



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100 Philippines
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

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SUBJECT: REVISED PROTOCOL FOR THE EXPORT OF FRESH BANANA

Pursuant to Presidential Decree 1433, otherwise known as "Plant Quarantine Law of 1978", and the Philippines' obligations under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and upon prior consultation, this Revised Protocol is hereby issued for strict compliance by all concerned.

I. COVERAGE

This Revised Protocol shall apply to the exportation of hard green banana fruit of *Musa spp.* No exportation shall be allowed in violation of this Protocol.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Responsibilities of the Bureau of Plant Industry – National Plant Quarantine Service Division (BPI-NPQSD)
 - a. Supervise and implement this protocol;
 - b. License (formerly "accredit") packing facility, traders and exporters, and register growers;
 - c. Assign a unique and permanent code for each grower per production site, packing facility per facility, trader and exporter;
 - d. Inform the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the importing country of the codes assigned to each grower, packing facility, trader and exporter;
 - e. Enforce and, whenever necessary, revise the pest management program guidelines herein provided;
 - f. Conduct inspection, monitoring and audit of production areas of registered growers and licensed packing facilities;
 - g. Review and maintain all forms and documents related to export activities in places of production, packing facilities, trading and shipping documents;
 - h. Conduct, in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute and/or industry associations and other concerned agencies, trainings on Good Agricultural Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices and other related trainings; and,
 - i. Issue Phytosanitary Certificate for each shipment.

2. Responsibilities of the BPI-Plant Product Safety Services Division

- a. Assess the Pesticide Management Manual submitted by the exporters and growers;
- b. Conduct inspection/audit of packing facility in coordination with NPQSD for compliance to food safety requirements;
- c. Conduct random inspection/audit in coordination with NPQSD for compliance to food safety requirements relative to the use of pesticides and farm operations;
- d. Require submission by exporters of self-monitoring reports on pesticide residues and heavy metals on a monthly basis; and,
- e. Validate exporters' self-monitoring reports at any given time and collect samples from packing facilities for pesticide residue and heavy metals testing.

3. Responsibilities of Banana Exporters

- a. Apply for license (*formerly "registration"*) as exporter with BPI-NPQSD;
- b. Submit list of registered growers, their production sites and copy of contracts;
- c. Submit list of licensed (*formerly "registered"*) traders and registered grower(s) from which traders source bananas, production sites and copy of contract/s;
- d. Submit list of licensed (*formerly "accredited"*) packing facility operators and location of packing facilities;
- e. Submit Production Manual;
- f. Submit Pesticide Management Manual (see attached Annex II - PMM Template);
- g. Submit internal control system implemented in the farm and packing facility;
- h. Submit self-monitoring reports on the level of pesticide residues and heavy metals of produce for export on a monthly basis;
- i. Ensure compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by packing facilities;
- j. Ensure compliance to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by the growers;
- k. Maintain all records in relation to banana export;
- l. Post its License to Export (*formerly "Registration Certificate"*) prominently in the office (marker); and,
- m. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the exporter's facility by BPI-NPQSD, BPI-PPSSD, or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary.

4. Responsibilities of Banana Traders

- a. Apply for license (*formerly "registration"*) as trader with BPI-NPQSD;
- b. Submit list of registered growers, their production sites and copy of contracts;
- c. Submit list of licensed packing facility operators and location of packing facilities;
- d. Ensure compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by the packing facilities;
- e. Ensure compliance to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by the growers;
- f. Maintain all records in relation to banana export;
- g. Post its License to Export (*formerly "Registration Certificate"*) prominently in the office (marker); and,

- h. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the exporter's facility by BPI-NPQSD, BPI-PPSSD, or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary.

5. Responsibilities of Banana Growers

- a. Apply for registration as grower per production site with BPI-NPQSD;
- b. Comply with the best agricultural practices based on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP);
- c. Monitor and ensure pest level is under control;
- d. Maintain all records in relation to banana export;
- e. Post its Registration Certificate prominently at the entrance/front of the production area/farm (marker); and,
- f. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the exporter's facility by BPI-NPQSD, BPI-PPSSD, or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary.

