



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 48
Series of 2022

SUBJECT : EXTENSION OF ACCREDITATION VALIDITY OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES WITH FOR REVALIDATION STATUS

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 10611, also known as the Food Safety Act of 2013, stipulates that the Department of Agriculture (DA) along with relevant national agencies, are responsible to strengthen the food safety regulatory system in the country to achieve economic growth and development by promoting fair trade practices and sound regulatory foundation for domestic and international trade;

WHEREAS, RA No. 9296 as amended by RA 10536, otherwise known as the Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines, provides the general guidelines governing the sanitary regulations in handling, processing, distribution, marketing and trading of meat and meat products;

WHEREAS, DA Administrative Order (AO) No. 16, Series of 2006, otherwise known as the Pre-Border Measures for the Export of Meat and Meat Products to the Philippines, provides procedures and guidelines in the accreditation of Foreign Meat Establishments (FME) producing meat and meat products for export into the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Section X of DA AO No. 16, Series of 2006, provides that FMEs or countries accredited after the issuance of an AO shall be audited two years from the approval of the accreditation and every three years thereafter. Further, the frequency of audit may be modified in accordance with the history of compliance of the individual FMEs;

WHEREAS, due to the large number of countries requesting for new market access and revalidation of accreditation, the DA-Interagency Pre-Inspection Committee (PIC), as the governing body assigned to evaluate the applicant countries, shall review their status for the selection and queuing to the next Department of Agriculture Inspection Missions in consideration to the limited number of countries that can be accommodated yearly;

WHEREAS, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Measures reaffirms that member-countries have the right to institute appropriate Measures as it deems necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health;

WHEREAS, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917), which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 s.1930 (Charter of BAI) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;





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NOW, THEREFORE, no trade disruption of commodities from accredited countries shall apply even after expiration of the issued accreditation circular pending their actual inspection for revalidation as approved by the Secretary, given that the following provisions are complied:

- a. Absence of relevant diseases, pests, and/or contaminations at the relevant area/region/country of origin in/from which live animals are being domesticated, produced, slaughtered, processed, packed, canned, loaded/boarded, and transported including the route(s) of the vessel/aircraft in which imported meat and meat products might be carried;
- b. Appropriate and specific risk management conditions relevant to the importation of specific meat and/or meat products based on World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and Codex Alimentarius; and
- c. Other factors necessary and pertinent to SPS concerns.

All orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Done this 29th day of December 2022

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN

Senior Undersecretary



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