



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

**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

No. 30  
Series of 2021

**SUBJECT : INTENSIFICATION OF FIRST BORDER INSPECTION AND CONTROL  
OF IMPORTED FOOD AND AGRI-FISHERIES RELATED PRODUCTS.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness. Furthermore, Section 9, Article XVI provides that the State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and substandard or hazardous products. Toward these ends, the State shall maintain a farm to fork food safety regulatory system that ensures a high level of food safety, promotes fair trade, and advances the global competitiveness of Philippine foods and food products.

**WHEREAS**, Article 2 (1) of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) allows a Member State to have the right to take sanitary and phytosanitary measures necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant or health, provided such measures are not inconsistent with the SPS Agreement.

**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Republic Act No. 3639 provides that the Bureau of Animal Industry has the duty and powers regarding animal quarantine, inspection and sanitation, and the regulation of the importation of animals, among others.

**WHEREAS**, Section 10 (c) of the Presidential Decree No. 1433, s. 1978 provides that the Bureau of Plant Industry has the power and duty to examine imported plants, plant products, and other materials capable of harboring plant pests and potential animal pests and administering necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the provisions P.D. No. 1433.

**WHEREAS**, Section 67 of the Fisheries Code of 1998 provides for the power of the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Services of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to monitor and regulate the importation and exportation of fish and fishery/aquatic resources, and specifically to examine all fish and fishery products coming into or going out of the country which may be a source or medium of fish pests or diseases and/or regulated by existing fishery regulations and ensure that the quality of fish import and export meet international standards.

**WHEREAS**, Section 12 (b) of the Republic Act No. 10611 or the Food Safety Act of 2013, provides that imported foods shall undergo cargo inspection and clearance procedures by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Health (DOH) at the first port entry to determine

  
*A food-secure and resilient Philippines*  
with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk





compliance with national regulations. The DA and the DOH inspection shall always take place before assessment for tariff and other charges by the Bureau of Customs (BOC). The BOC and the Association of International Shipping Lines (AISL) shall provide the DA and the DOH documents such as the Inward Foreign Manifest of Arriving Vessels to enable the DA and the DOH to identify shipments requiring food safety inspection. According to the DA and the DOH policies, shipments not complying with national regulations shall be disposed of.

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of the Food Safety Act of 2013 provides that the DA shall be responsible for developing and enforcing 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR**, the Secretary of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by the laws, do hereby order:

**Section 1.** The intensification and strict implementation of the first border inspection and control, in accordance with the laws mentioned above and the Food Safety Act of 2013, by all regulatory agencies and bureaus of the Department of Agriculture engaged in first border inspection and control, such as:

- (a) the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI);
- (b) the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
- (c) the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI);

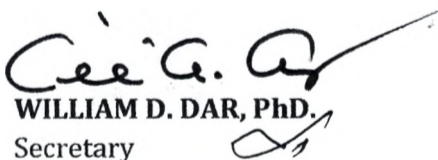
**Section 2.** The above-enumerated bureaus shall strictly implement established sanitary and phytosanitary measures, food safety standards, and other regulatory measures under its regulatory powers and jurisdiction in conducting its first border inspection and control.

**Section 3.** The agencies and bureaus conducting first border inspection and control shall review the applicable laws, such as those mentioned above and other related laws, for purposes of strengthening, revising their strategies and methods, and intensifying their first border inspection and control.

**Section 4.** All issuances, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**Section 5.** This Order shall take effect immediately.

Done this 29th day of April 2021.

  
**WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD.**  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
  
In replying pls cite this code :  
For Signature: S-04-21-0380  
Received : 27/04/2021 02:40 PM

*A food-secure and resilient Philippines*

*with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk*

