

(f) *Labeling Imported Products That Have Not Undergone Substantial Transformation in the United States.* An imported covered commodity shall retain its origin as declared to U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the time the product entered the United States, through retail sale, provided that it has not undergone a substantial transformation (as established by U.S. Customs and Border Protection) in the United States.

(g) *Labeling Imported Products That Have Subsequently Been Substantially Transformed in the United States.*

(1) [Reserved]

(2) **Wild and Farm-Raised Fish and Shellfish:** If a covered commodity was imported from country X and subsequently substantially transformed (as established by U.S. Customs and Border Protection) in the United States or aboard a U.S. flagged vessel, such product shall be labeled at retail as "From [country X], processed in the United States."

(h) *Blended Products (Commingling of the same covered commodity).* (1) For imported covered commodities that have not subsequently been substantially transformed in the United States that are commingled with other imported covered commodities that have not been substantially transformed in the United States, and/or covered commodities of U.S. origin and/or covered commodities as described in §60.200(g), the declaration shall indicate the countries of origin for covered commodities in accordance with existing Federal legal requirements.

(2) For imported covered commodities that have subsequently undergone substantial transformation in the United States that are commingled with other imported covered commodities that have subsequently undergone substantial transformation in the United States (either prior to or following substantial transformation in the United States) and/or U.S. origin covered commodities, the declaration shall indicate the countries of origin contained therein or that may be contained therein.

(i) *Remotely Purchased Products.* For sales of a covered commodity in which the customer purchases a covered commodity prior to having an opportunity

to observe the final package (e.g., Internet sales, home delivery sales, etc.), the retailer may provide the country of origin notification and method of production (wild and/or farm-raised) designation either on the sales vehicle or at the time the product is delivered to the consumer.

§ 60.300 Markings.

(a) Country of origin declarations and method of production (wild and/or farm-raised) designations can either be in the form of a placard, sign, label, sticker, band, twist tie, pin tag, or other format that provides country of origin and method of production information. The country of origin declaration and method of production (wild and/or farm-raised) designation may be combined or made separately. Except as provided in §60.200(g) and 60.200(h) of this regulation, the declaration of the country(ies) of origin of a product shall be listed according to applicable Federal legal requirements. Country of origin declarations may be in the form of a check box provided it is in conformance with other Federal legal requirements. Various forms of the production designation are acceptable, including "wild caught", "wild", "farm-raised", "farmed", or a combination of these terms for blended products that contain both wild and farm-raised fish or shellfish, provided it can be readily understood by the consumer and is in conformance with other Federal labeling laws. Designations such as "ocean caught", "caught at sea", "line caught", "cultivated", or "cultured" are not acceptable substitutes. Alternatively, method of production (wild and/or farm-raised) designations may be in the form of a check box.

(b) The declaration of the country(ies) of origin and method(s) of production (wild and/or farm-raised) (e.g., placard, sign, label, sticker, band, twist tie, pin tag, or other display) must be placed in a conspicuous location, so as to render it likely to be read and understood by a customer under normal conditions of purchase.

(c) The declaration of the country(ies) of origin and the method(s) of production (wild and/or farm-raised) may be typed, printed, or handwritten provided it is in conformance with

other Federal labeling laws and does not obscure other labeling information required by other Federal regulations.

(d) A bulk container (*e.g.*, display case, shipper, bin, carton, and barrel), used at the retail level to present product to consumers, may contain a covered commodity from more than one country of origin and/or more than one method of production (wild and farm-raised) provided all possible origins and/or methods of production are listed.

(e) Abbreviations and variant spellings that unmistakably indicate the country of origin, such as "U.K." for "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" are acceptable. The adjectival form of the name of a country may be used as proper notification of the country(ies) of origin of imported commodities provided the adjectival form of the name does not appear with other words so as to refer to a kind or species of product. Symbols or flags alone may not be used to denote country of origin.

(f) State or regional label designations are not acceptable in lieu of country of origin labeling.

RECORDKEEPING

§ 60.400 Recordkeeping requirements.

(a) General.

(1) All records must be legible and may be maintained in either electronic or hard copy formats. Due to the variation in inventory and accounting documentary systems, various forms of documentation and records will be acceptable.

(2) Upon request by USDA representatives, suppliers and retailers subject to this subpart shall make available to USDA representatives, records and other documentary evidence that will permit substantiation of an origin claim and method(s) of production (wild and/or farm-raised), in a timely manner during normal hours of business and at a location that is reasonable in consideration of the products and firm under review.

(b) Responsibilities of Suppliers.

(1) Any person engaged in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer, whether directly or indirectly, must make available informa-

tion to the buyer about the country(ies) of origin and method(s) of production (wild and/or farm-raised), of the covered commodity. This information may be provided either on the product itself, on the master shipping container, or in a document that accompanies the product through retail sale provided that it identifies the product and its country(ies) of origin and method(s) of production, unique to that transaction by means of a lot number or other unique identifier. In addition, the supplier of a covered commodity that is responsible for initiating a country(ies) of origin and method(s) of production (wild and/or farm-raised) claim must possess records that are necessary to substantiate that claim.

(2) Any intermediary supplier (*i.e.*, not the supplier responsible for initiating a country of origin declaration and designation of wild and/or farm-raised) handling a covered commodity that is found to be designated incorrectly for country of origin and/or method of production (wild and/or farm-raised), shall not be held liable for a violation of the Act by reason of the conduct of another if the intermediary supplier could not have been reasonably expected to have had knowledge of the violation.

(3) Any person engaged in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer, whether directly or indirectly (*i.e.*, including but not limited to harvesters, producers, distributors, handlers, and processors), must maintain records to establish and identify the immediate previous source (if applicable) and immediate subsequent recipient of a covered commodity, in such a way that identifies the product unique to that transaction by means of a lot number or other unique identifier, for a period of 1 year from the date of the transaction.

(4) For an imported covered commodity (as defined in §60.200(f)), the importer of record as determined by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, must ensure that records: Provide clear product tracking from the port of entry into the United States to the immediate subsequent recipient and accurately reflect the country of origin and method of production (wild and/or