



April 24, 2000

DA Administrative Order  
No. 18  
Series of 2000

**Subject: Amending DA A.O. No. 4 Series of 1998, "Revised Guidelines In The Importation of Agricultural Products"**

Whereas there is a need to strengthen agriculture quarantine services and harmonize existing import rules and regulations in accordance with the increasing global trade;

I, EDGARDO J. ANGARA, Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to Section 18, Chapter 4, Title IV, Book IV of executive Order No. 292, and the provisions of RA 7394 otherwise known as The Consumer Act of the Philippines do hereby order:

That DA A.O. No. 4 Series of 1998, "Revised Guidelines In The Importation of Agricultural products" is hereby amended such that:

- I. The scope of the Order shall not be limited to Agricultural Products, but must include LIVE ANIMALS; PLANT; FISHES and their products and by-products;
- II. An Import Permit (SPS Certificate) must be required prior to importation of Agricultural Products; Live Animals; Plants; Fishes; their products and by-products. Such importation must be accompanied by a Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Health Certificate from the country of origin.
- III. Agricultural Products; Live Animals\*\*; Plants; Fishes their products and by-products imported without the required Import Permit are deemed illegal and are subject to the pertinent provisions of RA 7394 and to existing DA Quarantine rules and regulations.

All existing Orders and Issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, repealed and/or amended accordingly.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
EDGARDO J. ANGARA  
Secretary

N.B. \*\* May exclude companion animals (except Horses), and other non-food animals not listed as endangered species under CITES, provided accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate from country of origin.

31 August 2005

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 26**  
Series of 2005

Subject: **REVISED RULES, REGULATIONS, AND STANDARDS GOVERNING  
THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS INTO THE  
PHILIPPINES**

---

WHEREAS, recent outbreaks of highly communicable diseases, e.g., Avian Influenza or “Bird Flu” that spread across countries in Asia and North America over a short period of time, have claimed a number of human lives and poultry populations;

WHEREAS, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or “Mad Cow Disease” has spread across continents from Europe to Asia and now in North America and has remained a major international quarantine importance and public safety concern because of violations on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) (e.g. milling into feeds infected bone and offal) thus its possible transmission to human beings due to entry of contaminated meat and/or meat products;

WHEREAS, violation of the country’s laws, rules and regulations on consumer product safety and quality standards and animal quarantine measures through illegal entry of meat and meat products as well as non-compliance thereof poses serious threat to human and animal health/life;

WHEREAS, it is a paramount objective of the government to protect its borders and territories from the entry, establishment and spread of animal disease that may be introduced by the importation of disease-carrying, contaminated, and/or adulterated meat and/or meat products, which endanger the lives and safety/health of the consuming public and which could bring potentially serious economic consequences to the livestock, poultry and related industries;

WHEREAS, in order to effectively address the above, it is the responsibility of the government to issue a comprehensive, strengthened and transparent set of rules, regulations and standards governing the importation of meat and meat products to facilitate trade without compromising the safety and quality of imported meat and meat products and the viability of existing industries;

WHEREAS, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) reaffirms the right of a country to institute appropriate measures as it deems necessary to protect human and animal health/life, provided they are not undertaken to restrict trade;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), in accordance with the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Administrative Order (AO) governing the importation of meat and meat products into the Philippines;

## Section I DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms, words and phrases herein used shall be construed as follows:

- A. **Accreditation** – refers to the authority of DA to evaluate firms and establishments based on a set of criteria with the objective of providing eligibility to conduct/undertake specified activities;
- B. **Accredited Importer** – refers to any natural or juridical person accredited by DA as eligible importer of meat and/or meat products for its own use, processing, wholesale and/or retail distribution.
- C. **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX)** – refers to the international organization recognized by the WTO as the responsible body for establishing food standards, codes of practice, guidelines and recommendations aimed at protecting consumer health and ensuring fair food trade practices. Codex also refers to food standards and related texts elaborated and adopted by the Commission, which is recognized by the WTO as benchmark standards in relation to food quality and safety.
- D. **Country of Origin** – refers to the country source of meat and/or meat products being exported. When a product undergoes processing in another country which changes its nature, the country in which processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for purposes of labeling. Conversely, when such product undergoes only minimal processing/physical change e.g. re-packing or re-branding in another country, the country of origin refers to the source of the original product.
- E. **Claim** – refers to any representation, which states, suggests or implies that a product has particular qualities relating to its origin, nutritional properties, nature, processing, composition or any other quality.
- F. **Date of Expiration** – refers to the latest date of which safety and/or acceptability of a product can still be assured, based on Codex or other internationally accepted standards, or as determined by the manufacturer or the appropriate government authority.
- G. **Date of Minimum Durability (“best before”)** – refers to the earliest date under specified conditions beyond which a product is no longer marketable and cannot meet the quality required by DA which is based from either Codex or other internationally accepted standards for which claims have been based by manufacturer or the government authority of the exporting country.
- H. **Foreign Meat Establishment (FME)** – refers to a DA-accredited facility in a foreign country engaged in slaughtering and dressing of food animals, and processing, cutting, packing and storing of meat and meat products, and recognized by the NVA to export meat and meat products.
- I. **FME in “Good Standing”** – refers to DA-accredited FME which has established its credibility as sound exporter/supplier of a specified meat or meat product because in the course of its exportations of these to the Philippines over a number of years and/or shipments, this specific product has satisfactory and consistently passed DA inspection and laboratory analysis.

