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Prepared By: Pia Ang

Approved By: Ryan Bedford

Report Highlights:

This report outlines Philippine government requirements for the importation of food and agricultural products. The report aims to assist U.S. exporters by providing information on labeling, packaging, permitted ingredients, and other relevant information. It also provides points of contact for key Philippine government authorities, U.S. government agencies, and trade associations. The sections on biotechnology, plant products, processed products, fishery, and trans fatty acids were updated.

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The Bureau of Plant Industry has updated its documentary requirements for obtaining an SPSIC, namely the "Declaration of GMO Content." The BPI Memorandum and list of commodities can be found here. Previously required for only bulk commodities and not regularly enforced, BPI has expanded the list to 35 commodities. SPSIC applications may be rejected without the declaration. BPI has confirmed that the importer can sign the declaration. The declaration can include GM events/traits that may be included in the shipment. For more information and a sample declaration form, please see the 2021 Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Report (pages 7 and 8).	17
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Executive Summary:

The main laws governing food safety and international trade are the Food Safety Act of 2013, the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, and the Agriculture and Fisheries and Modernization Act. The main Departments tasked with developing and enforcing food safety standards in the Philippines are the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture. The Center for Food Regulations and Research of the Philippine Food and Drug Administration is responsible for the safety of processed and repackaged food products while the Department of Agriculture and its various regulatory agencies are

accountable for primary agricultural and fisheries products. Philippine food regulations generally follow the recommendations of the international standard-setting bodies and the United States.

Section I. Food Laws:

Under Philippine laws and regulations, it is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that any product entering the country's customs territory is in full compliance with Philippine requirements. Philippine food regulations generally follow the recommendations of the three international standard-setting bodies; however, Philippine authorities have increasingly established restrictive conditions with the specific purpose of limiting import volumes of politically sensitive agricultural commodities, including but not limited to rice, corn and its substitutes, poultry, pork, and fishery products. Enforcing authorities check for compliance by inspecting the goods and relevant documentation and decide whether the goods may enter the Philippines. In cases of non-compliance, the goods may be required to be treated before being released or they may be ordered destroyed / disposed of outside the Philippines. Corruption also remains pervasive in the Philippines, creating an environment of non-transparency and uncertainty for importers of agricultural and food products.

The main laws governing food safety and international trade are as follows:

Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act: In 1963, Republic Act 3720 (RA3720) or the "[Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act](#)" was enacted to ensure the safety and purity of foods, drugs, and cosmetics made available to the public. Under this Act, the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (PFDA) was created under the Department of Health (DOH). PFDA's primary function is to ensure the safety, proper handling, efficacy, purity, and quality of processed foods, drugs, diagnostic reagents, medical devices, cosmetics, and hazardous household substances. PFDA oversees the control of the manufacture and sale of processed foods, where the major concerns are adulteration and mislabeling of food products. It is responsible for the surveillance of imported food products.

Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act: The Bureau of Agriculture Fisheries Standards (BAFS) under the DA was first established in 1997 as provided for by Republic Act No. 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act ([AFMA](#)). Its major duties include formulating and enforcing standards of quality in the processing, preservation, packaging, labeling, importation, exportation, distribution, and advertising of fresh and primary agricultural and fisheries products. BAFS also provides assistance in establishing the scientific basis for food safety, trade standards, and codes of practice, and harmonizes them with internationally accepted standards and practices. BAFS serves as the National Enquiry Point for Codex Alimentarius. It is in charge of monitoring and disseminating information on international developments in food safety.

Food Safety Act: In August 2013, Republic Act No. 10611 or the "[Food Safety Act of 2013](#)" was signed into law. The Act strengthened the food safety regulatory system in the Philippines and set standards from harvest to manufacturing, processing, handling, packaging, distribution, marketing, food preparation, and up to consumption. Under this law, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is responsible for food safety in the primary production and post-harvest stages of the supply chain. The Department of

Health (DOH) is responsible for the safety of processed and prepackaged foods, and the conduct of epidemiological studies. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in collaboration with the DA and DOH will supervise the enforcement of food safety regulations. Local government units (LGUs) monitor compliance with food safety standards of food businesses such as slaughterhouses, dressing plants, wet markets, supermarkets, school canteens, restaurants, and catering establishments, as well as street food sales. A Food Safety Regulation Coordinating Board was created to monitor compliance with the law, coordinate management and planning during food safety emergencies, and establish policies and procedures for coordination among agencies involved in food safety. In February 2015, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Food Safety Act were signed by the Secretaries of Health and Agriculture, formally implementing the law. Under the Food Safety Act, regulatory oversight over processed meat product was transferred from the DA National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) to the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (PFDA) effective July 2016.

While not yet fully in force, pursuant to the [Implementing Rules and Regulations](#) of the Food Safety Act of 2013 or Republic Act 10611, the DOH through the PFDA shall be responsible for the overall regulation of all activities pertaining to processed and prepackaged foods whereas DA shall be responsible for unprocessed agricultural products. This includes but is not limited to the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, sale, and promotion of all processed and prepackaged food products and food supplements/dietary supplements.

Consumer Welfare Act: The Consumer Act of the Philippines ([Republic Act 7394](#)) of 1992 aims to protect the interests of the consumer, promote their general welfare, and establish standards of conduct for business and industry. The provisions of the law shall be enforced by the following implementing agencies: the Department of Health with respect to food, drugs, cosmetics, devices and substances; the Department of Agriculture with respect to products related to agriculture, and the Department of Trade and Industry with respect to other consumer products not specified above. Amongst all the relevant departments involved in the implementation of RA 7394, the DTI plays the central role.

Regulatory Bodies

The main regulatory bodies monitoring the safety and quality aspects of imported agriculture and food products are the Department of Health's Food and Drug Administration (PFDA) and the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI). These entities issue a number of Administrative Order and Memorandum Orders that provide the administrative details to these food laws.

Bureau of Animal Industry: [Republic Act No. 3639](#) established BAI and empowered it to prescribe standards for quality in the manufacture, importation, labeling, advertising, distribution, and sale of livestock, poultry products, meat products, dairy products, certain animal feed premixes and veterinary supplies in the country. BAI is also charged with preventing, controlling, containing, and eradicating communicable animal diseases by regulating the flow of animals and animal products in the country.

National Meat Inspection Service: [Presidential Decree 7](#) authorized the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) to implement policies and procedures governing post-production flow of livestock, meat, and meat products through the various stages of marketing. The NMIC supervises the operations of abattoirs and meat establishments and conducts ante- and post-mortem inspections of meat. The Meat Import/Export Service of the NMIC ensures that imported or exportable meat and meat products are produced under acceptable conditions and systems.

In June 2004, Republic Act 9296 otherwise known as the "[National Meat Inspection Code](#)" was signed into law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations ([IRR](#)) were issued in October 2005. The NMIC was officially renamed the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS). The law, which transfers certain NMIC functions to the Local Government Units, was crafted to harmonize Philippine meat inspection laws with international standards. While BAI has jurisdiction over the import of both live animals and meat from an animal health perspective, NMIS enforces the food safety and quality regulations over fresh, chilled, and frozen meat and poultry imports into the Philippines.

Bureau of Plant Industry: Presidential Decree No. 1433 or the [Plant Quarantine Law](#) authorizes the DA through BPI to exercise inspection and certification and/or treatment activities on imported and exportable plant products such as fruits and vegetables. It also mandates BPI to prevent the introduction of exotic pests into the country, to prevent further spread of existing plant pests, and to enforce phytosanitary measures for the export of plants, plant products, and regulated articles.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources: BFAR is the government agency responsible for the development, improvement, management, and conservation of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources. It was reconstituted as a line bureau under the DA by virtue of Republic Act No. 8550 of the "[Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998](#)". The Fisheries Regulatory and Quarantine Division, Foreign Trade Section issues commodity clearances (i.e., import permits) and other requirements for the import of fish and fishery products.

