B Boreal Trade

CFIA EXPORT CERTIFICATION SUPPORT · SAMPLE 01

Which certificates Vietnam requires, across four seafood lines

Prepared for Bay of Fundy Seafoods Ltd., Digby, Nova Scotia · 21 September 2026

Illustrative worked example, not a client engagement. Bay of Fundy Seafoods Ltd. is a fictional company invented to show the shape of this deliverable, and its product list and establishment status are invented with it. Every regulatory value below is real: each was read off the primary source listed at the end and carries the date it was read.

What you asked

Which CFIA export certificates Vietnam requires for the four lines you want to ship, and whether your plant is in a position to obtain them. Your buyer asked for "the health certificate", which is a reasonable thing to say and not a thing that exists: there are four different answers across your four lines and one of them changes again depending on where the product goes after Vietnam.

Answer in one line

Your certificate is decided by the species, the water it came from and the onward destination, not by the product name. Two of your lines take one route, one takes another, and the re-export line has a trap in it that cannot be corrected after the fact.

1 · The certificate matrix for your lines

YOUR LINE	CLASSIFICATION	CERTIFICATES
Frozen haddock fillets	Non-live finfish, non-susceptible species	CFIA/ACIA 5003, Certificate of Origin and Hygiene, plus CFIA/ACIA 5633, sanitary certificate for fish and fishery products
Frozen Atlantic salmon fillets	Eviscerated fillets from a susceptible species out of waters declared infected	CFIA/ACIA 5003 plus AQAH-1112, aquatic animal health and sanitary certificate for chilled or frozen fillets and steaks
Live American lobster	Live aquatic animal, authorised species	CFIA/ACIA 5003 plus AQAH-1025, Aquatic Animal Health Certificate
Frozen groundfish blocks for reprocessing	Fish for reprocessing and re-export	CFIA/ACIA 5003 alone, carrying the statement "This consignment is intended for further processing and re-export to a third country"

Salmon is the line most often got wrong. It is not the species that puts it on the AQAH-1112 route, it is the combination of a susceptible species and waters declared infected, with the product presented as eviscerated fillets. Change any

of those three and the certificate changes with it.

> THE RE-EXPORT TRAP, WHICH CANNOT BE FIXED AFTERWARDS
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> Your groundfish blocks go to Vietnam for reprocessing. If the onward market is the European Union, or a country applying EU requirements, the consignment also needs form CFIA/ACIA FA1023 and your establishment must appear on the DG-SANTE list. CFIA's own advice is worth repeating: where the intended use is uncertain and EU re-export is possible, source from an establishment on the EU list and request the additional attestations at the time of the certification request. That is not a correction you can make later. Your buyer does not currently tell you where the reprocessed product goes, and until they do, this line carries a risk you cannot price.

2 · Live lobster carries a documentation step before CFIA will sign

For live species other than Pacific oyster, the exporter must give the inspector copies of every required import licence or permit, plus supporting documentation such as an affidavit that the exporter believes the permit is valid, before CFIA will issue the certificate.

So the Vietnamese import permit is not a document that follows the shipment. It is an input to your own Canadian certification, held by your importer, and you need a copy of it in hand before CFIA acts. Build that into the order process rather than the shipping process, because a sailing date does not move an inspector.

3 · Establishment listing: less than you feared, slower than you hoped

Who must be approved and listed	Only the final processing establishment
Exempt from listing	Establishments exporting authorised live aquatic animals, and cold stores that only hold product for export
Where the approval sits	Vietnam's Department of Animal Health and Production
Timing	**CFIA warns approval times are often lengthy and unpredictable, and that it cannot expedite an application**

Two useful consequences for you. Your Digby cold store does not need a listing, because it only holds product for export. And your live lobster programme does not need one either. Only the processing plant behind the haddock, salmon and groundfish lines does, and that is the item to start first because neither we nor CFIA can accelerate it.

4 · What travels with the goods, and what does not

A certificate is not a clearance. Worth separating in your own file, because the two get conflated and only one of them is your job.

DOCUMENT	OBTAINED	BY WHOM
CFIA export certificates above	Before shipment, in Canada	You, through CFIA
Vietnamese import permit for live product	Before certification	Your importer, and you need a copy
Establishment listing	Before the first shipment	Department of Animal Health and Production, on application

Additional statements on a certificate must be confirmed at national level by CFIA's food export section rather than arranged locally with an inspector. If your buyer asks for wording that is not on the form, that request goes up the

chain and takes time, so raise it when the order is agreed rather than when the container is packed.

5 · Two things outside the certificate that still stop the container

Testing on arrival

Vietnam applies its own maximum residue limits and microbiological requirements, product may be tested on arrival, and non-compliant product may be rejected. A correct certificate does not protect a consignment that fails a limit. If anything in your lines runs near a limit, get the Vietnamese figures rather than assuming Canadian compliance travels.

The expiry date

Covered in full in our label compliance sample and repeated here because it is a condition of entry rather than a labelling preference. Confirm with the plant, not the sales office, that production and expiry dates print on every pack including bulk formats.

6 · Gap register

- **Establishment listing for the processing plant.** Not held. Blocks the haddock, salmon and groundfish lines. Longest and least predictable item here; start it first.
- **Onward destination for the groundfish blocks.** *Buyer has not stated it.* Decides whether FA1023 and a DG-SANTE listing are needed, and that decision cannot be revisited after certification.
- **Copy of the Vietnamese import permit for live lobster.** *Importer to supply.* CFIA will not issue the certificate without it.
- **Residue position against Vietnamese limits.** *Not established.* Not a certificate question and it stops containers all the same.
- **Any additional buyer wording on the certificates.** *None requested yet.* Goes to CFIA's food export section nationally. Raise at order, not at packing.

Sources

- Vietnam: export requirements for fish and seafood, last modified 11 June 2026, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, read 19 September 2026. Eligibility by classification, the certificate matrix, the live-animal permit requirement, the re-export and EU conditions, and the listing rules. https://inspection.canada.ca/en/exporting-food-plants-animals/food-exports/requirements-library/vietnam-fish-and-seafood
- Vietnam: export requirements for meat and poultry products, last modified 21 July 2026, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, read 19 September 2026. Testing on arrival, and the expiry date as a condition of entry. https://inspection.canada.ca/en/exporting-food-plants-animals/food-exports/requirements-library/vietnam-meat-and-poultry-products
- Vietnam: export requirements for milk and dairy products, last modified 16 June 2026, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, read 19 September 2026. How additional statements are confirmed, and the position on negotiated certificates. https://inspection.canada.ca/en/exporting-food-plants-animals/food-exports/requirements-library/vietnam-milk-and-dairy-products

Boreal Trade · Illustrative worked example, not a client engagement. Bay of Fundy Seafoods Ltd. is fictional, and its product lines, plant and listing status are invented. Vietnam publishes its own requirements in Vietnamese and its legal repositories are not reachable from our network, so CFIA's statement of those requirements is the source here, and CFIA notes that parts of it come from external sources and should be confirmed there. Regulatory values are real and dated; confirm each against its source before committing to a shipment built on it.