6. Responsibilities of Packing Facilities

- a. Apply for a license (*formerly "accreditation"*) as packing facility per facility with BPI-NPQSD;
- b. Submit written standard operating procedure, including pest management and other safeguards;
- c. Ensure that the packing facility is insect-proof and its operations for export of bananas must be monitored by BPI-NPQSD;
- d. Provide a minimum of two (2) wash tanks, with sufficient clean water supply and electricity, dryer/blower, proper clean storage area, high pressurized water spray and conveyor lines;
- e. Have proper markings/labels on cartons for traceability, i.e., exporter's accreditation code, grower's accreditation code, facility accreditation code, date of packing, destination, and any additional information as may be required by the importing country;
- f. Segregate fruits by export destination;
- g. Post its License Certificate (*formerly "accreditation"*) prominently at the entrance/front of the facility (marker); and,
- h. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the exporter's facility by BPI-NPQSD, BPI-PPSSD, or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary.

III. TRACEABILITY

Harvested bananas must be placed in field cartons and containers that are properly marked to show the license (*formerly "registration"*) code of the exporter and packing facility, and registration code of grower, date of packing, destination, and any additional information as may be required by the importing country. The place of production where the bananas were grown must remain identifiable when the fruit is transported from the place of production to the packing facilities and throughout the export process.

IV. PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Pre-harvest and Post-harvest Application

- a. Pseudostem sanitation to eliminate refuse and breeding sites of insect pests.
- b. Fruit obstruction removal (FOR) to prevent fruit damage as well as eliminate bridges that may be utilized by the pest to infest the fruit
- c. Application of insecticide to prevent pest infestation for fruit care protection
- d. Chlorpyrifos-impregnated polyethylene (PE) bags are used to cover the fruit bunches after bunch spray to prevent infestation of insects. When needed additional Chlorpyrifos-impregnated (PE) material (in form of "strip" or "square") is installed on the fruit as additional control against insect pest.
- e. Harvestable bunches are inspected for the presence of insect pests. Bunched with mealy bugs, scale and other insects are rejected/discarded during harvest.
- f. Upon arrival of fruit at the packing plant, fruit bunches are sprayed with high-pressure water to eliminate any possible insect infestation. While bunches are waiting to be de-handled, the "fruit inspector" in the packing plant will check for insect damage, particularly mealy bug infestation, on individual bunches.
- g. During de-handing, individual hands are thoroughly inspected for possible mealy bug, scale insect infestation and any other evidence of insect damage.
- h. After de-handing, individual hands are thoroughly cleaned (by brushing/foaming) by the fruit selector and further cleaned with high-pressure water to eliminate possible infestation of mealy bugs.
- i. The individual hands are kept dried (using dryer/blower) and again inspected to confirm that fruits are free from mealy bugs and other insect during weighing and immediately before packing inside the box.
- j. Unused pallets and those that are clean, dry and free from trash, soil, weed seeds and non-weeds contaminants are utilized by the industry.
- k. Packed fruits are stored in a clean, insect-proof storage/container van or at cold storage. Wharf areas are maintained, kept clean and are situated away from population areas and farms.
- l. Vessels and container vans are cleaned with the recommended disinfectant before loading.

V. BANANAS FOR HARVEST AND EXPORT

The bananas must be harvested at a hard green state. No banana that is at or past color break (turning yellow) may be harvested and exported. Damaged banana must not be included for export.

VI. SAFEGUARDING

Bananas must be safeguarded from exposure to pest and pesticides from planting thorough the entire post-harvest process up to export. Transport of these packed fruit from the packing facilities to the wharf shall be properly secured.

VII. POST-HARVEST PROCESSING

After harvest, all damaged or diseased or rejected fruits must be properly disposed.

All quality bananas shall be washed at the packing facility with a high-pressure water spray, de-handled and washed with chlorinated water. Bananas must be packed into new, clean boxes, crates or other packing materials.