Local Government Units: Republic Act 7160, also known as the "[Local Government Code of 1991](#)" mandated the devolution of power, authority, resources, responsibilities, and accountabilities from the national government to the provincial, city, and municipal governments. Under the Food Safety Act, the DILG in coordination with DA and DOH shall supervise the enforcement of food safety and sanitary rules and regulations as well as the inspection and compliance of business establishments. LGUs may use the Local Government Code to put in place trade measures over and above the national SPS regulations.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

Department of Health [Administrative Order 30 \(2014\)](#) “Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products” sets forth the said requirements and requires the following to be included on labels:

1. Product name/name of the food;
2. Use of brand name and/or trademark;
3. Complete list of ingredients used in the product (in decreasing order of proportion), including additives, flavorings, and preservatives used;
4. Net contents and drained weight;
5. Name and address of manufacturer, packer, or distributor, including country of origin for imported products and name and the address of Philippine importer or distributor;
6. Lot identification;
7. Storage condition;
8. Expiry or expiration date/use-by-date/consume before date;
9. Food allergen information;
10. Direction/instruction(s) for use;
11. Nutrition facts/nutrition information/nutritive value

Special labeling content is required for a small number of products, e.g., bottled water and pre-packaged processed meats. No special requirements exist for biotechnology or organic labels.

Pre-Approval: PFDA requires importers to provide advance copies of the labels of the products they intend to import. This information is required for the registration of imported food and drink products (see Section VI). The content of such labels is scrutinized to establish whether it is acceptable under Codex and PFDA requirements. Nutritional and medical claims made on such labels are one of the factors considered by PFDA when evaluating applications to register foreign products for import into the Philippines, especially Category II (medium and high risk) products such as food supplements, infant foods, and special dietary foods. Products that have labels that make claims that cannot be easily substantiated may be banned from entry into the country.

Nutritional and Health Claims and Advertising: Food labels that indicate special dietary uses (e.g., diabetic foods) must include information concerning its vitamin, mineral, and other dietary properties as required by PFDA, and in a manner that fully informs purchasers of the product's intrinsic value in terms of its special use. PFDA is also responsible for monitoring and ascertaining the veracity of nutritional and medicinal claims in food advertisements in the various media. PFDA may call upon any manufacturer, distributor, or advertiser to desist from inaccurate or misleading nutritional or medicinal claims in their advertisement. Should any food manufacturer, distributor, or advertiser refuse or fail to obey the PFDA order to desist from using false claims, it can be assessed penalties under the law and regulations.

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

Packaging: Codex Alimentarius and U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations serve as PFDA's main reference guidelines for policy pertaining to good manufacturing practices and suitability of packaging materials for food use. The Food Safety Act of 2013 specifies that PFDA is responsible for ensuring the safety of all food processing and product packaging activities. General safety requirements for food packaging materials are contained in [Administrative Order 153](#) (2004) or the Revised Guidelines on Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Packing, Repacking, or Holding Food. PFDA also established PNS 1104:1992 on Plastic Materials for Food Contact Use - Colorants – Specification.

Importers, however, need to register packaged products with PFDA before they are sold at retail outlets (see Section VI).

Wood Packing Materials Requirements: The Philippines adopted ISPM 15 for wood packaging material (WPM) in June 2005. See [Philippines WPM Requirements](#).

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

Food additives must comply with the Philippine Food Act and the regulations that have been established by PFDA for such products, including [Bureau Circular 16 \(2006\)](#), which establishes the current list of permissible food additives. Additives are broadly defined by PFDA as any substance that becomes a component part or otherwise affects the characteristics of the food or beverage product. As such, they include any substance that has a direct or indirect impact on the food as a result of its use in producing, manufacturing, processing and preparing the product, and in packing, treating, packaging, transporting, and/or holding the product.

Lake Colors: In 2018, PFDA halted new registrations and discontinued renewal of pre-existing registrations of food products containing lake colors due to food safety concerns. Lake colors are typically used to make confectionaries such as chewing gum, hard candies, snack foods, cake and dough mixes, and ice cream. A [draft regulation](#) on the use of lake colors remains under review.

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

If the imported product contains pesticide or veterinary drug residues or other contaminants above the maximum limit set by Philippine, ASEAN, or Codex standards, the commodity shall be refused entry and/or seized.

Pesticides: The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) was created in 1977 by [Presidential Decree 1144](#). The FPA is the designated national authority for registration matters. FPA licenses pesticide distributors and dealers and issues import certificates. Registration may be suspended or cancelled when there is imminent danger of misuse of the products or violations of regulations by handlers. Registration of new and toxic pesticides requires evaluation by the FPA for risk and benefits.

BPI is the agency mandated to establish practices on the use of pesticides as well as monitor pesticide residue levels in crops and by products. It also recommends policies for the safety of consumers.

BAFS has established MRLs adopted from Codex Alimentarius, ASEAN, and Japan Agricultural Standards for [selected imported crops](#) like apple, grapes, oranges, pears,

Veterinary Drugs: Veterinary drugs must be included in PFDA's [registry](#) prior to commercial use or sale. See also BAI's information on [veterinary product registration](#). [Administrative Order 14](#) (2003) bans the use of beta-agonists if also used as bronchodilators and tocolytic agents in humans.

The National Veterinary Drug Residue Monitoring Program was created by virtue of [DA Administrative Order No. 14 s. 2006](#) and includes sampling of feed, eggs, [meat \(and poultry\)](#), fisheries, and milk. Philippine National Standard [48:2016](#), issued by BAFS, sets maximum residue limits of veterinary drugs in food as well as is intended to be an endorsement and identical adoption of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) MRL 2-2015.

Contaminants: The Philippine National Standards for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed ([PNS/BAFS 194:2017](#)) was established pursuant to the Food Safety Act. It applies only to primary and postharvest products and not to processed products. The standard is a modified adoption of the CODEX STAN 193-1995 (amended in 2016), in part to meet the particular needs of the Philippine industry. BPI adopted its application via [AC No 1 \(2020\)](#).

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

The Philippines requires importers of food and agricultural products to be registered with DA and/or FDA, depending on the product.

For plant and plant products, animals, meat and poultry products, and fishery products, DA [Administrative Order 9](#) requires a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) be issued prior to importation and functions as an import permit. The SPSIC replaced the earlier Veterinary Quarantine Clearance for meat and poultry products, Plant Quarantine Clearance for plant and plant products, and Fishery Quarantine Clearance for seafood and fishery products. An SPSIC is generally valid for 60 days from the date of issuance, though the timeframe is shorter for politically sensitive products, while DA regularly ceases to issue SPSICs during local harvest periods. The exported product may not be loaded at the country of origin until the SPSIC's issuance. The SPSIC is non-transferable and is specific to individual shipments. The SPSIC cannot facilitate multiple shipments. For seafood and [onions](#) (beginning in February 2022), a Certificate of Necessity to Import (CNI) must first be presented prior to the application for the SPSIC (see Fishery Section below).

Plant and Plant Products:

BPI's [National Plant Quarantine Services Division](#) (NPQSD) was charged with implementing [Department Circular 4 \(2016\)](#) "Guidelines on the Importation of Plants, Planting Materials and Plant Products for Commercial Purposes" and its supplemental [Memorandum Order 28 \(2019\)](#). These implementing documents were issued in an attempt to align Philippine import requirements with the relevant international phytosanitary guidelines promulgated by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). As BPI aligned import requirements with IPPC guidelines, it allowed for continued trade of products that had been historically imported into the Philippines. Note: BPI continues to regulate processed and pre-packaged plant products despite the Food Safety Act of 2013 transferring their oversight to PFDA.

