have finally come out on top," said Representative Maria Fransz. "We know there had been contamination and months of delay because Brussels had launched an investigation at the behest of the Popular Party (PP) in order to find out what happened. It obtains information via a corkscrew."

"The conclusion is that controls on seafood product imports originating from fish farms located in Southern Asian countries, among others, are a joke for citizens and consumers," Fransz continued.

By: Anaiza Nurius

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Vietnamese catfish meet EU food safety regulations

Spain’s Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs affirmed on January 30 that Vietnamese catfish meet food safety regulations set by the European Union (EU).

According to Spain’s Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs, in contrast to their claim that the Spanish Government was not concerned about food safety, Spanish authorities carried out hygiene tests on imported Vietnamese catfish and discovered some causes of disease in the shipment of July 2008 but they were not harmful to people’s health.

The Vietnamese catfish issue had caused a stir in Spain when some parliamentarians, who were also members of the EU parliament, recently made a number of inquiries in the European Commission.

The issue was then resolved after Spain’s Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs confirmed on January 30 that the catfish shipment in question which came from Vietnam in July 2008 and was suspected to be polluted, would not cause any harm to people’s health.

Spain is one of the largest markets in Europe for Vietnamese catfish, and according to the Spanish Marine Aquaculture Producers Association (APROMAR), the country imports about 40,000 tonnes of Vietnamese catfish every year.
Spain gives catfish from Vietnam clean bill of health

SEAFOOD.COM NEWS [Asia Pulse] Feb 11, 2009 - Spain's food safety watchdog has denied claims of food poisoning related to tra and basa catfish imported from Vietnam, attributing the allegations to 'false information' provided by the European Commission (EC).

Batches of catfish imported into Spain from Vietnam last July tested negative for any toxic substances banned by the EC, said Roberto Sabrido, president of the Spanish Agency for Food Security and Nutrition, at a press briefing at a recent gastronomy and tourism exposition in Ourense.

Last month, Spain's Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs also confirmed that Vietnamese catfish met food safety regulations set by the EU and posed no danger to consumer health.

Spain is one of Vietnam's leading European markets for catfish, importing about 40,000 tonnes per year, according to statistics from a Spanish trade association.
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