

[NTA, March 25, 2004]

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE EXPORTATION AND IMPORTATION OF LEAF TOBACCO, TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND OTHER TOBACCO RELATED SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND INGREDIENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Pursuant to Section 3 (B)(1) of Executive Order No. 245, in relation to Section 1 thereof and Section 4 (c) of Presidential Decree No. 930 and of the state policy to keep strict and constant control over exportation and importation of tobacco and tobacco products to at least minimize manipulation and misdeclaration, the following rules and regulations are hereby prescribed and promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:

ARTICLE I

Title, Purpose, Objectives and Construction

SECTION 1. Title. - These rules and regulations shall be known and cited as the "Tobacco Exportation and Importation Rules and Regulations".

SECTION 2. Purpose and Objective. - These rules and regulations are promulgated to prescribe the procedure and guidelines in order to facilitate the processing of exportation and importation of leaf tobacco and tobacco products and for other purposes.

SECTION 3. Construction. - These rules and regulations shall be liberally construed and applied in accordance with and in furtherance of the policy and objectives hereof. In case of conflict and/or ambiguity, which may arise in the implementation of these rules and regulations, the NTA shall issue the necessary clarification.

ARTICLE II

Declaration of Policy

SECTION 4. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the government to promote the balanced and integrated growth and development of the tobacco industry to help make agriculture a solid basis for industrialization by administering and regulating the exportation and importation of leaf tobacco and tobacco products.

ARTICLE III

Definition of Terms

SECTION 5. Definition of Terms. - As used in these rules and regulations, the following terms shall mean as follows:

- a. NTA - refers to the National Tobacco Administration.
- b. Administrator - refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the NTA.
- c. Authority To Export - is a written authority issued by the NTS to a qualified exporter of tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients.
- d. Authority To Import - is a written authority issued by the NTA to a qualified importer of tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients.
- e. Export Commodity Clearance - is a written declaration issued by the NTA allowing the exportation of the specific commodity, quality and quantity in terms of kilos/cases.
- f. Import Commodity Clearance - is a written declaration issued by the NTA allowing the importation of the specific commodity, quality and quantity in terms of kilos/cases.
- g. Exporter - refers to a person, natural or juridical, duly authorized by the NTA to bring out from the country manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco.
- h. Importer - refers to a person, natural or juridical, duly licensed to manufacture/sell/distribute tobacco products in the Philippines and authorized by the NTA to bring in to the country manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco for local manufacturing/sale/distribution.
- i. Manufactured Tobacco - refers to any product that consists of loose tobacco that contains nicotine and is intended for use in a cigarette, including any product containing tobacco and intended for smoking or oral or nasal use.
- j. Unmanufactured Tobacco - refers to agricultural component derived from the tobacco plant, which are processed for use in the manufacturing of cigarettes and other tobacco products.
- k. Processing Fee - refers to the fee imposed by the NTA for the services rendered in the processing, evaluation and documentation of the exportation and importation of leaf tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients.
- l. Monitoring, Regulation, supervision and/or Evaluation Fee - refers to the fee imposed by the NTA for the monitoring, regulation, supervision and/or evaluation of the exportation and importation of leaf tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients.
- m. MDRD - refers to the Market Development and Regulation Department.
- n. BOC - Bureau of Customs
- o. BIR - Bureau of Internal Revenue; and
- p. DTI - Department of Trade and Industry.

ARTICLE IV

Application and Issuance of an Authority to Export and Import Leaf

Tobacco and Tobacco Products

SECTION 6. Qualifications. - Any person of legal age and having the legal capacity to enter into a contract, a corporation, partnership, company, cooperative, or any other juridical entity, and duly licensed to manufacture/sell/distribute tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients in the Philippines, may apply with the NTA for the issuance of an Authority to Export or Import tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients.

SECTION 7. Requirements. - Application for an Authority to Export or Import tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients (MDRD Form No. E & I) shall be filed with the Office of the Administrator, through the MDRD, supported by the following documents:

- a) Business registration of Articles of Incorporation/By-Laws (For new applicant);
- b) Copy of Income Tax Return and Financial Statement for the previous year;
- c) Name of Company's officers and their designation;
- d) Official designation of the officer/s, as duly authorized representative/s of the company;
- e) Information Sheet of the designated/authorized representative/s of the company;
- f) Photocopy of NTA Official Receipt indicating full payment of the processing and permit fees; and
- g) Photocopy of the Mayor's Permit for the current year, issued by the municipality where the establishment is located.

SECTION 8. Processing of Application, Issuance of Authority and Fees. - The MDRD shall process the application within three (3) working days from receipt thereof and shall recommend the same to the Administrator for his approval. The applicant shall pay a non-refundable fee for the processing and issuance of an authority to export/import and other related services, as follows:

A. License/Permit Fee (Annual)

1. Exportation	PhP7,500.00, per application
2. Importation	7,500.00, per application

SECTION 9. Validity of the Authority. - The Authority to Export or Import tobacco, tobacco products and other tobacco related supplies, materials and ingredients shall be valid within the calendar year of issuance.