In accordance with IPPC guidelines, BPI now categorizes imported plants and plant products as follows:

- Category 1: Commodities processed to the point that they are incapable of being infested with quarantine pest should obtain a Plant Quarantine Service Certificate or SPSIC from BPI.
- Category 2: Commodities processed to the point where the commodity remains capable of being infested with some quarantine pests and whose intended use may be for consumption or further processing require an SPSIC and Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) and may require a Pest Risk Analysis
- Category 3 and 4: Commodities that have not been processed with an intended use of consumption, processing, or planting require an SPSIC, PC, and Pest Risk Analysis.

Since BPI implemented updated requirements to align with IPPC guidelines, a pest risk analysis has been completed for the following U.S. commodities: broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, carrots, cabbage,

celery, potatoes, Christmas trees, and blueberries. Additionally, BPI has initiated a PRA for U.S.-origin pomegranates. For wheat, corn, soybeans, and other plant products that have been historically imported into the Philippines, BPI allows continued trade per [International Standard Phytosanitary Measures](#). The BPI list of allowed fruits and vegetable is available [here](#) and includes the list of U.S. fruits and vegetables allowed for export to the Philippines.

Meanwhile, SPSICs must be secured in accordance to DA Department Circular 4 for the following plants, planting materials and plant products:

- 1) Living plants
- 2) Nursery stocks including vegetative parts thereof used as propagating materials
- 3) Nuts and unprocessed seeds either for planting or consumption
- 4) Fresh fruits, vegetables and other plant products such as fresh onion, garlic, ginger, etc. which have been declared as prohibited/restricted import under special quarantine orders because of being known host of dangerous plant pest or originating from restricted areas.
- 5) Pure culture of fungi, bacteria, virus, nematodes and other phytopathogenic materials
- 6) Mushroom cultures including spawn
- 7) Soil and plant materials for isolation of organism
- 8) Algae cultures, rhizobial cultures as legumes inoculants
- 9) Other plant cultures
- 10) Genetically modified plants, planting materials and plant products
- 11) Wood packaging materials and other packing materials capable of harboring plant pests
- 12) Frozen/chilled fruits and vegetables including diced vegetables and processed fruits
- 13) Milled rice, corn and other grains and cereals
- 14) Grasses for animals and aqua feed
- 15) Other plants, planting materials and plant products under Category 2, 3 and 4.

NPQSD accredits Philippine importers on a commodity-by-commodity basis. Accreditations must be renewed every three years. Active registries are available as follows:

- Certificate of Registration [registry](#)
- Plant Quarantine Service Certificate [registry](#)

For more information: [Application and Issuance of SPSIC](#) and <https://npqsd.bpi-npqsd.com.ph/import/>

- **Licensed importer** – Prior to application of SPSIC for importation of plants, planting materials and plant products for commercial purposes, the applicant needs to be registered first as an importer. If the importer will import a particular product more than once, they will be required to register as an importer of said products and will be given access to the online application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) known as Inter-Commerce. Requirements and procedures is in the attached BPI website. The term “registered importer” was the previous term

used for accredited importers; currently, the term “licensed importer” is used. The list of [licensed importers](#) is available at the BPI website.

- **One-time importer** – An importer who intends to import only once can usually file an application manually at BPI PQS Central office in Manila. They will be issued a Plant Quarantine Clearance (PQC) equivalent to import permit, because they have no access to the Inter-Commerce application for SPSIC. Alternatively, an applicant can register through the online process as noted [here](#).

Difference between a Plant Quarantine Clearance (PQC) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC):

Both are issued for Category II, III, and IV commodities. However, PQCs are only issued for importation of commodities for personal consumption, while SPSICs are generally for commercial purposes.

Corn and Feed Wheat:

[Memorandum Circular 39 \(2020\)](#) requires commodity descriptions to distinguish between feed and food use. The importer will need to attach an affidavit declaring the intended use of the imported product, to accompany the proforma invoice and GMO/non-GMO declaration. Additionally, importers are required to provide BPI and BAI with corn and wheat supply and utilization reports every three months. The must-ship out date is now 20 days from approval of the SPSIC, while products must arrive within 35 days of its approval if from ASEAN and within 65 days if from Myanmar or any other countries outside ASEAN. U.S. shipments thus need to be shipped out within 20 days and arrive within 65 days upon issuance of the SPSIC. Importers must apply for an e-RFI (request for inspection) 24 hours before arrival.

Rice: [Memorandum Order 38 \(2020\)](#) supplements [Memorandum Circular 28 \(2019\)](#) to include the same must-ship and must-arrive-by language as MC39 for corn and feed wheat.

Animals, Animal Products, and Animal Feeds:

Philippine importers must register and become accredited with the Bureau of Animal Industry’s National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division.

- [Requirements for the Accreditation of Animal Products and Animal By-Products Importer](#)
- [Requirements for the Accreditation of Live Animals Importer/Exporter](#)
- Issuance of Animal Feed Establishment Registration Certificate ([Initial](#) and [Renewal](#))
- Issuance of License to Operate ([Initial](#) and [Renewal](#))
- Issuance of Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) ([Initial](#) and [Renewal](#))
- Issuance of Certificate of Feed Product Registration (CFPR) ([Initial](#) and [Renewal](#))
- [Issuance of Brand Name Clearance](#)

- [Electronic Issuance of Sanitary Phytosanitary \(SPS\) Import Clearance \(for FEEDS/VDAP IMPORTERS/INDENTORS\)](#)
- [Issuance of Indorsement to NEDA for the Conditionally Tax-Free Importation of Livestock and Poultry](#)
- [Issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary \(SPS\) Clearance to Import Dogs and Cats](#)
- Registration of Veterinary Biological Product ([Initial](#) and [Renewal](#))
- [Issuance of Import Permit](#)

For more information: <http://www.bai.gov.ph/index.php/regulatory>

Processed Products of Animal Origin:

In May 2017, the Philippine Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) issued [Memorandum Circular 4](#), announcing it would no longer issue SPSICs for processed food products of animal origin intended for human consumption. This includes but is not limited to the following: milk and milk by-products (ice creams, chocolates, chocolate drinks, pasteurized milk, marshmallows, cheese, cheddars, butter, cereals, cakes, tarts, pastries, candies, sauce with milk, soya milk, cocoa spread, coffee with milk, mayonnaise, whipping creams, and processed eggs. These products are under the supervision of PFDA.

Animal Feed:

On February 28, 2021, regulatory oversight on veterinary drugs and feed ingredients transferred from DA to PFDA with the expiration of [Joint Administrative Order 26 \(2013\)](#). However, Philippine importers must continue to work with both DA Bureau of Animal Industry and PFDA Center for Food Regulations and Research. [Memorandum Circular 1](#) (2021) states that Regulation of Feed Pre-Mixes and Water-Soluble Supplements will remain under the jurisdiction of the BAI Animal Feeds, Veterinary Drugs and Biologics Control Division

Tallow:

[Memorandum Order 20](#) (2004) allows the importation of protein-free tallow.

Meat and Bone Meal: [Memorandum Order 26 \(2009\)](#) lifted the ban on meat-and-bone meal and other animal protein products.

Meat and Poultry Products:

DA [Administrative Order 26-2005](#) “Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines” regulates meat and poultry imports.

