

**[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 16, S. 2000,
April 27, 2000]**

**RULES, REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, STANDARDS, AND
PROCEDURES ON THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT
PRODUCTS INTO THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, there were series of disease outbreaks (e.g., Foot and Mouth Disease, Mad Cow Disease (BSE), Avian Influenza, among others) and contaminations (e.g. dioxin, etc.) in countries where the Philippines sources its meat and meat products;

WHEREAS, there is a need to prevent the entry of disease-carrying, contaminated, and/or adulterated meat and/or meat products, which endanger the lives and safety/health of the consuming public and are potentially causing serious economic consequences on the livestock and poultry industry;

WHEREAS, there is a need to issue an integrated, rationalized, improved, and transparent rules and regulations governing the importation of meat and meat products to ensure the safety/health and quality of imported meat and meat products.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDGARDO J. ANGARA, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the Consumer Act of the Philippines and Section 18, Chapter 4, Title IV, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292, do hereby issue this Order governing the importation of meat and meat products:

Section 1. Definition of Terms . As contemplated in this Order, the following terms, words and phrases herein used shall be construed to mean as follows:

A. *Meat* — refers to fresh, chilled or frozen part of carcass, including edible offal derived from but not limited to cattle, buffalo, pig, poultry, goat, sheep, and horse but excluding meat derived from marine animals and those prohibited animals under the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*.

B. *Meat Products* — refer to meat referred above, which have been subjected to treatment by cooking, drying, salting, brining or smoking.

C. *Qualified Importer* — refers to any National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) accredited processor, traders, hotels, resorts, restaurants, supermarkets, among other entities dealing with the same with valid Veterinary Quarantine Clearance issued by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

D. *Qualified Exporter* – refers to the owner of the foreign meat plant accredited by the DA and recognized/accredited by the government veterinary authority of the exporting country.

E. *International Veterinary/Health Certificate* – refers to a certificate issued by the authorized government veterinary authority/officer of the country of origin, attesting, among others that the goods conform/satisfy with the sanitary/veterinary requirements/standards of the Philippines as prescribed in the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance issued by the DA.

F. *Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC)/SPS Import Permit* – refers to a document issued by the DA, setting the quarantine and laboratory procedures and conditions within which the meat and/or meat products shall be subject to by the exporting country prior to shipment.

G. *Office International des Epizootic (OIE)* – refers to the international organization recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures as the body responsible for establishing the animal veterinary and health standards/guidelines (OIE Animal Health Code).

H. *Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX)* – refers to the body recognized by the WTO Agreement on the Application of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures as the body responsible for setting the standards codes of practice, guidelines and recommendations on food quality and safety.

I. *Adulterated Food* – meat and meat products shall be deemed adulterated:

1) If it bears or contains any poisonous or deleterious substance, which may render it injurious to health; but in case the substance is not an added substance, such food shall not be considered adulterated under this clause if the quantity of such product does not ordinarily render such food injurious to health;

2) If it bears or contains any added poisonous or deleterious substance other than one which is (i) a pesticide chemical, (ii) a food additive, and (iii) color additive for which tolerances have been established and conforms to such tolerances;

3) It consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid or decomposed substance; or if it is otherwise unfit for human consumption;

4) If it has been prepared, packed or held under unsanitary conditions whereby it may have become

contaminated with filth or whereby it may have been rendered injurious to health;

5) If it is, in whole or part, the product of the deceased animal or of an animal, which died of causes other than by slaughtered; or

6) If its container is composed, in whole or in part, of any poisonous or deleterious substance, which may render the contents injurious to health.

J. Substandard – meat and meat products shall be deemed substandard:

1) If any valuable constituent has been, in whole or in part, omitted or abstracted therefrom and the same has been substituted by any healthful equivalent or such constituent;

2) If any substance, not of valuable constituent, has been added or substituted or in part thereof;

3) If damage or inferiority has been concealed in any manner; or

4) If any substance has been added thereto or packed therewith so as to increase its bulk or weigh, reduced its quantity or strength, or make it appear of better or greater value than it actually is.

Section 2. Covered Products . Only meat and meat products referred to in ANNEX "A" as defined in Section 1 (A) and (B) are covered by this Order.

Section 3. Requirements at the Country of Origin

A. Before a qualified exporter can ship-into the Philippines meat and/or meat products, it must first secure a copy of the approved VQC/SPS Import Permit referred to in Section IV.

B. The shipment (imported meat and meat products) shall be accompanied by an International Veterinary/Health Certificate issued by the federal or national government veterinary authority at the country of origin attesting that the shipment conforms with the veterinary condition/requirements of the Philippines.

C. Only frozen meat slaughtered within 3 months are allowed for exports to the Philippines.

D. The government veterinary authority of the country maintaining exports to the Philippines shall submit a monthly report on their disease conditions (based on the OIE format) to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

E. The government veterinary authority shall report to the BAI any outbreak of OIE notifiable diseases as soon as possible but should not exceed a week from the date it has actually confirmed the outbreak.

F. Outbreak of a disease shall cause the temporary ban on the exportation of the affected meat and/or meat products into the Philippines. Lifting of the temporary ban shall be in accordance with the recommendations/advisory of OIE and the considerations of the measures taken by the government veterinary authorities of the country and the exporter.

Section 4. Application for Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (SPS Import Permit)

A. A qualified importer as defined under Section 1 (C) who intends to import meat and/or meat products must submit a verified (notarized) application, together with the documents referred to in ANNEX "B", for a Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC)/SPS Import Permit to the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and for consideration and approval of the Secretary of Agriculture prior to the shipping of goods into the country.

B. The BAI, in consultation with the NMIC as may be necessary, shall evaluate and may approve the application for VQC if the submitted documents are complete and are in order. Approved VQC with BAI seal and the Secretary's signature shall be released upon payment of the necessary fee.

C. The BAI shall issue a VQC per container van of meat and/or meat products to be imported. The issued VQC is only valid for one shipment.

D. The VQC is valid for 3 months from the date of issue. A 30-day extension must be secured from the BAI when the shipment is already made within the validity of the VQC but will arrive during the expiration of the same. For this purpose, the original VQC shall be surrendered to the BAI for evaluation and extension. The VQC being extended shall be released upon payment of the necessary payment fee.

Section 5. Requirements from an Importer

A. At least three (3) days prior to the expected arrival of the shipment, the importer shall inform the BAI by submitting the accomplished Notice of Arrival. This Notice shall contain, among others, the kind of meat and meat products imported,