



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

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No: 27

Series of 2021

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 03 SERIES OF 2021 TO ALLOW IMPORTATION OF MECHANICALLY DEBONED POULTRY MEAT ONLY FROM NETHERLANDS

WHEREAS, it is the utmost priority of the Government to protect its borders and territories from the entry, establishment and spread of animal diseases that may be introduced by the importation of disease-carrying, contaminated, or adulterated meat and meat products, which may endanger the lives, safety and health of the consuming public, pose risk to animal health, and potentially cause serious economic consequences;

WHEREAS, Department of Agriculture (DA) Memorandum Order (MO) No. 03 series of 2021 imposed temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products including poultry meat, day old chicks, eggs and due to the widespread outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in several areas of Netherlands;


WHEREAS, appeals have been made by the meat processing sector for DA to reconsider on the acceptance of regionalization of countries which have been recently suspended by DA due to the presence of HPAI, in order to address the shortage of affordable Mechanically Deboned Meat (MDM) in the country;

WHEREAS, regionalization or zoning surveillance measures are accepted practices recognized by the World Organisation of Animal Health and the World Trade Organisation;

WHEREAS, the veterinary authorities of Netherlands have submitted documents to the Philippine Government reflecting their ongoing disease control measures and the different countries that continue to accept poultry products from them;

WHEREAS, a joint team composed of technical members of the Bureau of Animal Industry and National Meat Inspection Service will be created to conduct evaluation of selected Meat Processing Plants with available thermal processing equipment in the facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Memorandum Order granting the request of the meat importer processors (MIP) with thermal processing equipment to import MDM for processing from OIE declared free zones from HPAI virus in Netherlands

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as per provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code 10.4.5 to 10.4.24 subject to the following conditions:


TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I. General requirements

- A. A composite team of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) will be created to conduct evaluation of Meat Processing Plants with available thermal processing equipment in the facility, in coordination with the Food and Drug Authority (FDA).
- B. Only accredited MIPs that were evaluated and have complied with the requirements shall be allowed to import MDM from HPAI-free zones in Netherlands.
- C. Each shipment shall be subject to a desktop review prior to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) issuance. All authorized MIPs must enclose in their attached invoice their proposed source meat establishment number, including its complete address (village, town, province) for easier evaluation.
- D. The poultry meat shipment must be sourced out from one (1) meat establishment only. Multiple sources of meat establishments for each poultry shipment SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED.

II. Pre-departure Requirements

- A. Attestation from the Competent Veterinary Authority (CVA) that the poultry were sourced from a HPAI-free zone or compartment in the Netherlands since they were hatched. The HPAI-free zone or compartment should follow the definition in Article 10.4.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) 2019 Chapter 10.4.
- B. Attestation from the CVA that the poultry has been slaughtered in an approved abattoir located in a HPAI-free zone or compartment and have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections in accordance with OIE TAHC Chapter 6.3 and have been found free of any signs suggestive of Avian Influenza.
- C. Attestation from the CVA that the MDM was produced in a HPAI-free zone or compartment.
- D. Attestation from the CVA that each consignment of MDM meets the conditions provided in Chapter 10.4 of the OIE TAHC 2019.

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- E. Each poultry meat shipment must test negative for HPAI using Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) from an accredited laboratory in the country of origin. **The test result must be attached to the Veterinary Health Certificate issued by the CVA.**

III. Requirements from Meat Importers and Processors (MIPs)

- A. All MIPs shall identify one DA-accredited CSW which will be dedicated purely to the storage of MDM from Netherlands, as stated in their SPSIC. Transfer of MDM to another CSW shall not be allowed.
- B. The MIPs will ensure that the MDM will only go to FDA licensed meat processing plants which have thermal processing facilities. Compliance to this will be monitored through submission of a monthly utilization report submitted by the MIPs to the BAI. Non-submission of this report will result to non-issuance of SPSIC for the following month.
- C. If MDM products of Netherlands are found to be sold online or in wet markets, the issuance of SPSIC shall be put on hold.
- D. The MDM shall only be used for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-certified products meeting the thermal process recommended by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Article 10.4.26:

Core temperature of meat	Time
60.0 °C	507 seconds
65.0 °C	42 seconds
70.0 °C	3.5 seconds
73.9 °C	0.51 seconds

- E. If authorized MIPs were found to use MDM on non-heated processed products, their accreditation with BAI and NMIS shall be revoked. The DA shall also endorse the revocation of their license-to-operate issued by FDA.
- F. Unannounced visit to meat processing plants may also be conducted by veterinary authorities to ensure compliance with government's regulations on this Order and other food safety policies.
- G. Random sample collection of MDM shall be conducted by NMIS plant officers for detection of the presence of HPAI.

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- H. The MIPs will implement proper disinfection of the packaging material and condemnation of the meat products and other wastages. The procedure must be clearly written and included in their Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) manual. The prescribed disinfectants and condemnation process as seen in the Annex 1 and 2 of the DA BAI Avian Influenza Protection Program Manual of Procedures 2019 shall be followed.

ACTIONS IN CASE OF DISEASE OUTBREAK IN IDENTIFIED ZONES OR REGIONS AND/OR IN CASE OF NON-CONFORMITY TO THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. Any non-conformities or non-compliance to the above stated conditions shall automatically be dealt with as per DA AO No. 9 series of 2010 Section VII, D, which provides the following options for disposition:
1. Confiscated and destroyed
 2. Returned to the country of origin
 3. Shipped to a third country
- B. Further, if authorized MIPs were found to use MDM on non-heated processed products, their accreditation with BAI and NMIS shall be revoked. The DA shall also endorse the revocation of their license-to-operate issued by DOH-FDA.
- C. SPSICs approved for shipment of MDM may be suspended or revoked at any time as per DA AO No. 9 series of 2010 Section III.I.6 if there is a risk to the health of the local poultry population. **Shipments with revoked SPSICs shall automatically be dealt with as per DA AO No. 9 series of 2010 Section VII.D.**

This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately and shall remain enforced for one (1) year unless earlier revoked due to worsening disease situation in the country of origin or due to the lifting of the temporary ban on poultry from Netherlands.

Done this 6th day of April 2021.


WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.

Secretary of 

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-04-21-0046
Received : 04/06/2021 02:34 PM

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