[Administrative Order 24-2010](#) “General Guidelines on Labelling of Meat and Poultry” requires the following information on carton labels:

- 1) Registered trade name of the exporter or brand name of the product;

- 2) Business name and address of the exporter;
- 3) Country of origin;
- 4) Lot identification;
- 5) Product description and list of ingredients;
- 6) Net quantity of contents, in terms of weight, measure or 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

Notes: Philippine officials have inconsistently enforced an unofficial one-year expiration date for imported frozen beef, pork, and poultry. Also, the Philippines does not allow meat and poultry products packed in cartons with labels indicating shipment to another country. More recently, some importers report that the Philippines sometimes requires that imported meat arrive in the country not later than six months from the production date in the label (a requirement for other exporting countries but not the United States).

Fishery Products:

BFAR [Administrative Order 195](#) "Rules and Regulation Governing Importation of Fishery Products" only allows the importation of fish and aquatic products for retail when certified as necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture in order to achieve food security, taking into consideration public welfare and safety.

The following information (except for bulk intended for further processing) should appear on the packaging and on the accompanying documents:

1. The country of origin written out in full;
2. Species of fishery products’ weight and content;
3. Address of supplier; and
4. BFAR inspection stamp mark.

For more information: <https://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/lawAndRegulation.jsp>

Under Administrative Order (AO) No 195 or the "Rules and Regulation Governing Importation of Fishery Products", the Philippines only allows the importation of fish and aquatic products for retail when certified as necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture in order to achieve food security, taking into consideration public welfare and safety. A Certificate of Necessity to Import (CNI) is issued by the Secretary upon the recommendation by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), in coordination with the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), and in consultation with the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC), and fishing industry stakeholders.

Under [Fisheries AO 259](#), the Secretary of Agriculture determines monthly importable volume for the duration of the closed and off-fishing fishing seasons or during occurrences of calamities taking into considerations the historical volume of production for the last five years, level of demand and projected consumption, and existing trends of market prices. Imported fishery products are no longer allowed for sale in wet markets, which have been redefined by BFAR to include modern supermarkets and e-commerce. Imported fishery products may now only be imported by institutional buyers, including food processors and hotel/restaurant chains.

Processed Products:

Philippine importers must secure a License to Operate (LTO) from PFDA prior to the importation of foods offered for retail sale. The initial License to Operate is valid for two years while renewals are valid for five years. Prior to importation and retail sale, an importer-distributor also needs to obtain a Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) using the [E-Registration System](#). A processing time of 20 working days is mandated by the Anti-Red Tape Authority, from the start of complete application for CPRs. Initial CPRs are valid for three years with renewals valid for five years. Below is a checklist of the requirements based on [Administrative Order No. 2014-0029](#):

- Accomplished integrated application form as prescribed by current PFDA regulations;
- Proof of payment of fees as prescribed by current PFDA regulations;
- Actual labels for all packaging sizes
- Pictures of the product from all angles and in different packaging sizes, and from at least two different perspectives allowing visual recognition of the product as the same with the one being registered, as applicable;
- As applicable, documents to substantiate claims such as technical, nutritional, or health studies or reports, market-research studies, Certificate of Analysis, quantitative analysis and computations, scientific report or studies published in peer reviewed scientific journals, etc.

Based on [PFDA Circular 2016-007](#), an importer needs to obtain one of the following documents from each supplier: Foreign Agency Agreement/Certificate of Distributorship/Appointment Letter; or Proforma Invoice; or Memorandum Agreement from the supplier or manufacturer.

One of the following additional documents is also required:

- Manufacturer's Certificate of Registration with Good Manufacturing Practices compliance or its equivalent.
- ISO 22000 Certification or HACCP Certificate
- Phytosanitary Certificate/Health Certificate/Certificate of Free Sale issued by the government regulatory agency or health authority of the country of origin stating that the product applied for registration is freely sold in the country of origin and/or fit for human consumption.

The time it takes for PFDA to issue a CPR has considerably improved as PFDA seeks compliance with the [2018 Ease of Doing Business Act \(or Republic Act No. 11032\)](#); however, further improvement is needed to meet the 20 business day maximum for highly technical transactions.

Product Samples:

Samples for research/plant trial/production trial are allowed without a CPR, provided a clearance is secured from the PFDA. The following requirements must be submitted to PFDA:

1. Application Letter (No specific format, just state that the purpose of importation)
2. Letter/Affidavit of Undertaking (No specific format, Submit original notarized copy)
3. Certificate of Analysis OR Certificate of Free Sale
4. Proforma Invoice
5. Packing List, if available
6. Bill of Lading, if available
7. Payment (Php 510/invoice)
8. Valid LTO

Fortification Requirements:

Republic Act 8976 or the [Philippine Food Fortification Law of 2000](#) requires staple foods, including imports, be fortified based on standards set by the DOH, including rice with iron; wheat flour with vitamins A and iron; refined sugar with vitamin A; cooking oil with vitamin A; and other staple foods with nutrients as may later be required by the National Nutrition Council. Mandatory fortification is only for the staple food itself, not for imported processed food containing one of the staple foods as an ingredient. Other processed food may also be fortified on a voluntary basis, following the Guidelines on Micronutrient Fortification for Processed Foods of [DOH AO 4-A of 1995](#).

Plant-based Meat and Other Products:

There are no additional requirements for plant-based meat and other plant-based products. These products follow the same certification and labeling requirements as prescribed by FDA Administrative Order No. 29 (2014) above.

Genetically Engineered (GE) Foods:

The Joint Department Circular No. 1 entitled *Rules and Regulations for the Research and Development, Handling and Use, Transboundary Movement, Release into the Environment, and Management of Genetically-Modified Plant and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Modern Biotechnology* was signed into law in March 2016. The Philippines streamlined its biotechnology regulatory framework by revising the JDC-1, which was approved on February 15, 2022. See [here](#) for more information.

All GE plant varieties (i.e., regulated articles) must be evaluated for food, feed, and environmental safety prior to entering the Philippines. Any food or feed containing an unapproved variety regardless of country of origin is prohibited from entering the Philippines. For more information, see [Philippines Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Report](#).

The Bureau of Plant Industry has updated its documentary requirements for obtaining an SPSIC, namely the "Declaration of GMO Content." The BPI Memorandum and list of commodities can be found [here](#).

Previously required for only bulk commodities and not regularly enforced, BPI has expanded the list to 35 commodities. SPSIC applications may be rejected without the declaration. BPI has confirmed that the importer can sign the declaration. The declaration can include GM events/traits that may be included in the shipment. For more information and a sample declaration form, please see the [2021 Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Report](#) (pages 7 and 8).

Canabidiol (CBD): Pursuant to R.A. 9165, otherwise known as the [Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002](#), the importation, sale, trading, administration, dispensations, delivery, distribution, and transportation, regardless of the quantity and purity involved, are prohibited, including any and all species of prohibited drugs including marijuana. Cannabis is still illegal but medicines with CBD of 0.2% Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is allowed by the FDA. Only medicines with the previously mentioned CBD content were deregulated.

Trans Fats: On June 18, 2021, the Department of Health issued [Administrative Order No. 2021-0039](#) (AO 2021-0039) “National Policy on the Elimination of Industrially Produced Trans-Fatty Acids for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.” The Order took effect on July 6, 2021, 15 days following publication.

AO 2020-0039 aims to provide a policy framework to eliminate industrially-produced TFAs in the Philippine Food Supply by 2023, providing a transitory period not to exceed two years. Specifically, the AO aims to reduce TFA intake among Filipinos to less than 1 percent of the recommended total energy intake through the following strategies:

1. Regulating pre-packaged food products containing TFA
2. Enabling the replacement of TFA with alternative oils, fats, and oilseeds
3. Increasing awareness of the negative impacts of TFA to the public.

