



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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER


No. 22

Series of 2021

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FAO 259 IN RELATION TO THE CERTIFICATE OF NECESSITY TO IMPORT 60,000 MT OF SMALL PELAGIC FISH FOR WET MARKETS

To effectively implement the provisions of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 259 (FAO 259) in relation to the issuance of SPS Import Clearances (SPSICs) for the Certificate of Necessity to Import 60,000 MT of small pelagic Fish for wet markets (herein after referred to as "CNI 60,000MT"), the following directives are hereby issued:

1. To augment the local catch, all SPSICs shall be issued under the 2021 CNI 60,000 MT before the closed fishing season and automatically expire on December 31, 2021.
2. A bill of lading stating the name of supplier, country of origin and ship-out date shall form part of the documentary requirements for the issuance of SPSICs under the CNI 60,000 MT.
3. Only importers of good standing and compliant (stating the name of supplier, country of origin and ship-out date) to food safety guidelines as required by BFAR and/or DOH to prevent the spread of COVID-19 variants shall be allowed to participate in the importation. For this purpose, importer of good standing shall mean that the importer has met all of the following qualifications:
 - a) The importer has no SPSICs covered by the previous CNI that has been cancelled;
 - b) The importer was able to import at least seventy percent (70%) of the total volume issued during the last importation period;
 - c) BFAR has not filed any case against the importer and vice versa;
 - d) The importer is willing to sell the imported fish at Php 88 wholesale price (based on 2020 CNI fish auction conducted by BFAR) or lower as a result of the cost unbundling for imported small pelagic fishes;

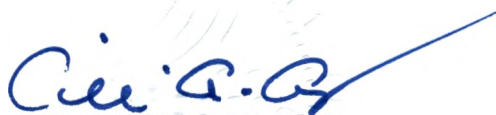

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- e) From the Customs Clearing House, the importer shall directly unload the allowed imported frozen/chilled fish at its BFAR-registered cold storage facility and trade the imported products at the PFDA fish ports or PFDA- designated trading areas;
 - f) The importer shall source-out supply from respectable source and not engaged in IUU Fishing;
 - g) The importer must be able to have the imported small pelagic fish arrive in the Philippines within twenty (20) days from the receipt of SPSICs. The last ship-out date from exporting country shall be one (1) month before the closed fishing season to prevent hoarding; and
 - h) The importer shall allow BFAR inspectors, quarantine officers and law enforcers to conduct inspection and monitoring of the imported fish stored in the BFAR-registered storage facility and provide data for the purpose of performance evaluation of said CNI.
4. The 60,000 MT volume shall be apportioned through an auction system among the importers who met the aforementioned requirements.
 5. Right after the conduct of the auction is completed, the BFAR shall immediately process all the SPSICs and endorse them to the Secretary for approval.
 6. All qualified importers shall strictly comply with the Food Safety Standards.
 7. Transfer of allocation shall not be allowed.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until the arrival of the last shipment of this importation period.

Done this 27th day of August 2021


WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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For Signature: S-08-21-0497
Received : 27/08/2021 08:17 AM

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