- J. **Importer in “Good Standing”** – refers to a consignee whose accreditation as a legitimate importer of meat and/or meat products into the Philippines has been determined by DA to be still within the terms within which this accreditation was based with respect to its meat handling, distribution, and storage facilities (e.g. cold storage and processing plant) and compliance with applicable DA rules and regulations on meat and meat products.
- K. **International Veterinary Certificate (IVC)** – refers to the certificate issued by the NVA at the country of origin attesting that, among others, the shipment conforms to the specific veterinary/SPS requirements of the Philippines as prescribed in the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) prior to shipment.
- L. **Lot Identification** – refers to the name and identification firm number of the plant/factory and the serial number of the specified quantity of commodity produced from this plant/factory that is essentially subjected to the same production conditions on a specified timeframe.
- M. **Meat** – refers to the fresh, chilled or frozen edible part of carcass, including offal derived from, but not limited to cattle, buffalo, pig, poultry, goat, sheep, horse and other food animals under Philippine laws but excluding marine animals and prohibited animals under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- N. **Meat Product** – refers to meat, which has been subjected to physical change and/or treatment such as cooking, drying, salting, brining or smoking.
- O. **National Veterinary Administration (NVA)** – refers to the national veterinary controlling authority having jurisdiction over the whole country for implementing the animal health measures based on OIE Animal Health Code and/or meat products quality and safety measures based on Codex Standards.
- P. **New Product Supplier (NPS)** – refers to DA-accredited FME which has yet to establish its credibility as safe/sound supplier/exporter of a specified meat or meat product into the Philippines as required.
- Q. **Office International des Epizooties (OIE)** – refers to the international organization recognized by the WTO as the responsible body for establishing the animal veterinary health standards, guidelines and recommendations.
- R. **One Shipment – Per VQC Policy** – refers to the ‘one-time’ validity and use of the VQC of imported meat and/or meat products boarded/loaded only to one vessel or aircraft. A used VQC shall be marked/stamped “USED” to avoid recycling.
- S. **Port of Entry** – as defined under the Customs and Tariff Code and the Bureau of Customs (BOC).
- T. **Port of Inspection** – an establishment authorized or designated by NMIS within a certain kilometer radius from the port of entry, wherein inspection and collection of samples are being conducted prior to its release for domestic distribution.
- U. **Risk Management Measures/Policy (RMP)** – refers to the overall risk management measures being applied by DA based on OIE and Codex standards, which are deemed necessary to

achieve the country's appropriate/acceptable level of production (ALOP). Each measure required by DA herein is an integral part of the whole RMP which guarantees protection of the country from the entry, establishment and spread of foreign diseases and contaminations associated with the importation of meat and/or meat products into the country. The RMP includes all measures which have the effect of verifying controls at the country of origin, the country's customs areas, and post-entry areas, which take the form of, but not limited to, documentation requirements, certifications by appropriate bodies, packing and labeling requirements, transportation and handling conditions, marketing, advertising, and distribution requirements, risk communication measures, and disease and contamination control measures.