Under the AO, industrially-produced TFA and processed food products containing TFAs shall be prohibited from being produced, imported, and distributed for commercial sale. Specifically, the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of the following shall be prohibited:

1. Partially-Hydrogenated Oils (PHO) to be consumed alone or used in preparation of processed food products;
2. Oils and fats made blended with PHO;
3. Oils and fats with TFA content more than 2g per 100g; and
4. Processed and prepackaged food with PHOs and high TFA content

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

A list of approved Philippine National Standards follows. See the BAFS [website](#) for details.

- PNS/BAFS 01:2012 Green Coffee Beans – Specification
PNS/BAFS 02:2003 Fresh Cut Flower - Carnation (Standard) - Specification
PNS/BAFS 03:2003 Live flowering potted plants – Chrysanthemum
PNS/BAFS 04:2003 Fresh cut flowers – Chrysanthemum (Standard) – Specification
PNS/BAFS 05:2003 Fresh cut flowers – Chrysanthemum (Spray type) – Specification
PNS/BAFS 06:2003 Fresh cut flowers – Orchid (Spray type) – Specification
[PNS/BAFS 07:2016 Organic Agriculture](#)
PNS/BAFS 08:2014 Fresh Fruit - ‘Saba’ and ‘Cardaba’ Bananas - Specification
PNS/BAFS 09:2004 Fresh Fruit – Pineapple – Specification
[PNS/BAFS 10:2017 Grains - Grading and Classification – Corn](#)
PNS/BAFS 11:2004 Fresh fruit - Pummelo - Specification
PNS/BAFS 12:2004 Fresh fruit - Durian - Specification
PNS/BAFS 13:2004 Fresh fruit - Mangoes - Specification
PNS/BAFS 14:2004 Fresh vegetables - Common onion and Shallot - Specification
PNS/BAFS 15:2018 Corn (maize) gritz - Grading and classification
PNS/BAFS 16:2005 Vegetable - Broccoli - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 17:2005 Vegetables - Cabbage - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 18:2005 Vegetables - Cauliflower - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 19:2005 Vegetables - Head Lettuce - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 20:2018 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Corn
PNS/BAFS 21:2018 Coconut Fiber (coir) - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 22:2007 Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO v.2007)
PNS/BAFS 23:2005 Fresh cut flowers - Anthurium - Specification
PNS/BAFS 24:2005 Fresh cut flowers - Roses - Specification
PNS/BAFS 25:2007 Desiccated Coconut
PNS/BAFS 26:2006 Fresh vegetables - Tomato - Specification
PNS/BAFS 27:2018 Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in corn
PNS/BAFS 28:2006 Chilled young coconut water/drink - Specification
PNS/BAFS 29:2017 Part I Dried Cassava Chips and Grates as Food Purposes
PNS/BAFS 29:2017 Part II Dried Cassava Chips and Grates as Food Purposes
PNS/BAFS 30:2005 Fresh fruit - Calamondin/Calamansi - Grading and classification
PNS/BAFS 31:2005 Fresh fruit - Mangosteen - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 32:2006 Raw nata de coco - Specification
PNS/BAFS 33:2005 Fresh fruits - Papaya - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 34:2005 - Pili nuts
PNS/BAFS 35:2005 - Table egg - Specification
PNS/BAFS 36:2008 Fresh milk - Specification
PNS/BAFS 37:2006 Taro leaves
PNS/BAFS 38:2006 Fresh vegetables - Carrots - Specification
PNS/BAFS 39:2008 Fresh vegetables - Okra
[PNS/BAFS 41:2018 Pork Cuts](#)
PNS/BAFS 42:2019 Organic milled rice - Code of Practice - Postproduction
PNS/BAFS 43:2009 Industrial Crops - Coconut (Copra)
PNS/BAFS 44:2009 Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in Copra
PNS/BAFS 45:2009 Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Mango
[PNS/BAFS 46:2006 Code of hygienic practice for the sale of fresh agriculture and fishery products in markets and authorized outlets](#)
PNS/BAFS 47:2011 - Distilled fermented coconut sap (Coconut Lambanog)
[PNS/BAFS 48:2016 Veterinary drug residues in food: Maximum Residue Limits \(MRLs\)](#)
PNS/BAFS 49:2017 Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Fruits and Vegetables
PNS/BAFS 50:2007 Fresh vegetables - Ginger - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 51:2007 Fresh vegetables - Garlic - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 52:2007 Fresh vegetables - Eggplant - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 53:2007 Fresh Vegetables - Potatoes - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 54:2007 Fresh fruits - Lanzones - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 55:2007 Fresh fruits - Jackfruit - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 56:2007 Fresh fruits - Watermelon - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 57:2007 Fresh fruits - Mandarin - Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 58:2019 Cacao or cacao beans - specification and grading
PNS/BAFS 59:2008 Cashew kernels - Specification
PNS/BAFS 60:2008 Code of good animal husbandry practices (GAHP)
PNS/BAFS 61:2008 Fresh vegetables - Ampalaya
PNS/BAFS 62:2008 Fresh vegetable - Cucumber
PNS/BAFS 63:2008 Fresh fruits - Melons
PNS/BAFS 64:2008 Fresh fruits - Banana
PNS/BAFS 65:2008 Fresh tender coconut or Buko
PNS/BAFS 66:2020 Milkfish - Fresh chilled and fresh frozen
PNS/BAFS 67:2008 Frozen Tilapia
PNS/BAFS 68:2008 Dried danggit
PNS/BAFS 69:2008 Quick frozen raw squid
PNS/BAFS 70:2008 Quick frozen shrimps or prawns
PNS/BAFS 71:2008 Quick frozen finfish, uneviscerated and eviscerated
PNS/BAFS 72:2009 Live, chilled/frozen abalone
PNS/BAFS 73:2009 Live, chilled/frozen grouper
PNS/BAFS 74:2018 Coco peat - Grading and classification
PNS/BAFS 75:2010 Coconut flour – Specification
PNS/BAFS 76:2016 Coconut Sap Sugar – Specification
PNS/BAFS 77:2009 Fresh vegetables – Squash – Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 78:2009 Fresh vegetables – Sweet pepper – Grading and classification
PNS/BAFS 79:2009 Fresh vegetables – Radish – Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 80:2009 Fresh vegetables – Yardlong beans or ‘Sitao’ – Grading and Classification
PNS/BAFS 81:2018 Raw cane sugar - Specification
PNS/BAFS 82:2018 White sugar – Specification
[PNS/BAFS 83:2018 Beef primal cuts](#)
[PNS/BAFS 84:2010 Aquaculture feeds](#)
PNS/BAFS 85:2012 Dried raw seaweed – Specification
PNS/BAFS 86:2010 Live grading for slaughter carabao
PNS/BAFS 87:2010 Live grading for slaughter cattle
PNS/BAFS 88:2012 Code of practice for Philippine Tablea
PNS/BAFS 89:2011 Live and raw bivalve molluscs
PNS/BAFS 90:2011 Quick frozen fish fillets

PNS/BAFS 91:2011 Quick frozen lobsters

PNS/BAFS 92:2010 Fresh vegetables – Celery – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 93:2010 Fresh vegetables – Pechay – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 94:2010 Fresh vegetables – Mustard greens – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 95:2010 Fresh vegetables – Sweet potato – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 96:2010 Fresh vegetables – Yam – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 97:2011 Fresh vegetable – Snap beans – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 98:2011 Fresh vegetable – Sweet corn – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 99:2011 Fresh fruit – Chico (Sapodilla) – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 100:2011 Fresh fruits – Makopa (Wax apple) – Classification and grading

[PNS/BAFS 101:2016 Halal Agriculture and Fishery Products](#)

[PNS/BAFS 102:2016 Code of Halal Slaughtering Practices for Ruminants](#)

