

Sanitary Protocol for Import of Ornamental Fishes into India

1. Pre Import Requirements

1.1. Import of ornamental fish species falling under any or all of the following categories shall not be allowed:

- a. Aquatic organism identified as dangerous as it:
 - can cause injury to human beings (possess venomous spines/poisonous flesh/toxins/special defense mechanism).
 - has possibilities of attacking and inflicting injuries to human beings and animals
 - is a known vector or carrier of pathogens
- b. Species as listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) or in the threatened list of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) or that of the exporting country's threatened list. However, if the source of the endangered fish is cultured and the exporting country's competent authority certifies it, then it can be permitted.
- c. Species under any other ban imposed on the import due to national legislation or international treaties/conventions.
- d. Invasive species exhibiting well documented deleterious impacts in India or other countries having environmental conditions similar to India.
- e. The imported fishes shall not be genetically modified varieties.

1.2 A list of ornamental fishes is given at Annexure-I, which may be imported into India subject to these sanitary protocols as well as other procedural requirements for such import including the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India.

2. Mode of application.

2.1. The DGFT shall obtain technical information from the applicant intending to import ornamental fish in the prescribed format (Annexure II) for examination by DADF for issuing NOC.

2.2. The application seeking permit for import of an ornamental fish species shall be accompanied with color photographs of specimens of different sizes (one at the juvenile stage and another at adult stage) and should contain the scientific name of that species.

2.3 The photograph should be of the specimens of the species from where the import is proposed and not from published or other sources. Without these, the application for permit shall be rejected.

3. Port of entry: Import of fish shall be allowed only through Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi and Visakhapatnam.

4. Packaging and Transport

4.1. The packaging shall facilitate easy inspection of the consignment by the Quarantine Officer at the port of entry.

4.2. The ornamental fish to be imported must be packaged in leak-proof bags, each bag containing only one species, must not be exceeded the standard stocking density. The bag must be transparent to enable proper inspection and identification of the aquatic animals and must not contain any extraneous matter, unapproved plant material, pests or unauthorized species.

4.3. Each bag must be placed within polystyrene boxes or cartons fitted with a plastic inner lining. Each box or carton must be clearly identified with label mentioning name and number of fish species and identification number of each box/carton. In case, any sedative/anesthetic has been used during transport, it should be clearly mentioned in the packaging list.

5. Documents to be accompanied:

5.1 The consignment must be accompanied by relevant documents including case history paper and photograph of species, copy of import permit, copy of quarantine certificate and other documents issued by the transport authority of exporting country.

5.2. A certificate from the Competent Authority of the exporting country to the effect that:

- i) the fishes are not genetically modified; and
- ii) the fishes are free from all the relevant OIE listed diseases of fishes as per the current OIE Code.

6. Importer must make all reasonable efforts to expedite the clearance of the consignment and its transport to destination.

7. Trans-shipment: In case of trans-shipment the consignment should be held in a sterile area of the trans-shipment point.

8. Quarantine

8.1. Every species of ornamental fish imported into the country shall have to be subjected to the quarantine procedures in a quarantine facility accredited by the Competent Authority.

8.2. The consignment of imported ornamental fishes shall be accompanied by an import license issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) based on the NOC issued by DADF alongwith pre-quarantine certificate issued by the competent authority of exporting country stating that the farm (from where the consignment is exported) is covered under their national aquatic animal health surveillance or a pre-quarantine certificate.

8.3. On arrival of the consignment, accompanying pre-quarantine certificate should be verified and imported species should be rechecked at the quarantine facility and certificate of quarantine would be issued by designated authority.

8.4. Upon clearance from the port of entry, the consignment shall be transferred immediately to the accredited quarantine facility as accredited/approved by the Competent Authority.

8.5. On receipt of consignment at quarantine facility, the species should be subjected to quarantine protocol prescribed for particular species.

8.6. The imported fishes would undergo quarantine in approved quarantine premises as follows.

- a) Gold fish – 21 days.
- b) Other ornamental fishes – 15 days

8.7. After satisfactory completion of quarantine, the consignment should be released to the importer with quarantine certificate.

8.8. Direct sale of imported broodstocks in the domestic market shall not be allowed and only F1 and F2 progeny shall be released for domestic or international market.

9. Penalties for violations

9.1. The importer shall keep in mind the biosafety, biohazards and economic interest of the nation. Any biosafety and other related hazards arising out of release of the imported fish into the natural waters entirely the responsibility of importer/importing organization/indenter and should be liable to be proceeded against with the accordance with the relevant rules of Government of India.

9.2. In case, the consignment does not pass quarantine, the entire consignment shall be destroyed at importers cost as per the prescribed protocols.