- V. ***Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures*** – defined as measures applied (a) to protect human or animal life from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in their food; (b) to protect human life from plant- or animal-carried diseases; (c) to protect animal or plant life from pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms; and (d) to prevent or limit other damage to a country from the entry, establishment or spread of pests. This also includes SPS measures taken to protect the health of fish and wild fauna, as well as of forests and wild flora.
- W. ***Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC)/SPS Clearance*** – refers to the document being issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) prior to importation indicating that based on readily available information: (a) the source/s of meat and/or meat products are free from relevant diseases/contaminations; and (b) the accreditations of both the importer and the FME (exporter) are in 'good standing'. The VQC also prescribes the conditions and risk management measures necessary in the conduct of importation that are to be observed by the importer, exporter, and the NVA at the country of origin.
- X. ***Veterinary Quarantine and Meat Inspection and Laboratory Certificate (VQMILC)*** – refers to the certificate issued by the BAI Veterinary Quarantine Officer (DAVQO) and the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) Inspector to the BOC (copy furnish BAI and the importer) for customs processing, which certifies that the shipment of meat and/or meat products have been subjected to and passed veterinary quarantine documentation and meat inspection, and/or laboratory analysis and clearance.

## Section II SCOPE

- A. Only meat and/or meat products referred to in Annex "A" as defined in Section I (M) and (N) are covered by this Order.
- B. All importation of meat and/or meat products into the Philippines destined to be unloaded into the customs territories for direct consumption, repacking and relabeling/rebranding, processing and manufacturing, marketing and distribution and/or re-export are covered by this Order.
- C. Transshipped meat and/or meat products into the Philippines are not covered by this Order.

**Section III**  
**APPLICATION FOR AND ISSUANCE OF**  
**VQC/SPS CLEARANCE**

- A. Prior to the importation of meat and/or meat products from the country of origin, an accredited importer as defined in Section I (B) shall first secure a VQC/SPS Clearance from BAI. This provision shall be subject to review and modification by the DA depending on the compliance performance of importers and FMEs.
- B. The accredited importer (applicant) shall:
1. Submit a duly accomplished application form to input (attached as Annex "B") indicating and certifying the nature of the import application and a disclosure that the meat and/or meat products are still at the country of origin and have not been boarded yet to a vessel/aircraft;
  2. Submit the relevant pro-forma invoice; and
  3. Pay the necessary application fee/s to BAI.
- C. The application, processing, and receipt of VQC shall only be undertaken by the president/CEO/general manager of the firm or through its authorized representative/s.
- D. The BAI in consultation with NMIS as appropriate shall issue VQC upon determination of the following:
1. The absence of relevant diseases, pests, and/or contaminations at the relevant area/region/country of origin in/from which live animals are being domesticated, produced, slaughtered, processed, packed, canned, loaded/boarded, and transported including the route/s of the vessel/aircraft in which imported meat and meat products might be carried;
  2. The FME is in 'good standing' as defined in Section I (I);
  3. The accredited importer is in 'good standing' as defined in Section I (J);
  4. The appropriate and specific risk management conditions relevant to the importation of specific meat and/or meat products based on OIE and Codex; and
  5. Other factors necessary and pertinent to SPS concerns.
- E. Based on above considerations, BAI shall approve/disapprove the application within 5 working days from the receipt of complete application documents. The approval VQC shall contain the BAI seal and the signature of the BAI Director.
- F. Upon issuance of VQC, the accredited importer shall immediately provide the exporter with a copy (i.e. electronic copy, facsimile) of the approved VQC, which shall be the basis for health and safety for the issuance of IVC by the NVA at the country of origin.
- G. The VQC is valid for 60 days without extension from the date of issuance, within which meat and/or meat products are to be shipped out from the country to origin as indicated in the bill of lading of airway bill. Shipment made beyond the validity period shall render such shipment illegal and therefore shall be confiscated and disposed of in accordance with Section X herein.
- H. The VQC is not transferable and therefore shall only be used by the consignee for whom this was issued.

- I. Only the president/CEO/general manager of the importing firm and its authorized representatives are allowed to receive the approved VQC as provided in Section III (C).
- J. The one Shipment/BILL OF LADING-Per VQC Policy as defined in Section I (R) shall be strictly adhered to in the conduct of importation, such that a VQC can only be used relative to the shipment described therein. Any shipment made in violation of this provision shall render the same unlawful and subject the shipment to the disposition prescribed under Section X; furthermore the importation shall be deemed a violation of the herein Administrative Order subject to the Penalty Provisions as contained in Section XI hereunder.
- K. No VQC shall be issued after the shipment has left the port of origin and any misrepresentation of such fact shall render the VQC invalid and the importation illegal and subject to Section X hereof.