[PNS/BAFS 103:2016 Code of Halal Slaughtering Practices for Poultry](#)

PNS/BAFS 104:2011 Code of practice for Philippine cacao beans

PNS/BAFS 105:2012 Mung beans – Classification and grading

[PNS/BAFS 106:2012 Soybeans – Classification and grading](#)

PNS/BAFS 107:2012 Peanuts – Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 108:2014 Good Agricultural Practices - Onions - Grading and Specification

PNS/BAFS 109:2012 Malunggay (Moringa) powder – Specification

PNS/BAFS 110:2012 Malunggay (Moringa) oil – Specification

PNS/BAFS 111:2012 Philippine Tablea

[PNS/BAFS 112:2016 Organic Aquaculture](#)

PNS/BAFS 113:2013 Fresh fruit – Avocado - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 114:2013 Fresh vegetable – Breadfruit - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 115:2013 Fresh fruit – Dragon fruit - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 116:2013 Fresh fruit – Marang - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 117:2013 Fresh fruit – Soursop - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 118:2013 Fresh fruit – Sugarapple - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 119:2020 Fresh root crops- Sweet cassava- Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 120:2013 Fresh vegetable – Turmeric - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 121:2014 Fresh vegetables – Chayotes - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 122:2014 Fresh fruits – Guavas - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 123:2014 Fresh vegetables – Lima beans - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 124:2014 Fresh fruits – Rambutans - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 125:2014 Fresh fruits – Strawberry - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 126:2014 Fresh root vegetables – Taro - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 127:2014 Fresh vegetables – Winged beans - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 128:2013 Dried sea cucumber

PNS/BAFS 129:2013 Code of good agricultural practices (GAP) for banana production

PNS/BAFS 130:2014 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Philippine Cacao Beans

PNS/BAFS 131:2014 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Philippine Tablea

PNS/BAFS 132:2014 Principles, Guidelines and Procedures for the Establishment of a Traceability System for Philippine Cacao Beans

PNS/BAFS 133:2014 Code of Hygienic Practice for Melons

PNS/BAFS 134:2014 Food Defense Guidance for Industry

PNS/BAFS 135:2014 Code of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP)

PNS/BAFS 136:2014 Fresh and Frozen Cephalopods

PNS/BAFS 137:2014 Fresh-chilled and Fresh-frozen Tuna for Sashimi

PNS/BAFS 138:2014 Fresh-chilled, fresh-frozen and treated Tuna

[PNS/BAFS 139:2015 Halal Feeds](#)

[PNS/BAFS 140:2014 Pet Food Labelling](#)

PNS/BAFS 141:2019 Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Rice

PNS/BAFS 142:2018 Code of hygienic practice for processing and handling of corn grits

PNS/BAFS 143:2015 Corn Silage

PNS/BAFS 144:2015 Muscovado Sugar

PNS/BAFS 145:2015 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Muscovado Sugar

PNS/BAFS 146:2019 Code of practice for the prevention and reduction

PNS/BAFS 147:2015 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Hydrocyanic Acid in Cassava and Cassava Products

PNS/BAFS 148:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice for Berries

PNS/BAFS 149:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice for Spices and Aromatic Herbs

PNS/BAFS 150:2020 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Cassava

PNS/BAFS 151:2015 Code of Practice for Radiation Processing of Food

PNS/BAFS 152:2015 Loofah - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 153:2015 Santol - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 154:2015 Sweet Tamarind - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 155:2015 Water Convolvulus - Classification and grading

PNS/BAFS 156:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice for Natural Ingredients

PNS/BAFS 157:2015 Pesticide residues in asparagus: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

PNS/BAFS 158:2015 Pesticide residues in Okra: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

PNS/BAFS 159:2015 Pesticide residues in Pineapple: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

PNS/BAFS 160:2015 Pesticide residues in Mango: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

PNS/BAFS 161:2015 Pesticide residues in Banana: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

[PNS/BAFS 162:2015 Pesticide residues in Rice: Maximum Residue Limits \(MRLs\)](#)

[PNS/BAFS 163:2015 Animal Feed Ingredients](#)

PNS/BAFS 164:2015 Code of Slaughtering Practice for Goats

PNS/BAFS 165:2015 Chevron Cuts

PNS/BAFS 166:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice (COHP) for Gabi Leaves

PNS/BAFS 167:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice (COHP) for Coconut Sap Sugar

[PNS/BAFS 168:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice \(COHP\) for Meat](#)

PNS/BAFS 169:2015 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Coffee

PNS/BAFS 170:2015 Code of Practice (COP) for the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A Contamination in Coffee

PNS/BAFS 171:2015 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Papaya

PNS/BAFS 172:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice (COHP) for Tree Nuts

PNS/BAFS 173:2015 Code of Practice (COP) for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Tree Nuts

PNS/BAFS 174:2015 Code of Hygienic Practice (COHP) for Peanuts

PNS/BAFS 175:2015 Code of Practice (COP) for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts

PNS/BAFS 176:2016 Dried Anchovies

PNS/BAFS 177:2016 Live Mangrove Crab

PNS/BAFS 178:2016 Pasteurized Crab Meat

PNS/BAFS 179:2016 Code of Hygienic Practices for Chilled Young Coconut Water

PNS/BAFS 180:2016 Abaca Fiber - Grading and Classification - Hand-stripped and Spindle/Machine-stripped

PNS/BAFS 181:2016 Abaca Fiber - Grading and Classification - Decorticated

PNS/BAFS 182:2016 Organic Biocontrol Agents - Microbials and Botanicals - Minimum data requirements

PNS/BAFS 183:2016 Organic Soil Amendment

PNS/BAFS 184:2016 GAHP Chicken Broilers Layers

PNS/BAFS 185:2016 Honey

PNS/BAFS 186:2016 Code of Good Beekeeping Practices

[PNS/BAFS 187:2016 Organic Aquaculture Feeds](#)

PNS/BAFS 188:2018 Coffee Grinder- Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 189:2018 Coffee Grinder- Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 190:2018 Cacao Grinder - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 191:2018 Cacao Grinder- Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 192:2016 Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery Guidelines on After Sales Service PAES

PNS/BAFS 193:2017 Good Warehousing Practices (GWP) for Bagged Grains

[PNS/BAFS 194:2017 General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed](#)

PNS/BAFS 195:2017 Mushroom Specification

PNS/BAFS 196:2017 Code of Good Aquaculture Practices for Milkfish and Tilapia

PNS/BAFS 197:2017 Code of Good Aquaculture Practices for Shrimp and Crab

PNS/BAFS 198:2017 Code of Practice (COP) for Packaging and Transport of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

PNS/BAFS 199:2017 GAHP Dairy

PNS/BAFS 200:2017 GAHP Beef

PNS/BAFS 201:2017 GAHP Goats

PNS/BAFS 202:2017 GAHP Sheep

PNS/BAFS 203:2017 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Non-food Agricultural Commodities

