

**Government of the Union of Myanmar**  
**Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES**

**DIRECTIVE No. (7/98)**

August 3, 1998

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 23 of the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law 1990, the Director General of the Department of Fisheries hereby issues the following Directive for fixing the total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) limit values for certain categories of fishery products

**Fixing the total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) limit values and Histamine limits values for certain categories of fishery products**

- 1.1 This Directive confines the limit of total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) values and Histamine value for certain categories of fishery products and specifies the sampling plan to be used.
- 1.2 Unprocessed fishery products belong to the species categories listed in Annex I shall be regarded as unfit for human consumption where, organoleptic assessemet having raised doubts as to their freshness, chemical checks reveal that the following TVB-N limits are exceeded:
  - (a) 25 milligrams of nitrogen/100 grams of flesh for the species referred to in point A of Annex I;
  - (b) 30 milligrams of nitrogen/100 grams of flesh for the species referred to in point B of Annex I;
  - (c) 35 milligrams of nitrogen/100 grams of flesh for the species referred to in point C of Annex I;

- 2.1 The sample must be consist of about one hundred grams of flesh, taken from at least three different points and mixed together by grinding.
- 3.1 Unprocessed fishery products shall be regarded as unfit for human consumption where organoleptic assessment having raised doubts as to their freshness. chemical checks reveal that the following limits of sampling plan evaluation for Histamine are exceeded.
- 4.1 Nine sample must be taken from each batch. These must fulfil the following requirements:
  - the mean value must not exceed 100 ppm;
  - two samples may have value of more than 100 ppm but less than 200 ppm;
  - no samples may have value exceeding 200 ppm;

These limits apply only to fish species of the following families:  
Scombridae and Clupeidae.

However, fish belonging to these families which have undergone enzyme ripening treatment in brine may have higher histamine levels but not more than twice the above value.

#### **Rejection of lot for export**

- 5.1 If an authorized officer inspects fish and fishery product that does not meet the requirements of this Directive, officer shall reject the food for export.
- 6.1 Any licence-holder for the processing of fish and fishery products shall abide by this Directive as one of the conditions of the licence.
- 6.2 On violation of the any terms or conditions of the Directive, criminal action may be taken under Section 45 of the Myanmar Marine Fisheries

Law 1990 and the licence-holder may also be liable to suspension, revocation, termination and cancellation of the licence under Section 24 of the said Law.

Sd xx Soe Win  
Director General  
Department of Fisheries

**ANNEX I**

Species categoried for which a TVB-N limit value is fixed:-

- (a) *Sebastes* spp., *Helicolenus*, *dactylopterus*, *sebastichys*, *capensis*
- (b) Species belonging to the *pleuronectidae* family (with the exception of halibut: *hippoglossus* spp;)
- (c) *Salmo salar* species belonging to the *merlucciidae* family species belonging to the *gadidae* family.