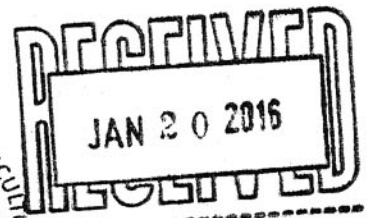




FDA
Food and Drug Administration
PHILIPPINES



ALL UNITS

January 14, 2016

JOINT DOH-FDA and DA-NMIS CIRCULAR

No. 01

Series of 2016

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON THE TRANSFER OF REGULATORY FUNCTIONS FROM THE NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION OVER PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS

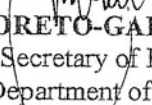
Prior to the *Food Safety Act of 2013* [Republic Act No. (RA) 10611], the Department of Agriculture - National Meat Inspection Service (DA-NMIS) is the sole national competent authority tasked to implement policies, programs, guidelines, rules and regulations over meat products pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of RA 9296, otherwise known as the Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines. The IRR of RA 9296 was supplemented by the Joint DA-NMIS and DOH-FDA Administrative Order No. 01 s. 2009, which delineated the functions and shared responsibilities of DA-NMIS and DOH-FDA in the regulation of meat products.

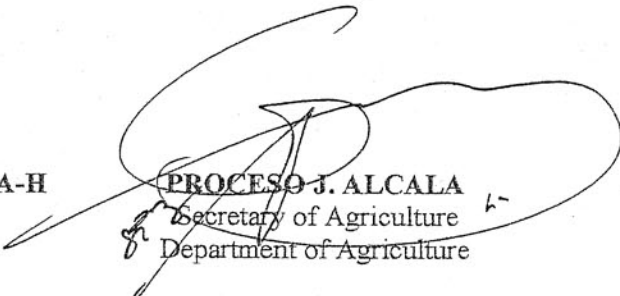
Pursuant to Section 15 (b), Article V of the IRR of the *Food Safety Act of 2013*, the Department of Health, through the Food and Drug Administration, is now responsible for the assurance of safety of processed and pre-packaged food products, whether locally produced or imported, including meat products. To ensure orderly transition of functions, Rule 39.3 (d), Section 39, Article XIII thereof states that the transfer and absorption of functions, duties and responsibilities from the DA-NMIS to DOH-FDA shall be in accordance with the approved and finalized transition plan of the Food Safety Regulation Coordinating Board (FSRCB), which shall be implemented with 24 months from the effectivity of the IRR.


To date, the transition plan of the Food Safety Regulation Coordinating Board (FSRCB) is still being finalized, and there is yet no transfer of functions, duties and responsibilities from DA-NMIS to DOH-FDA. As such, regulations over processed meat products are still lodged with DA-NMIS, including the issuances of clearances and/or authorizations.

Official transfer of mandate from DA-NMIS to DOH-FDA shall be on July 1, 2016. Meantime and until June 30, 2016, jurisdiction over processed meat products shall remain with DA-NMIS.

For guidance of all concerned.


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