



Changes to the EU IUU Regulation catch certification scheme

Council Regulation (EC) 1005/2008

DG MARE

INTRODUCTION

Key role of the EU in countering IUU fishing

According to estimates IUU fishing practices worldwide amount to between 9-21 billion EUR every year and represent around 19% of the worldwide reported value of catches

The EU is the world's largest importer of fishery products

The EU has therefore a key role to play and a responsibility in the global fishery production and market

Council Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 with its catch certification scheme started to apply in 2010

93 non-EU countries notified their authorities for exports, and many others are involved in traceability documentation

AMENDMENT OF THE EU IUU REGULATION

EU catch certification scheme becomes digital

**Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 amends
Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008**

Timeline of the changes

Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 adopted in November 2023

Entry into force 10 January 2024

Modifications to the catch certification scheme of the IUU Regulation started to apply 24 months after the entry into force of the new Regulation:

10 January 2026

CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME – main changes

- A. CATCH: mandatory use of this IT system for EU operators and controlling authorities in the EU Member States
- B. Modifications to content of documents and processes: punctual changes to ensure improved traceability along the supply chains and the correct functioning of the IT environment

A. CATCH - general functionalities, access, timeframe

What is CATCH

Integrated computerised information management system for the Catch Certification Scheme

- ❖ System for the integrated management, handling, storage and exchange of information and documents related to importation into the EU and, where relevant, exportation of fishery products.
- ❖ To be used to exchange import decisions (importer/authority), data and documents in relation to importation and, where relevant, exportation of fishery products.

Users of CATCH (I)

From 10 January 2026:

- ❖ EU importers must use CATCH to submit the required documentation for importation of consignments of fishery products to the competent authorities of the EU Member States
- ❖ Competent authorities of EU Member States must use CATCH to process submissions made by EU importers and provide feedback to them on the decision taken on the import

Users of CATCH (II)

- ❖ Non-EU countries' operators and authorities may also use CATCH directly, on a voluntary basis, to create, validate and transfer catch certificates (CCs) and related documents to the EU importer. **This is the preferred option to ensure digital document flows and procedures**
- ❖ In such cases, the EU importer must only complete the importer declaration and submit the CCs and related documents received in CATCH to the competent authorities of the EU Member State of importation
- ❖ Non-EU countries can continue creating and validating paper-based CCs and related documents. In these cases, the EU importer must introduce data included on paper documents into CATCH manually (and submit the scanned documents too)

Access to CATCH for non-EU countries

Article 6a(7) of the amended IUU Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009:

On receipt of an application, the Commission may grant the competent authority and operators of a third country partial access to the functionalities of CATCH and to specific data relevant to that third country for producing and validating the catch certificates and related documents in CATCH, provided the applicant demonstrates that it meets the following requirements:

- (a) it has the legal and operational capacity to provide, without undue delay, the assistance necessary to allow the good functioning of CATCH; and
- (b) it has designated a contact point for that purpose.

Expected benefits of CATCH

- ❖ Improve reliability of data
- ❖ Reduce risk of fraudulent certificates
- ❖ Facilitate controls and risk management
- ❖ Harmonise procedures
- ❖ Future link to EU Member States customs IT
- ❖ Speed up administrative procedures and facilitate the submission of data
- ❖ When non-EU countries' authorities and operators choose to use the system directly, facilitate the entire process as the workflow becomes entirely digital

B. Modification of the content of documents and procedures under the catch certification scheme

What has changed?

- ❖ From 10 January 2026

- ❖ Changes:

- Annex II – catch certificate
- Article 14(2) and Annex IV (use of processing statement)
- Introduction of a non-manipulation document (Article 14(1))

- ❖ However, old catch certificates and documents (validated before 10 January 2026) will be admissible for additional 24 months from date of application

Annex II

Catch certificate

What changes? (I)

- ❖ Identification of the fishing vessels: use of IMO/UVI number, fishing gear added
- ❖ Fishing activity: more precise fishing areas identified
 - ❖ FAO area; AND
 - ❖ EEZ OR High Sea; AND
 - ❖ RFMO (if applicable)
- ❖ Fishery product: the weight boxes have been clarified to ensure data consistency for quantity management
- ❖ Master's name and signature can be replaced by fishing licence holder's name and signature
- ❖ Transshipment/landing: clear distinction of these operations introduced

What changes? (II)

Transport appendix and importer declaration

- ❖ Transport details have been reviewed: some additional information and clarifications included
- ❖ Importer declaration: weight and product description data have been added to ensure product identification, consistency with customs procedures' data and quantity management – crucial for the future connection of CATCH with the EU Single Window Environment for Customs (EU CSW-CERTEX)