9.3. If during the course of inspection, it comes to the notice of the Competent Authority that the importer willfully suppressed certain important information/deliberately furnished wrong information or that the species sought to be imported and the one actually imported are not the same or that the species sought to be imported and the one actually imported are not the same or that the imported specimens also consist of species for which approval has not been obtained, the import permit shall be cancelled forthwith and all the specimens imported destroyed without any notice to or permission of the importer.

9.4. The importer shall take abundant care to prevent any accidental escape and willful release of the exotic ornamental fish into natural waters. In spite of this in the event of accidental escape/ willful release of fish into natural waters, the matter should be reported to the competent authority and the nearest quarantine centre.

10. Post quarantine Inspection: The Competent Authority shall have right to carry out the post quarantine inspection of hatchery, rearing facility and farms of the importers to confirm the specified norms for assuring the imported fishes are used for the purpose for which they are imported; and to look at the magnitude of multiplication and horizontal spread of the imported fish species. The importer shall submit quarterly status report on transport, breeding, rearing and retail etc. after the import.

Indicative List of ornamental fishes to be considered for import

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
1.	Tinfoil Barb	<i>Puntius schwanenfeldi</i> / <i>P. orphide</i> / <i>P.daruphani</i>
2.	Tiger Barb	<i>Puntius tetrazona</i> / <i>P.partipentazana</i>
3.	Black Ruby Barb	<i>Puntius nigrofasciatus</i>
4.	Clown Barb	<i>Barbodes everetti</i>
5.	Longfin Rosy Barb	<i>Barbus conchoni</i>
6.	Filament Barb	<i>Barbus conchoni</i>
7.	Scissortail Rasbora	<i>Rasbora trilineata</i>
8.	Yellowtail Rasbora	<i>Rasbora dusonensis</i>
9.	Redtail Rasbora	<i>Rasbora borapetensis</i>
10.	Dwarf Rasbora	<i>Rasbora maculata</i>
11.	Harlequin Rasbora	<i>Rasbora heteromorpha</i>
12.	Green Line Rasbora	<i>Rasbora beauforti</i>
13.	Slender Gold Rasbora	<i>Rasbora einthovenii</i>
14.	Golden Line Rasbora	<i>Rasbora agilis</i>
15.	Zebra Barb	<i>Rasbora pauciperforata</i>
16.	Redtail Black Shark	<i>Labeo bicolor</i>
17.	Rainbow Shark	<i>Labeo erythrurus</i>
18.	Albino Rainbow Shark	<i>Labeo frenatus</i>
19.	Black Shark	<i>Labeo chrysophekadion</i>
20.	Silver Shark	<i>Balantiocheilos melanopterus</i>
21.	Blood Parrot Cichlids	<i>Cichlasoma synspilum</i>
22.	Texas Cichlid	<i>Cichlasoma carpinte</i>
23.	Emerald Cichlid/Parrot Fish	<i>Cichlasoma temporalis</i>
24.	Convict Cichlid	<i>Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum</i>
25.	Trout Cichlid	<i>Cichlasoma citrinellum</i>
26.	Peacock bass	<i>Cichlasoma ocellaris</i>
27.	Firemouth cichlid	<i>Cichlasoma meeki</i>
28.	Red terror	<i>Cichlasoma festae</i>
29.	Green terror	<i>Aequidens rivulatus</i>
30.	Dwarf Cichlid	<i>Apistogramma luelingi</i>
31.	Flower horn	<i>Amphilophus labiatus</i>
32.	Pearl Gourami	<i>Trichogaster leerii</i>
33.	Moonlight Gourami	<i>Trichogaster microlepis</i>
34.	Blue Gourami	<i>Trichogaster trichopterus</i>
35.	Dwarf Gourami	<i>Trichogaster lalius</i>
36.	Thick-lipped Gourami	<i>Trichogaster labiosa</i>
37.	Snake Skin Gourami	<i>Trichogaster pectoralis</i>
38.	Giant Gourami	<i>Osphronemus goramy</i>
39.	Gold fish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
40.	Red Oranda	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
41.	Red Cap Oranda	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
42.	Blue Oranda	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
43.	Red Ryukins	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
44.	Red & White Ryukins	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
45.	Celestial Gold	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
46.	Pearl Scale Gold	<i>Carassius auratus</i>

