Bivalve molluscs: hygiene requirements

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Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/1829 as regards specific hygiene rules for live bivalve molluscs

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has introduced the following changes to the hygiene requirements for live bivalve molluscs (Regulation 853/2004).

- Only molluscs that are ready to be sold to consumers must have an identification mark; unpurified molluscs sent for purification should not have this identification mark.
- The registration document required when exporting live molluscs to the EU has been updated, including the information needed and its official format.
- From 19 November 2028, businesses must use the EU's online Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) to issue registration documents. Exporters of molluscs and competent authorities in non-EU countries must take steps to ensure that issuing the registration document through TRACES is possible by that date, after which paper documents will no longer be accepted.
- The EU has introduced a clear definition of "re-immersion", which means keeping live molluscs in clean seawater tanks to maintain their condition.

Actions

Exporters of live bivalve molluscs must:

- ensure that unpurified live bivalve molluscs exported to the EU do not bear identification marks
- use the updated registration document for each consignment from 19 November 2026
- engage with national competent authorities to prepare for the issuing of registration documents in TRACES by November 2028.

Timeline

The amended hygiene requirements and registration document apply from **19 November 2026**.

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The requirement to issue registration documents through TRACES applies from **19 November 2028**.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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