

# IMPORT CERTIFICATION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR SHIPPING PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO IMPORT ALERT 99-52

Effective Date: October 31, 2025

## PURPOSE

The FDA is implementing import certification requirements under Section 801(q) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (added by FSMA Section 303) for certain foods from certain regions of Indonesia due to Cesium-137 (Cs-137) contamination risks. This was based on information available, including detection of elevated levels of Cs-137 in several shipments, including shrimp and cloves, FDA sample analysis, and known sources of contamination in the region.

## CURRENT COVERAGE

- [Import Alert \(IA\) 99-52](#)
- ALL shrimp and ALL spices from Island of Java and Lampung Province on the Island of Sumatra.
- Contaminant: Cesium-137

## IMPORTERS

- Red List: Firms must first successfully be removed from IA 99-51 and then receive an Accredited Third-Party Certification Program (TPP) certification to verify the effectiveness of controls for Cs-137 to be eligible for the Yellow List.
- Yellow List: A certificate is required for each entry/line of product being imported into the U.S. Products without certification or with incomplete/incorrect certification information will be subject to refusal.
- Certificates must be issued by a designated Certifying Entity (CE).

## BROKERS

- Be familiar with products/regions that require import certification.
- Certificates from CEs must be uploaded to ITACS using the “Import Certificate 801(q)” Document Type.

## EXPORTERS

- Be familiar with products/regions that require import certification.
- Know how to contact a CE (see IA 99-52).
- Work with importers to provide brokers with certificate.

**Note: Import certification does not preclude FDA's authority to sample or examine shipments at any time.**

**THE FDA SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDE FOR ACE  
CONTAINS ALL FILING INFORMATION FOR FDA**

## CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Certification Requirements are structured into two categories:

List:	Applies to:	Key Information
Red	Specific Firms with evidence of Cs-137 contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to detention regardless of shipment certification.</li> <li>Removal from red list of IA 99-52 requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal from the red list of IA 99-51.</li> <li>Accredited TPP audit and certification to verify the control of Cs-137. Audit includes HACCP controls (21CFR Part123) for shrimp or Preventive Controls for (21CFR Part117) for spices.</li> <li>Post-Removal: Moved to yellow list of IA 99-52.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Yellow	Foods from certain regions with known Cs-137 contamination risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to have shipment certification from a CE attesting to absence of Cs-137.</li> <li>CE will submit certificate directly to FDA. Broker will submit shipment certificates via <a href="#">Import Trade Auxiliary Communications System (ITACS)</a>.</li> </ul>

## FDA CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- For specific questions on cesium and import certification: [HFP-ImportCertification-Cesium@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:HFP-ImportCertification-Cesium@fda.hhs.gov)
- For general import operation questions: [Imports@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Imports@fda.hhs.gov) or [Contact the FDA Import Program](#).

## OTHER RESOURCES

- FDA Website for Imported Foods Potentially Contaminated with Cs-137 [FDA Response to Imported Foods Potentially Contaminated with Cesium-137 | FDA](#)
- Import Certification: [Import Certification | FDA](#)

\*\*\* Please share this resource with your customs broker \*\*\*