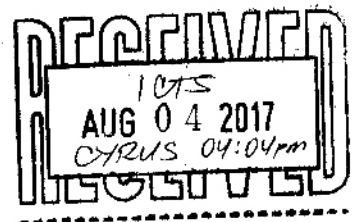




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City 1100, Philippines



July 31, 2017

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 32
Series of 2017

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACCREDITATION OF ALL BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS (FMEs) TO EXPORT MEAT INTO THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No 10611 or "Food Safety Act of 2013", the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall be responsible for the development and enforcement of food safety standards and regulations for foods in the primary production and post harvest stages of the food supply chain. It shall monitor and ensure that the relevant requirements of the law are complied with by farmers, fisherfolk and food business operators;

WHEREAS, the DA, in coordination with other government agencies, shall monitor the presence of contaminants in foods of plant, animal and fishery origin and shall formulate and implement measures to address incidents of food contamination;

WHEREAS, following media reports of the alleged "rotten" meat from Brazil in March 2017 and the submitted communication of Brazil to the World Trade Organization (WTO) dated March 22, 2017, the DA through the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) issued Memorandum 0453 on March 24, 2017 instructing all Regional Technical Operating Centers to perform more rigorous and tight inspections on all arrivals of beef and poultry meat from Brazil shipped from March 19 onwards;

WHEREAS, according to Memorandum Circular No. 9-2008-5 series of 2008 entitled "Microbiological Limits for Assessment of Microbiological Quality Fresh, Chilled & Frozen Meat", microbiological limits for *Salmonella spp.* must be absent in 25g sample (zero tolerance);

WHEREAS, a total of 246 out of 492 container vans were sampled and subjected to laboratory analysis from March 1 to June 30, 2017 wherein samples from 18 containers (7%) were tested positive for *Salmonella spp.*;

WHEREAS, repealing the issued Memorandum Order No. 30, Series of 2017 entitled "Temporary ban on the importation of beef and poultry meat from twenty-five (25) Department of Agriculture (DA) Accredited Foreign Meat Establishments (FMEs) from Brazil"; and

WHEREAS, this temporary suspension is for the protection of the Philippine consumers pursuant to Food Safety Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures for the importation of meat from Brazil:

1. Temporary suspension of accreditation of all Brazilian FMEs to export meat into the Philippines pending the results of the thorough investigation to be conducted by DA;
2. Shipments of meat in transit upon the issuance of this Order will be allowed to enter the country subject to 100% physical and laboratory examination inspection;
3. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance for meat from Brazil; and
4. Cancellation of issued SPS import clearance for meat from Brazil for shipments that have not left the country of origin.

This ORDER shall take effect immediately.

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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