47.	Bubble Eye Gold	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
48.	Clown Loach	<i>Botia macracantha</i>
49.	Orange -finned Loach	<i>Botia modesta</i>
50.	Skunk Loach	<i>Botia morleti</i>
51.	Dwarf -chained Loach	<i>Botia sidthimunki</i>
52.	Silver Loach	<i>Botia lecontei</i>
53.	Zebra Loach	<i>Botia striata</i>
54.	Blue Loach	<i>Botia rubripinnis</i>
55.	Guppy	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>
56.	Molly/Live Bearers	<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>
57.	Sword Tail	<i>Xiphophorus helleri</i>
58.	Platy	<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>
59.	Koi Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
60.	Fire Goby	<i>Nemateleotris magnifica</i>
61.	Fighting Fish	<i>Betta splendens</i>
62.	Short Tail	<i>Betta imbellis</i>
63.	Blue Betta	<i>Betta smaragdina</i>
64.	Butterfly Fish	<i>Chaetodon ephippium/ C.ornatissimus</i>
65.	Orange Clown Fish	<i>Amphiprion percula</i>
66.	Fire Clown Fish	<i>Amphiprion melanopus</i>
67.	Damsel Fish	<i>Abudefduf bicolor</i>
68.	Twotone Tang	<i>Zebrasoma scopas</i>
69.	Blue Powder Tang	<i>Acanthurus leucosternon/ A. triosegus</i>
70.	Angel Fish	<i>Pterophyllum scalare</i>
71.	High Fin Sucker	<i>Myxocyprinus asiaticus</i>
72.	Black Ghost	<i>Apteronotus albifrons</i>
73.	Oscar Cichlid	<i>Astronotus ocellatus</i>
74.	Discus	<i>Symphysodon discus/ S.aequifasciata</i>
75.	Blue Discus	<i>Symphysodon aequifasciata axelrodi</i>
76.	Phantom Tetra	<i>Hyphessobrycon megalopterus</i>
77.	Bleeding Heart Tetra	<i>Hyphessobrycon erythrostigma</i>
78.	Black Neon Tetra	<i>Hyphessobrycon herbertaxelrodi</i>
79.	Lemon Tetra	<i>Hyphessobrycon pulchripinis</i>
80.	Rosy Tetra	<i>Hyphessobrycon ornatus</i>
81.	Serpae Tetra	<i>Hyphessobrycon serpae</i>
82.	Gold Spotted Tetra	<i>Hyphessobrycon griemi</i>
83.	Cardinal Tetra	<i>Paracheirodon axelrodi</i>
84.	Neon Tetra	<i>Paracheirodon innesi</i>
85.	Green Neon Tetra	<i>Paracheirodon simulans</i>
86.	Red Parrot	<i>Hoplarchus psittacus</i>
87.	Yellow Face Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus xanthometopon</i>
88.	Royal Angelfish	<i>Pygoplytes diacanthus</i>
89.	Elegant Firefish	<i>Nemateleotris decora</i>
90.	Sunset Anthias	<i>Pseudanthias parvirostris</i>
91.	Humphead Wrasse	<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>
92.	Yellowtail Emperor	<i>Letbrinus crocineous</i>

Format for providing technical information to DGFT for obtaining license for import of ornamental fishes

Name & address of the importer:

- 1.0 1.1 Name of the fish (common name/s) :
- 1.2 Scientific name :
- 1.3 Name of the country where from the species is proposed to be imported:
- 2.0 Source of origin (Wild/cultured):
- 3.0 Purpose of the import (Breeding/ direct selling etc.):
 - 3.1 Import details :
 - 3.2 Life stage to be imported (Juvenile/immature/ adult/ Brood stock):
 - 3.3 Quantity/ Size of import :
 - 3.4 Average weight (g) :
 - 3.5 Average length (cm) :
- 4.0 Genetic profile
 - 4.1 If developed – Originals/ Stocks used for the development:
 - 4.2 Genetic mechanism used for developing
(Selection/hybridization/ genetic engineering)
- 5.0 Details of earlier import:
 - 5.1. Details of License issued by DGFT
 - 5.2. Year of import:
 - 5.3. Number of permitted species:
 - 5.4. Total number imported:
 - 5.5. Number of fish imported against each permitted variety:
 - 5.6. End use of the imported varieties in details:
- 6.0. Are the imported ornamental fish meant for export/internal market:
- 7.0 Name and Address of the firm/person importing the fish :
- 8.0 The place/Hatchery where the imported fish will be kept:
- 9.0 Whether quarantine facility is there or not:

Date

Signature of importer

Seal

Essential enclosures:

1. Photographs of organisms to be imported (The photograph should be of the specimens of the species from where the import is proposed and not from published or other sources).
2. Address of hatchery/Farm where the fish will be maintained after import.

Instruction for filling the application:

1. For each species use a separate proforma.
2. No column should be left blank (N.A. may be put where no information available).