



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

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COMMISSIONER

Country of Origin Labeling Requirements for Food Service Establishments

This letter is to inform you of changes in the Mississippi Catfish Marketing Law. Mississippi Law required that food service establishments, which include restaurants, cafeterias, lunch rooms, food stands, saloons, taverns, bars, lounges, snack bars, delis or other similar facility operated as an enterprise engaged in the business of selling food to the public, provide the consumer with the country of origin of catfish. **Food service establishments must now also inform the consumer of the country of origin of fish in the families of Siluridae, Clariidae, and Pangasiidae, commonly known as basa, swai and tra, among others.**

What you need to know about the new Mississippi Catfish Marketing Law:

1. Effective July 1, 2013

2. Country of Origin Labeling for catfish and/or basa, swai and tra:

- a. The food service establishments must include a statement adjacent to the item on the menu stating the Country of Origin and method of production as it pertains to catfish and/or basa, swai and tra. "Menu" includes any listing of food and beverage options for a diner or customer to select from regardless of its form.
 - a. **Example 1: Farm-Raised Basa (product of applicable country)**
 - b. **Example 2: Wild-Caught Swai (product of applicable country)**
- b. The statement must also be printed in the same font size and style as the item.
- c. However, if the catfish and/or basa, swai and tra are produced in the United States the food service establishments may generally disclose the Country of Origin in a **prominent location**.
 - a. **Examples: Wall sign or poster that is easily identified or table tent identification**

It is the responsibility of the distributor or wholesaler engaged in the business of supplying catfish and/or basa, swai and tra to a food service establishment to provide the following information about these products: Type, Method of Production and Country of Origin. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has regulatory responsibility for the enforcement of this law. The law can be found in Sections 69-7-601 to 617 in the *Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated*.

If you have any questions, then please contact Mr. Gene Robertson, Deputy Bureau Director at 601-359-1111.