PNS/BAFS 204:2018 Buntal Fiber Grading and Classification

PNS/BAFS 205:2017 Fresh-chilled and Fresh-frozen Small Pelagic Finfishes

PNS/BAFS 206:2017 Live.Fresh-chilled and Fresh-frozen Pompano

PNS/BAFS 207:2017 Code of GAqP for Oyster and Mussel

PNS/BAFS 208:2017 Code of GAqP Seaweeds

PNS/BAFS 209:2017 COHP Eggs

PNS/BAFS 210:2017 COHP Milk

PNS/BAFS 211:2017 Code of Hygienic Practice for Tomatoes

PNS/BAFS 212:2017 Coffee Huller - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 213:2017 Coffee Huller - Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 214:2017 Coffee Roaster - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 215:2017 Coffee Roaster - Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 216:2017 General Irrigation Terminologies (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 217:2017 Determination of Irrigation Water Requirements (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 218:2017 Open Channels - Design of Main Canals, Laterals and Farm Ditches (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 219:2017 Conveyance Systems - Performance Evaluation of Open Channels - Determination of Seepage and percolation by Ponding Method (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 220:2017 Conveyance Systems - Performance Evaluation of Open Channels - Determination of Convey (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 221:2017 Design of Canal Structures - Road Crossing, Drop, Siphon and Elevated Flume (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 222:2017 Design of Basin, Border and Furrow Irrigation Systems (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 223:2017 Design of a Pressurized Irrigation System - Part A-Sprinkler Irrigation (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 224:2017 Design of a Pressurized Irrigation System - Part B-Drip Irrigation (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 225:2017 Rainwater and Runoff Management - Small Water Impounding System (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 226:2017 Rainwater and Runoff Management - Small Farm Reservoir (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 227:2017 Design of a Small Reservoir Irrigation System (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 228:2017 Design of a Rockfill Dam (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 229:2017 Design of a Diversion Dam (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 230:2017 Design of a Check Dam (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 231:2017 Groundwater Irrigation - Shallow Tubewell (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 232:2017 Wastewater Reuse for Irrigation (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 233:2018 Code of Hygienic Practice for Fruits and Vegetables

PNS/BAFS 234:2018 Baby corn - Grading and Classification

PNS/BAFS 235:2018 Soft Shell Crab

PNS/BAFS 236:2018 Code of Practice for Live and Raw Bivalve Mollusks

PNS/BAFS 237:2018 Fresh chilled and fresh frozen siganid

PNS/BAFS 238:2018 Code of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Coconut

PNS/BAFS 239:2018 Orange-specifications

PNS/BAFS 240:2018 Fresh and quick frozen raw scallop products

PNS/BAFS 241:2018 Corn Combine Harvester Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 242:2018 Corn Combine Harvester - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 243:2018 Cassava Digger - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 244:2018 Cassava Digger- Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 245:2018 Cassava Granulator- Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 246:2018 Cassava Granulator - Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 247:2018 Multicrop Pulverizer - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 248:2018 Multicrop Pulverizer - Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 249:2018 Multicrop Grater - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 250:2018 Multicrop Grater -Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 251:2018 Corn Mill- Specification (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 252:2018 Corn Mill - Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 253:2018 Cacao Huller- Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 254:2018 Cacao Huller - Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 255:2018 Cacao Roaster - Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 256:2018 Cacao Roaster - Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 257:2018 Cassava Mechanical Dryer- Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 258:2018 Cassava Mechanical Dryer- Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 259:2018 BPS format version Final Halal Goat

PNS/BAFS 260:2018 BPS format version Final Slaughter Hogs Grading

[PNS/BAFS 261:2018 ofal of swine](#)

PNS/BAFS 262:2018 Free range chicken

PNS/BAFS 263:2018 GAHP for Poultry Hatchery

PNS/BAFS 264:2018 Chili Pepper Specifications

[PNS/BAFS 265:2018 MRLs of Pesticides for Selected Local Crops](#)

PNS/BAFS 266:2019 Non-food crops - Abaca - Code of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

[PNS/BAFS 267:2019 GAHP for Swine](#)

PNS/BAFS 268:2019 Mung bean Sheller- Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 269:2019 Mung bean Sheller- Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 270:2019 Silo (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 271:2019 GAHP for Ducks

PNS/BAFS 272:2019 Peanut Grinder- Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 273:2019 Peanut Grinder- Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 274:2019 Feed Pellet Mill- Specifications (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 275:2019 Feed Pellet Mill- Methods of Test (PAES)

PNS/BAFS 276:2019 Hot Water Treatment Tank- Specifications (PAES)
 PNS/BAFS 277:2019 Hot Water Treatment Tank- Methods of Test (PAES)
 PNS/BAFS 278:2019 Edible fungi - Mushroom - Code of Good Cultivation Practices (GCP)
 PNS/BAFS 279:2019 COP Scallop Products
 PNS/BAFS 280:2019 Code of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) on Hatchery for Shrimp
 PNS/BAFS 281:2019 Code of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) on Hatchery for Freshwater Prawn
[PNS/BAFS 282:2019 Code of Good Animal Feeding](#)
 PNS/BAFS 283:2019 Postharvest Machinery - Brown Rice Stabilizer - Specifications
 PNS/BAFS 284:2019 Postharvest Machinery - Brown Rice Stabilizer - Methods of Test
 PNS/BAFS 285:2019 Chicken Cuts

PNS/BAFS 286:2019 Good Agriculture Practices Natural Rubber
 PNS/BAFS 287:2019 Aquaculture Feeder- Specifications
 PNS/BAFS 288:2019 Aquaculture Feeder- Methods of Test
 PNS/BAFS 289:2019 Agricultural Infrastructures - Farm-to-Market Roads - Concrete Roads (PABES)
[PNS/BAFS 290:2019 Grains-Paddy and Milled Rice- Grading and Specifications](#)
 PNS/BAFS 291:2019 Code of practice for the production of organic soil amendments
[PNS/BAFS 292:2020 MRLs of Pesticides on Selected Imported Crops](#)
[PNS/BAFS 293:2020 Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control System](#)
[PNS/BAFS 294:2020 Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment](#)
[PNS/BAFS 295:2020 Risk Analysis for Food Safety by Governments](#)
[PNS/BAFS 296:2020 GAHP Animal Welfare and Environmental Sustainability for Chicken and Duck](#)

The list of processed food national standards are available on the FDA [website](#):

PNS/FDA35:2011 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Ethnic Milk-Based Confectioneries (Pastillas and Yema)
 PNS/FDA 34:2011 Ethnic Milk-Based Confectioneries (Pastillas and Yema) - Specification
 PNS/FDA 33:2011 Recommended Code of Practice of the Processing and Handling of Ethnic Flour-Based Confectioneries (Polovon, Piaya and Barquillos)
 PNS/FDA 32:2011 Ethnic Flour-Based Confectioneries (Polvoron, Piaya and Barquillos) - Specification
 PNS/FDA 31:2010 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Tropical Fruit Wines
 PNS/FDA 30:2010 Tropical Fruit Wines - Specification
 PNS/FDA 29:2010 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Processed Pili Nut Products
 PNS/FDA 28-2010 Processed Pili Nut Products - Specification
 PNS/FDA 27:2010 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Smoked Fish
 PNS/FDA 26:2010 Smoked Fish - Specification
 PNS/FDA 25:2010 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Purple Yam (Ube) Jam (Halaya)
 PNS/FDA 24:2010 Purple Yam (Ube) Jam (Halaya) – Specification
 PNS/BFAD 23:2010 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Fried Corn Snacks (Chichacorn)
 PNS/BFAD 22:2010 Fried Corn Snacks (Chichacorn) - Specification
 PNS/BFAD 21:2009 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Sugar Cane Wine (Basi)
 PNS/BFAD 20:2009 Sugar Cane Wine (Basi) - Specification
 PNS/BFAD 19:2008 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Flour Sticks (Pancit Canton)

PNS/BFAD 18:2008 Flour Sticks (Pancit Canton) - Specification
 PNS/BFAD 17:2007 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Dried Tropical Fruits
 PNS/BFAD 16:2007 Dried Tropical Products - Specification
 PNS/BFAD 15:2007 Dried Mango Products - Specification
 PNS/BFAD 14:2007 Recommended Code of Practice for Processing and Handling of Banana Chips
 PNS/BFAD 13:2007 Banana Chips Specification
 PNS/BFAD 12:2007 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Citrus Beverage Products
 PNS/BFAD 11:2007 Citrus Beverage Products - Specifications
 PNS/BFAD 10:2007 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Mango Beverage Products
 PNS/BFAD 09:2007 Mango Beverage Products - Specifications
 PNS/BFAD 08:2007 Fermented Milks - Specifications
 PNS/BFAD 07:2006 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Thermally Processed Fish Products
 PNS/BFAD 06:2006 Thermally Processed Fish Products - Specifications
 PNS/BFAD 05:2006 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Dried Fish
 PNS/BFAD 04:2006 Ethnic Food Products - Dried, Salted Fish - Specifications
 PNS/BFAD 03:2006 Recommended Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Sweet Preserves
[BC 2006-016 Updated List of Food Additives AO 2005-0018](#)
 AO 2005-0018 Philippine National Standards on Ethnic Food Products
 PNS 1104:1992 Plastic Materials for Food Contact Use - Colorants - Specification

Section VIII. Trademark Laws:

All copyright and trademark regulations are contained in the [Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines](#) (Republic Act No. 8293). The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) under the Department of Trade and Industry is in charge of enforcing these regulations and ensuring that intellectual property rights are enforced.