**Section IV**  
**PERSONAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL IMPORTATION**

Importation of fresh, frozen and uncooked meat products for personal and non-commercial consumption shall not be allowed unless covered by a valid VQC and IVC.

**Section V**  
**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS**

- A. Only FMEs as defined in Section I (H and I) recognized by the National Veterinary Administration of the exporting country are allowed to export into the Philippines. Recognition extended by the local, provincial, and/or regional veterinary administrations/authorities at the country of origin is not recognized by DA.
- B. Only accredited importers as defined in Section I (B) are allowed to file an application for VQC for the importation of meat and meat products and to import from FMEs.
- C. The accredited importer shall ensure that its exporter at the country of origin has received a copy (i.e. electronic copy, facsimile) of the approved VQC/SPS Clearance prior to the shipment/boarding of meat and/or meat products to the Philippines.
- D. The accredited importer shall ensure that the date of shipment of goods (as reflected in the Bill of Lading/Airway Bill) is not earlier than the date of the issuance of VQC.
- E. The seal of the container of imported meat and/or meat products must be maintained throughout the chain of importation. The fact that an imported meat or meat product is transshipped or made to pass through other ports other than original port of origin before arriving in the Philippines shall not invalidate the VQC and IVC, unless the original seal has been broken.

**Section VI**  
**ADDITIONAL MEASURE,**  
**TEMPORARY IMPORT BAN AND RESUMPTION OF TRADE**

- A. During emergency cases/situations, DA shall exercise its authority and powers under existing laws in the 'timely' imposition of a temporary import ban on the importation of relevant meat and/or meat products from relevant areas/regions/countries to ensure human and animal health/life are secured and protected. In the promulgation of an import ban, DA shall:
1. Suspend the issuance of VQC for relevant applications;
  2. Cancel/revoke all relevant VQCs issued;
  3. Suspend all relevant shipments; and
  4. Confiscate all relevant shipments and dispose these shipments in accordance with Section X;
- B. Emergency cases/situations include the following:
1. Outbreak of any relevant OIE notifiable disease;
  2. Danger/occurrence of contamination (e.g., dioxin contamination); and/or
  3. Other cases important to public health and safety as determine by DA.
- C. In the imposition of any import ban, DA shall consider the following:
1. The recommendations of OIE, World Health Organization (WHO), and/or Codex;
  2. The risk management and communication measures undertaken by the exporting government are not sufficient as may be determined through readily available information;
  3. The importance as to the presence in the source country or part of the country of the relevant diseases, contaminations and/or other cases important to public health and safety;
  4. The results of any risk assessment undertaken by DA based on readily available information; and/or
  5. Other circumstances which warrant the imposition of a ban.
- D. The temporary import ban shall be lifted based on the following considerations;
1. The recommendations or OIE, World Health Organizations, and/or Codex;
  2. The risk management and communication measures undertaken by the exporting government are already sufficient.
  3. The results of any risk assessment undertaken by DA based on readily available information;
  4. Other considerations that warrant the resumption of importation.
- E. In cases of emergency situations referred to in Section VI (B) which do not necessarily require immediate banning of meat and/or meat products, DA may institute extra/additional measure/s apart from the regular measures, standards and requirements necessary to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of any meat and/or meat products that may be imported from the relevant area/region/country where such emergency cases occur.

**Section VII  
PACKING AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS**

The accredited importer shall ensure that the shipment comply with the following packing and labeling requirements;

- A. The packing materials and containers in direct contact with the meat and/or meat products must be of food grade quality based on the standards set by Codex or equivalent standards as may be determined by DA.
- B. All wood packaging materials of imported meat/meat products shall be treated in accordance with the International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures NO. 15 (ISPM No. 15).
- C. All food additives/preservatives shall be declared in the label as appropriate/applicable.
- D. The packaging must meet the minimum labeling requirement as follows:
  - 1. Registered trade name of the exporter or brand name of the product;
  - 2. Business name and address of the exporter;
  - 3. Country origin;
  - 4. Lot identification;
  - 5. Product description and list of ingredients;
  - 6. Net quantity of contents, in terms of weight, measure of numerical count rounded to the nearest tenths (expressed in METRIC SYSTEM);
  - 7. Date of manufacture and packaging;
  - 8. Date of minimum durability (“best before”) or expiration date; and
  - 9. Handling and storage instructions
- E. The label on each box/packaging of the imported meat and/or meat products must be written in English or Filipino and each character of the text should not be less than 2.5 mm ( for pre-printed or stamped) and 5 mm (for stenciled or hand painted).

