

**[ DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 4, s. 1998, May 27, 1998 ]**

**REVISED GUIDELINES IN THE IMPORTATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8178, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Tariffication Act" expressly repealed Section 23 (10) of Republic Act No. 7607, entitled "An Act Providing a Magna Carta for Small Farmers," which states, among others, that importation shall not be allowed on agricultural products that are produced locally in sufficient quantity;"

WHEREAS, prior to the passage of R.A. 8178, Memorandum Order No. 95 was issued on 27 February 1993, directing this Department, the Central Bank, and the Bureau of Customs, to draw up a mechanism to ensure compliance with Section 23 (10) of RA 7607;

WHEREAS, by virtue of said directive, this Department issued Administrative Order No. 23, series of 1993, providing for the Guidelines for Implementing Memorandum Order No. 95;

WHEREAS, said Memorandum Order No. 95 has likewise been deemed repealed, amended, or modified accordingly;

WHEREAS, there is a need to formalize the revised guidelines in the importation of agricultural products, specifically, but not limited to corn and corn substitutes, live poultry, poultry meat and meat products, live hogs, pork and pork products;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Republic Act No. 8178, the following revised guidelines are promulgated:

1. Application of L/Cs or other modes of payment for the importation of agricultural products need to be accompanied by a sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) certificate<sup>[\*]</sup> from the DA and/or DA's concerned agencies as a prerequisite. Import permits providing for volume/quantity restrictions are no longer applicable.
2. Importation of agricultural products, when applicable, must be accompanied by a Minimum Access Volume (MAV) Import Certificate issued by the MAV Secretariat, in order that the importer may avail of the in-quota tariff rate.
3. Further, the release of these goods shall be subject to inspection by the Department or its authorized agencies at the port of entry to ensure compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards. Upon release from customs custody, imported agricultural products shall also be subject to existing SPS inspection regulations.