VIII. FINAL BPI INSPECTION

Bananas must be inspected in the Philippines under the direction and supervision of BPI-NPQSD inspectors before exportation. A sample equivalent to 5% of the total number of boxes from each consignment shall be randomly selected by BPI-NPQSD for inspection for quarantine pests. Notwithstanding that even a single pest is found, the Plant Quarantine Officer on duty shall automatically deny issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate (zero tolerance). Samples may be randomly collected to be analyzed by BPI-PPSSD or BPI-PPSSD-officially accredited laboratories.

IX. ISSUANCE OF PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Each consignment of fruits must be accompanied and covered by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by BPI PQS.

X. SANCTIONS FOR NON COMPLIANCE

The BPI, upon receipt of official notification, shall issue a show-cause order and the exporter shall be obliged to submit a report on alleged violation within 72 hours subject to verification by the BPI. The BPI may suspend or revoke the license (*formerly "registration"*) of exporters based on the result of verification on the violation by the exporter of the conditions of import.

As for any audit failure on the part of the exporters, traders, and growers and/or packing facilities, the following sanctions shall be imposed:

First offense – warning with the obligation to undertake corrective measures within the period prescribed by BPI-NPQSD and BPI-PPSSD. Failure to undertake corrective measures within the prescribed period shall be a ground for suspension of license/registration.

Second offense – suspension of license/registration until the corrective measures have been implemented within the prescribed period by BPI-NPQSD and BPI-PPSSD. Failure to undertake corrective measures within the prescribed period shall be a ground for revocation of license/registration.

Third offense – revocation of license/registration with BPI-NPQSD and blacklisting

This Memorandum Order takes effect immediately and repeals and/or amends all other issuances inconsistent hereof.

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary

ANNEX I

POLICIES ON THE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF PESTICIDES/CHEMMICALS FOR BANANA PRODUCTION

To guarantee the quality and safety of all Philippine bananas for export and comply with the importing country's food safety law, rules and regulations as well as Plant Quarantine laws and regulations, all producers/ exporters of banana have agreed to adopt the following policies on the management and application of pesticide/chemicals on banana production; thus, totally eliminate any incidence of pesticide/chemical detection.

1. Only recommended and approved pesticides and chemicals are allowed to be used in fresh banana production (refer to list of approved chemicals). The application of pesticides/chemicals shall be done only as necessary, meaning only during the occurrence of plant pest or disease infestation.
2. Each brand of chemicals must be properly registered with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (i.e., with FPA Registration Number for each brand)
3. The use of Fipronil and other non-registered chemicals are absolutely prohibited.
4. Banana farmer/grower must be at all times present during the preparation of the pesticide/chemical to be applied.
5. Presence of any pesticide/chemical in the farm which is not in the approved list is not allowed.
6. All pesticide/chemical shall be properly labelled and stored in chemical storage cabinet allotted for each farm. Chemical storage cabinets shall be securely locked. Chemicals not used for banana production should not be kept in the chemical storage.
7. Any violation of the abovementioned policies shall result in the termination of contract of the farm or growers with exporters and/or suspension/blacklisting of the farmer.
8. Strictly follow all applicable local and national laws and regulations, or corresponding or similar laws, regulations, or standards for agricultural practices.

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT MANUAL

Exporter: _____

Address: _____

Crop: _____ Variety: _____

LIST OF CHEMICALS								
Type of Agro Chemicals Used	Supplier of Chemicals	Brand Names	Active Ingredients	Registrant	PHI	Dosage	MRL	Target Pest/Diseases

 Name of Grower
 (Signature over printed name)

 Farm Manager/Supervisor
 (Signature over printed name)

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT MANUAL

SPRAYING RECORDS

Exporter: _____
 Address: _____
 Crop: _____ Variety: _____

Date of Application	Procedure (Growth Stage)	Chemical Used	Active Ingredient (AI)	Applied Dosage	Target Pest/Diseases	Responsible Person

 Name of Grower
 (Signature over printed name)

 Farm Manager/Supervisor
 (Signature over printed name)