**Section VIII  
BORDER CONTROL INSPECTION AND  
CLEARANCE AND RELEASE PROCEDURES**

- A. Border control shall be conducted strictly for all shipments of meat and/or meat products. To ensure timely initiation and completion of veterinary and meat inspection and clearance, the importer/consignee or his/her authorized representative shall submit to the Veterinary Quarantine Office (VQO) all the required documents of these mandatory pertinent to the shipment as prescribed in Section VIII (C.1).
- B. Upon arrival of any shipment of meat and/or meat products at the port of entry as defined in Section I (S), this shall be subjected to documentary verification and evaluation, veterinary inspection by DA. Only upon completion of these mandatory activities and clearances shall the BOC release the shipment.

C. At the port of entry, the VQO shall:

1. Verify and evaluate the authenticity, validity and accuracy of VQC (original), IVC (original), Bill of Lading/Airway Bill and Packing List submitted by the importer/consignee;
2. Subject the shipment to veterinary quarantine inspection and further documentation;
3. Reseal the container van/s carrying the meat and/or meat products;
4. Issue and sign the Veterinary Quarantine and Meat Inspection and Laboratory Certificate (VQMILC) (attached as Annex "C") and stamp "INSPECTED AND PASSED FOR TRANSFER TO NMIS ACCREDITED COLD STORAGE" on the authentic copy of the BOC import documents/entries;
5. Issue official receipt for the payment of necessary DA inspection fees; and
6. Endorse the original VQMILC and the shipment to NMIS for meat inspection and/or laboratory analysis, as required;

D. Upon transfer of the shipment to any DA-accredited cold storage facility/warehouse/port of inspection, NMIS shall;

1. Immediately designate and dispatch an NMIS Inspector and conduct meat inspection within 24 hours;
2. Check and verify the integrity of the VQMILC and BAI seal.
3. Complete the inspection and/or laboratory analysis within:

Duration	Supplier/Product/Situation
1. One (1)-day (inspection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FME in "Good Standing" as defined in Section I (1)</li> </ul>
2. five (5)-day (inspection and laboratory analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Product Supplier (NPS) as defined in Section I (P)</li> <li>• When an FME is delisted as an FME in "Good Standing" by DA; or</li> <li>• When there are any of the emergency cases referred to in Section VI (B) herein at the source or port/s of transshipment/routes of the shipment</li> </ul>

4. Sign the VQMILC that was endorsed by BAI VQO if the NMIS inspection and/or laboratory test results are satisfactory; and
5. Give the completed VQMILC (original) to the BOC (copy furnish BAI and the importer), which shall then be the basis of the BOC for the final liquidation of the importation documents. The final liquidation of the importation documents does not preclude the importer from utilizing the shipment.

**Section IX  
POST-BORDER SANITARY CONDITIONS**

All imported meat and/or meat products shall be subject to further relevant DA meat and meat products safety rules and regulations to ensure the consistency of quality and safety of the products and their traceability pursuant to Republic Act 9296, otherwise known as the Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines.

**Section X  
CONFISCATION AND DISPOSITION**

- A. Imported meat and/or meat products without VQC shall be refused admission or entry (i.e. while still in the vessel prior to unloading) and exported. If for any reason whatsoever these products were able to gain entry into the customs territory, the same shall be seized and destroyed at the expense of the importer to protect public health and the local animal population.
- B. Imported meat and/or meat products shall be confiscated when any of the violations below is committed, as any of these violations is deemed as compromising the integrity of the country's Risk Management Measures/Policy (RMP) as defined in Section I (U) and/or directly posing serious health and safety risks.
- B.1. At the port of entry, the BOC upon the recommendation of the quarantine officer, shall confiscate the imported products if:
- a. The seal of the container of the shipment has been broken
  - b. The shipment lacks a valid VQC.
  - c. The shipment has no IVC issued by NVA at the country of origin.
  - d. The volume/quantity of goods imported exceeds the volume indicated in the approved VQC and IVC by more than three (3) per item; provided that only the volume/quantity which exceeds the allowable limit shall be confiscated.
  - e. The shipment is not sourced from accredited FME.
  - f. The animals slaughtered are not from DA approved area, region, or country.
  - g. False claims, misrepresentation, and misbranding as may be evidenced by mislabeling of meat and/or meat products.
  - h. The meat and/or meat products have arrived beyond the "date of minimum durability"/ expiration date.
  - i. The shipment has been labeled not in conformity with Section VII (C) (1 to 9) or absence of any of these labeling requirements;
  - j. The shipment is found to be infected by any OIE lists A and/or B disease.
  - k. Other deliberate violations of the provisions of this Order including refusal of the consignee/importer to access/secure pertinent documents relevant to the shipment.