(i) EUROPEAN UNION CATCH CERTIFICATE									
Document number		Validating authority							
1. Name		Address		Telephone Fax					
2. Fishing vessel name		Flag - home port and registration number		Call sign		IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)			
Fishing licence no – valid until		Mobile satellite service no Telefax no Telephone no Email address (if issued)							
Fishing gear ⁽¹⁾									
3. Description of product		Type of processing authorised on board		4. References to applicable conservation and management measures					
Species	Product code	Catch area(s) and catch date(s) (from - to) ⁽²⁾	Estimated weight to be landed in kg	Net catch weight in kg	Verified weight landed (net catch weight in kg) ⁽³⁾				
5. Name of master of fishing vessel or of fishing licence holder - Signature									
6. Declaration of transshipment at sea		Signature and date		Transshipment date/area/position		Estimated weight (kg)			
Name of master of fishing vessel									
Master of receiving vessel		Signature		Vessel name		Call sign		IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)	
7. Transshipment and/or landing authorisation within a port area:									
Name	Authority	Signature	Address	Telephone	Port of landing (as appropriate)	Date of landing (as appropriate)	Seal (stamp)		
					Port of transshipment (as appropriate)	Date of transshipment (as appropriate)	Name and registration number of receiving vessel	Seal (stamp)	
							IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable) of receiving vessel		
8. Name and address of exporter		Signature		Date		Seal			
9. Flag State authority validation:									
Name/Title		Signature		Date		Seal (stamp)			
10. Transport details: See Appendix									

Catch certificate

How it looks like since 10 January 2026

Appendix

How it looks like since 10 January 2026

Appendix

TRANSPORT DETAILS ⁽¹⁾

1. Country of exportation Port/airport/other point of departure	2. Exporter signature	3. Point of destination		
Vessel name and flag Flight number/airway bill number Truck nationality and registration number Railway bill number Freight bill number Other transport documents (e.g. bill of lading, CMR ⁽²⁾ , air waybill)	Container number(s) list attached	Name	Address	Signature

⁽¹⁾ In the case of use of multiple modes of transport or multiple shipments, the information related to the transport has to be provided for each mode of transport used for each shipment.

⁽²⁾ Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road.

Article 14(2) and Annex IV

Use of processing statements

What changes?

- ❖ A processing statement (Annex IV) is required even in cases where the processing of the product takes place in the same country of the flag of the fishing vessel.
- ❖ This means that all processed products should be exported to the EU accompanied by a catch certificate AND a processing statement.
- ❖ The processing statement should refer to the related catch certificates that includes the quantity of fish used as raw material to produce the processed products to be exported to the EU.
- ❖ The requirement for a unique processing statement number has been added to ensure link between the statement and the catch certificate(s)

Statement under Article 14(2) of Council ►C1 Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 ◄ of 29 September 2008 establishing a ►M5 Union ◄ system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

DOCUMENT NUMBER (?):

I confirm that the processed fishery products: ... (product description and Combined Nomenclature code) have been obtained from catches under the following catch certificate(s):

Catch certificate number	Vessel name(s) and flag(s)	Validation date(s)	Catch description	Total landed weight (kg)	Catch processed (kg)	Processed fishery product (kg)

Name and address of the processing plant:

.....

Name and address of the exporter (if different from the processing plant):

.....

Approval number of the processing plant:

.....

Health certificate number and date:

.....

Responsible person of the processing plant:	Signature:	Date:	Place:

Endorsement by the competent authority:

.....

Official:	Signature and seal:	Date:	Place:

Processing statement

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How it looks like since 10 January 2026

Article 14(1)

Introduction of a non-manipulation document

What changes?

- ❖ Harmonisation of documentary requirements for the import into the EU of fishery products transported in the same form through a non-EU country other than the flag State or the State in which processing takes place
- ❖ The evidence that the fishery products did not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good and genuine condition, and remained under the surveillance of the competent authorities in that non-EU country

Why changes and how?

- ❖ Harmonisation of the traceability data required in relation to transport of fishery products from the point of export to the EU
- ❖ The template was adopted in a Delegated Regulation in December 2024 and applies since 10 January 2026

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/453 of 18 December 2024 supplementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 by establishing a template for the document referred to in Article 14(1), point (b)(ii), thereof

- ❖ The template must be used if the original consignment of fishery products has been split in the country through which these products have transited or have been stored. It must be signed by the authorities of that country
- ❖ The template is integrated in CATCH

Template for the document referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

Document number					
1. Declaring Authority					
Name					
Address					
Email				Tel.	
2. Arrival to the place of storage – details					
Place of departure of the product:					
Date of departure:					
Last port, airport or other point of departure before arrival to the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Date of arrival to the place of storage (unloading)					
Place of storage					
3. Consignment details (upon arrival to the place of storage)					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg entering the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg entering the place of storage
...					
4. Storage facility details					
Name	Address	Approval number (if applicable)	Stored as (tick as appropriate)		
			Chilled	Frozen	Other
5. Consignment details (upon departure from the place of storage)					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg leaving the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg leaving the place of storage
...					

