

**[NFA LETTER CIRCULAR NO. AO 2K2-01-001,
January 21, 2002]**

**AMENDMENT TO LC AO-2K1-008-001 ON NFA SHIPPING
CLEARANCE PRIOR TO LOADING OF RICE IN ANY WATER VESSEL
INCREASING MINIMUM NUMBER OF BAGS SUBJECT THEREOF**

Pursuant to the powers granted to the National Food Authority under Presidential Decree No. 4 as amended, to devise and maintain a system for regularly obtaining information on current stock positions of rice, their prices and movements, this amendatory Letter Circular is hereby issued for the information and compliance of all concerned:

1. All shippers of rice by means of water transport, whose volume is One Hundred Fifty (150) metric tons (i.e. 3,000 bags @ 50 kg net) and above, shall be required to apply to the nearest NFA office, for a NFA Shipping Clearance prior to loading. This covers rice of local and foreign origin. The application shall be accomplished in triplicate copies using the prescribed form stating among others the quantity, value, names of shipper and consignee.

For the purpose of this Circular, the term "water transport" shall mean and include, but not limited to vessel, boat, barge and other water crafts. Rice commodities could either be a full container load (FCL) and/or a less container load (LCL), which includes stocks loaded on trucks on board ferry boats.

2. Both shipper and consignee should be duly licensed by NFA as wholesaler/transporter. In case the rice to be shipped are imported, the shipper/transporter should likewise be a licensed NFA importer and duly granted NFA Import Permit. If the shipper/transporter is not the direct importer and have just acquired/bought the commodities from another wholesaler or importer, he/she should possess documentary evidences such as Invoices issued by the seller/importer and the corresponding NFA licenses/permits of the same.
3. Consignees of all rice shipments whether required a NFA Shipping Permit or not should be able to present for their protection. Sales Invoices and NFA licenses/import/shipping clearance when demanded by NFA investigators and/or other enforcement agencies. Absence of these documents or possession of spurious documents shall be a ground for seizure and detention and eventual forfeiture of stocks by the NFA in coordination with the Bureau of Customs and/or by other enforcement agencies in accordance with the procedures under the Constitution and the Tariff and Customs Code.
4. To ensure adherence and compliance to quality, packaging and labeling standards under L/C No. AO-97-08-001 known as Phil. Grains Standards for Rice and Corn, all shippers are required to show samples of empty sacks