- B.2. At the cold storage/warehouse/port of inspection, the BOC upon the recommendation of the NMIS inspector, shall confiscate the imported products if:
- a. The BAI seal is broken/removed not by NMIS inspector.
  - b. Part of, or the entire shipment is utilized, processed, marketed and/or distributed without VQMILC.
  - c. The shipment is found to be carrying any disease-causing organism.
  - d. The shipment contains any toxic or deleterious substance, which may render it injurious to health.
  - e. The shipment contain any added toxic or deleterious substance other than allowed (a) food additives, and (b) color additives (c) contaminants at levels beyond the prescribed/established tolerance.
  - f. The shipment consists, in whole or part, of any filthy, putrid, rotten, decomposed substance or foreign matter, or otherwise unfit for human consumption.
  - g. The container or packaging materials in direct contact with the meat and/or meat products are found to be composed of, in whole or part, of any poisonous or deleterious substance, which render the contents injurious to health.
  - h. Other violations that pose risks to human and animal health/life.
  - i. Other deliberate violations of the provisions of this Order including refusal on the consignee/importer to access/secure pertinent documents relevant to the shipment.
- C. Shipment in violation of Section X (B.1) shall be confiscated and destroyed jointly by BOC and DA.
- D. The importer/consignee shall bear the expenses to be incurred in the confiscation and disposition of the shipment in view of Section X (A and B). These expenses include but are not limited to the destruction, storage, and labor.
- E. Violations committed at the country of origin by FMEs shall be used as a basis for possible cancellation of their accreditation.

### **Section XI SEIZURE AND MODIFICATION**

- A. Imported meat and/or meat products shall be seized and held in abeyance at the port of entry under the supervision of DA or at any DA accredited cold storage facility when the shipment of meat and/or products is inappropriately labeled based on the requirements in Section VII (C) (1 to 9). Provided that such violation does not constitute misrepresentation, misbranding, false claims and other deliberate acts. Otherwise, such shipment shall be confiscated and disposed of in accordance with Section X.
- B. The release and utilization of such shipment are dependent on the consignee's compliance to further measures on modification that shall be required by DA, provided, however, that such shipment held in abeyance does not violate any of the provisions in Section X (B). Otherwise, such shipment shall be confiscated and disposed of accordingly.

**Section XII  
PENALTY PROVISIONS**

- A. Non-compliance with Sections III (A to I), Sections VII (A to D), shipments in contravention of Section III (K), is deemed violations of this Administrative Order, with the responsible shipper/consignor/importer subject to the application of these penalty provisions.
- B. Violators of the provisions of this Order shall be penalized under Article 19 (Penalty), Chapter I, Title II, of Republic Act No. 7394 otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines issued 13 April 1992 and/or in cases of fraudulent/unlawful importation, under Section 3601 of the Tariff and Customs Code.
- C. Public officials/employees who shall directly or indirectly participate in the commission of an offense or any act resulting in the violation of the provision(s) of this Administrative Order, specifically, but not limited to violation of Sections III (D, E and I) and Sections VIII (B, C and D) shall be held administratively and/or criminally liable under the Anti-graft Law, Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

**Section XIII  
REPEALING CLAUSE**

- A. All existing rules and regulations, which are inconsistent with this Order, are hereby modified, revoked or repeated accordingly.
- B. This Order repeals AO 16 (April 200), AO 39 (October 2000), AO 56 (December 2000) which provide the rules, regulations, guidelines and standards governing the importation of meat and meat products into the Philippines.

**Section XIV  
SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

The provisions of this Order are hereby declared to be separable and in the event one or more of such provisions are held unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

**Section XV  
TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

- A. All in-transit shipments of meat and/or meat products which are shipped out from the country of origin prior to the effectivity of this Order shall be subjected to provisions of AO 39 and AO 56.
- B. All existing importers and exporters shall be subject to review and assessment of their accreditation status. For this purpose, DA shall be issuing supplementary guidelines, rules and regulations on the accreditation of both the importer and exporters.

This Order shall take effect 15 days after publication in two (2) newspaper of national circulation.