Template of the non-manipulation document (I)

Template of the non-manipulation document (II)

6. Departure from the place of storage – details			
Date of departure from the place of storage(reloading)			
Port, airport or other point of departure from the country of storage			
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)			
Container number(s) (where applicable)			
Point of destination: Port, airport or other point of destination			
7. Exporter details			
Company name	Address	Date of submission of this document by exporter to the competent authority	
8. Declaration by the competent authority			
I hereby declare that the information provided in this document is correct and that the products concerned did not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good and genuine condition, and remained under the surveillance of the declaring authority.			
Name of the authority	Name and title of the official	Signature and seal	Date

Amendment of the IUU Implementing Regulation

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1522 of 28 July 2025 amending **Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009** laying down rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

What changes?

- ❖ Several changes were introduced.
To highlight - changes related to **simplified catch certificate**:
- ❖ Changes have been made to Article 6 in relation to the criteria for the use of the simplified catch certificate, *i.e. only the length of the vessel will be taken into account*
- ❖ The template of the simplified catch certificate has been adapted to the use of CATCH, especially box 3 on the list of vessels
- ❖ **The amended criteria and template will apply as of 10 January 2027**

Simplified form for fishery products fulfilling the requirements in Article 6 and 6a of this Regulation

(I) EUROPEAN UNION CATCH CERTIFICATE

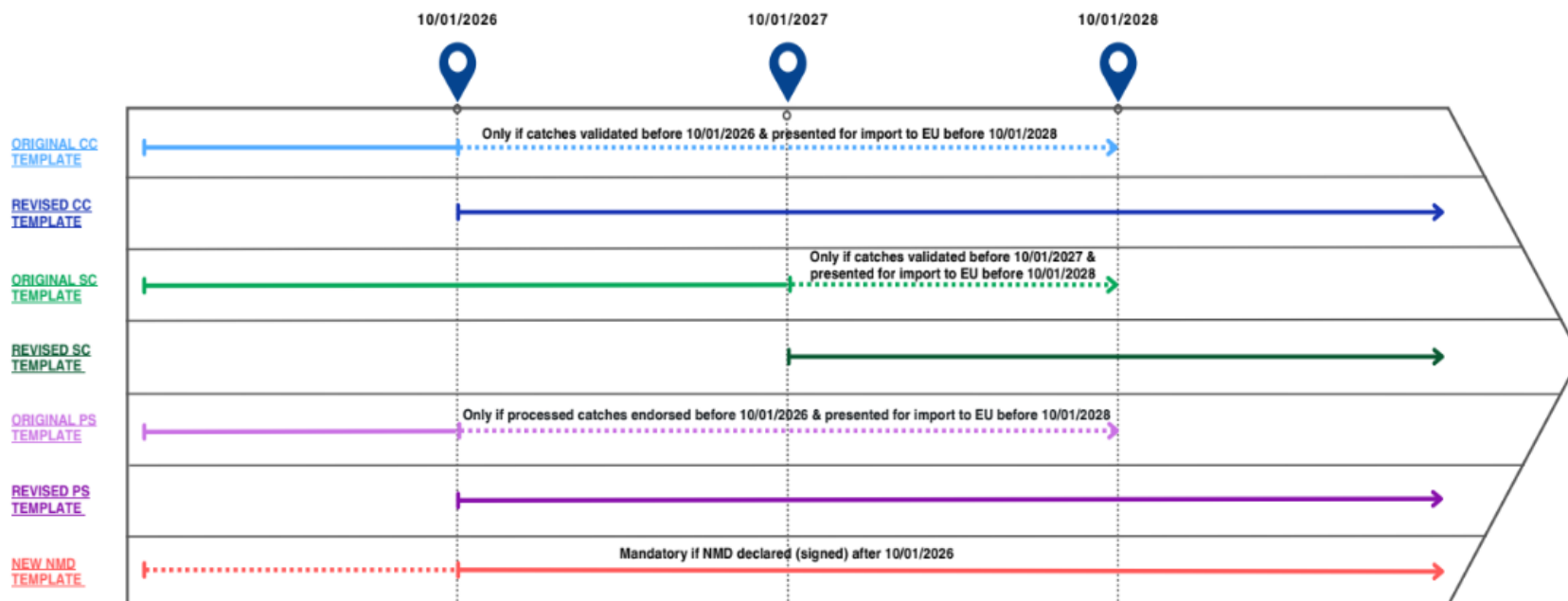
Simplified form for fishery products fulfilling the requirements in Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009

Document number				
Validating authority				
Name				
Address				
Email		Tel.		
1. Description of the product				
Species:		Product code	Verified weight landed (kg)	
2. Reference to applicable conservation and management measures				
3. List of vessels that have provided the catches (annexed)				
Name of the vessel	National registration number	Quantity(kg)	Catch date	
4. Exporter				
Name	Address/telephone	Signature	Date	Seal
5. Flag State validation:				
Name/title	Signature	Date	Seal (stamp)	
6. Transport details (see Appendix)				

Amended template of the simplified catch certificate

Transitional period / Use of templates

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE REVISED TEMPLATES AND TERMINATION OF THEIR PREVIOUS (ORIGINAL) VERSIONS.



Note:

CC: Catch Certificate
SC: Simplified Catch Certificate
PS: Processing Statement
NMD: Non-Manipulation Document

More information available on DG
MARE website:

https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/international/illegal-fishing_en

Thank you