Done in the City of Quezon, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of the Lord, 2005.

**DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN**  
Secretary

Recommending Approval:

Dr. Minda S. Manantan  
OIC, Office of the Executive Director  
National Meat Inspection Service

Dr. Davinio P. Catbagan  
OIC, Office of the Director  
Bureau of Animal Industry

Annex "A" of DA Administrative Order No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Series of 2005

ANNEX "A"  
LIST OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS REFERRED TO IN  
SECTION II OF DA AO NO. \_\_\_\_\_, SERIES OF 2005

Heading No.	Description
02.01	Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled
02.02	Meat of bovine animals, frozen
02.03	Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen
02.04	Meat of sheep or goats, fresh, chilled or frozen
02.05	Meat of horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen
02.06	Edible offal of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats, horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen
02.07	Meat of edible offal, of poultry of heading no. 01.05 fresh, chilled or frozen
02.08	Other meat and edible meat offal, fresh, chilled, or frozen
02.09	Pig fat, free of lean meat, and poultry fat, not rendered or otherwise extracted, fresh, chilled and frozen
02.10	Meat and edible meat offal, salted in brine, dried or smoked, edible flours and meals of meat and meat offal
15.02	Fat of bovine animals, sheep and goats other those of heading no. 15.03 (not processed)
16.01	Sausages and similar products; of meat, meat offal or blood; food preparations based on these
16.02	Other prepared or preserved meat, meat offal or blood

Based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP) issued in 2003.

Department of Agriculture  
**Bureau of Animal Industry**  
**National Veterinary Quarantine Services**  
 Diliman, Quezon City

Annex "B" of DA AO No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Series of 2005

**APPLICATION FOR VETERINARY QUARANTINE CLEARANCE TO IMPORT**

<b>INSTRUCTION TO IMPORTER:</b> Complete and submit one notarized copy and Pro Forma Invoice/Sales Agreement to National Veterinary Quarantine Services, Bureau of Animal Industry		
<b>1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF IMPORTER</b>	<b>2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER/FOREIGN MEAT ESTABLISHMENT</b>	
<b>TELEPHONE/FAX NUMBER</b>	<b>FOREIGN MEAT ESTABLISHMENT NO.</b>	
<b>3. PORT OF LOADING (IF AVAILABLE)</b>	<b>4. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</b>	
<b>5. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>6. PHILIPPINES PORT OF ENTRY</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>
<b>7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF COLD STORAGE WHERE DELIVERY WILL BE MADE</b>		<b>8. BAI ACCREDITATION NO. OF IMPORTER</b>

1. I declare that these products will be used in accordance with all Philippines quarantine requirements as may be specified in the VQC to be issued for the importation and other DA rules and regulations relevant thereto.
2. I subscribe and declare to follow all the applicable provisions of the DA rules, regulations, standards, on the importation of meat and meat products into the Country and other DA rules and regulations relevant thereto.
3. I declare that at the time of the filing of this application, the meat and/or meat products that are to be imported are still in the country of origin and have not yet boarded in a vessel/aircraft.
4. I declare that the information I have provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE SIGNED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE OF IMPORTER**

**SPACE FOR NOTARIZATION**

As per DA Admin Order No. \_\_\_\_\_ Series of 2005, no meat and meat products may be imported without a valid Quarantine Clearance issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Annex "C" of the  
DA AO \_\_\_\_, series of 2005



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Agriculture**  
Office of the Secretary  
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City,  
Philippines

VQMILC No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**VETERINARY QUARANTINE AND MEAT INSPECTION AND LABORATORY  
CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that the undersigned had inspected the shipment described below:

**Under BAI:**

Consignee:	
Commodity:	
VQC No.	
IVC No.	
Country of origin	
Volume:	
Number of containers	
Container No/s.:	
Port of arrival:	
Date of arrival:	
Date of Release to NMIS:	

**Under NMIS:**

Accredited cold storage/warehouse	
Date of arrival in cold storage/warehouse	
Date of inspection and sampling	
Date of clearance	
Date of release to BOC	

This further certifies that said importation complied with all the requirements of the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and had been subjected to inspection and/or laboratory analysis by the National Meat Inspection Service and found to be fit for human consumption. This document serves as the basis of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) for the final release of the import documents to the Consignee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
BAI Veterinary Quarantine  
Officer/Inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
NMIS Meat Control Officer/  
Meat Inspector