The application for registration of a trademark shall be in Filipino or in English and shall contain the following: a request for registration; name and address of applicant; state of which the applicant is a national or where domiciled; the law under which it is organized when the applicant is a juridical entity; appointment of an agent or representative or an indication of claims on priority of an earlier application (if applicable). A reproduction of the mark must also be submitted along with the list of goods and services for which the registration is sought.

A trademark may not be registered if it is immoral, deceptive, or of a scandalous matter; if it is the flag, coat of arm, or insignia of the Philippines or any of its political symbols; a name, portrait, or signature identifying a particular living individual without that person's written consent; identical with a registered mark whether or not registered in the Philippines but well known internationally; if it misleads the public; signs that are generic for goods or services; shapes that may be necessitated by technical factors; color alone, unless defined by a given form; or anything contrary to public order or morality.

A certificate of registration is valid for 10 years, provided an applicant files a declaration of actual use and evidence to that effect within one year from the fifth anniversary of the date of registration of the mark. The registration may also be renewed for another 10 years and there is no limit as to the number of times the registrant may request a renewal of registration, provided the prescribed fees are paid.

More information on registration of trademarks may be found here:

<https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/services/trademark/>.

Geographical Indications:

Geographical Indications (GI) are protected through the trademarks and consumer protection provisions of the Intellectual Property (IP) Code. IPOPHL will only register collective marks to duly accredited cooperative organizations having a collective community right in the place of origin. The agency has increased efforts to promote GI registration as a means to protect locally produced products.

Plant Variety Protection:

[Republic Act 9168](#), otherwise known as the Plant Variety Protection Act of 2002 (PVPA) allows plant breeders to obtain intellectual property protection for new plant varieties solely through a certificate of Plant Variety Protection. Under the PVPA, holders of Plant Variety Protection certificates have the right

to authorize the production, reproduction, export, and import of the varieties that they have developed. The PVPA Act is the legal basis of a sui generis system of intellectual property rights. The Act provides rights to plant breeders over the propagating material of their protected variety.

For more information, visit the BPI's Plant Variety Protection Office [website](#).

Section IX. Import Procedures:

The basic procedures which apply to the import of food and agricultural products are as follows:

STEP 1: Only accredited and registered individuals or businesses may import food products into the Philippines. Importers must obtain accreditation from relevant Philippine regulatory bodies (e.g., LTO from PFDA for processed foods, Certificate of Accreditation from BAI/NMIS for animal, animal products and animal feeds; BFAR for seafood and fisheries; and BPI for plant and plant products).

STEP 2: Regulatory authority determines whether food or agriculture products can enter the Philippines. Only acceptable countries as determined by the relevant regulatory body may export food and agriculture products to the Philippines.

STEP 3: Import licenses and permits must be obtained from the relevant regulatory body for the goods to be imported to the Philippines before the products are shipped from the exporting countries. An SPSIC must be obtained from BAI, BPI, or BFAR (as applicable) prior to each and every importation of plant, animal, and fishery products. A CPR must be secured from PFDA prior to initial importation of a particular food or beverage.

Note: Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 aims to streamline the current systems and procedures of government services, while enforcing all government agencies to comply with prescribed processing time as follows: 3 working days for simple transactions, 7 working days for complex transactions, and 20 working days for highly technical applications. If agencies fail to approve or disapprove an original application within the prescribed processing time, the said application shall be deemed approved. ARTA is also charged with reviewing proposed major regulations of government agencies, using submitted regulatory impact assessments. Complaints may be filed at <http://arta.gov.ph/complaint-form/>.

STEP 4: All unprocessed agricultural products entering the Philippines must be accompanied by a sanitary or phytosanitary certificate issued by the U.S. competent authority. They can also be required for processed agricultural products depending on the Philippine Department of Agriculture's desire to regulate the product. The Philippines' Food and Drug Administration does not require any such export certificate for processed and prepackaged agricultural and food products, but does require all processed and prepackaged products to be first registered (See Section V). Additional required documents to facilitate importation include:

- Commercial invoice/pro-forma invoice;
- Bill of lading (for sea freight) or air waybill (for air freight);
- Certificate of origin (if requested);
- Packing list;
- Applicable special certificates/import clearance/permit depending on the nature of goods being shipped and/or requested by the importer/bank/letter of credit clause, e.g. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) license; and
- Commercial invoice of returned Philippine goods and/or supplemental declaration on valuation.

Detailed information on custom clearance procedures may be obtained from:

<https://www.dti.gov.ph/negosyo/imports/import-facilitation/import-clearance-overview/>

STEP 5: Following customs clearance, the BOC uses a web-based Electronic Tracking of Containerized Cargo ([ETRACC](#)) System that allows BOC to track, monitor, and audit the location and condition of reefers, as well as obtain real-time alarms on, among others, diversion and tampering of containers destined for export, export processing or special economic zones, customs bonded warehouses and refrigerated containers subject to a secondary inspection. CMO 04-2020 implements Customs Administrative Order (CAO) No. 15-2019, which covers the movement within customs territory of foreign goods for outright exportation, warehousing, and those admitted to Free Zones, as well as the transfer of goods from customs facilities and warehouses (CFW). This includes containers subject to further verification and/or monitoring such as frozen agricultural products (i.e., meat, poultry and fisheries) that have already paid duties and taxes subject to a secondary inspection at the cold storage warehouse.

Appendix I. Philippine Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City Philippines 1104
Tel : (+632) 8927 0971/ 8926 6883
Fax : (+632) 8925 9228
Website: <http://bai.da.gov.ph/baimainframe.html>

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
692 San Andres Street Malate, Manila Philippines
1004

Tel : (+632) 8525 2987
Fax : (+632) 8521 7650
Website: <http://bpi.da.gov.ph/Services.html>

BUREAU OF FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES

Philippine Coconut Authority Elliptical Road,
Quezon City Philippines 1104
Tel : (+632) 8455 6801
Fax : (+632) 8929-8074
Website: <http://www.bfar.da.gov.ph>

NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE

Tel : (+632) 8924-3118-19
Fax : (+632) 8924-7973
Website: <http://nmis.gov.ph>

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES PRODUCT STANDARDS

Tel : (+632) 8928 8756 – 65
Fax : (+632) 8920-6134
Website: <http://www.bafps.da.gov.ph>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Civic Drive Filinvest Corporate City Alabang,
Muntinlupa City Philippines 1770
Tel : (+632) 8821 1176-77
Fax : (+632) 8807 0751
Website: <https://www.fda.gov.ph/>

Other Philippine Government Contacts:

ANTI-RED TAPE AUTHORITY

Address: Ground Floor HPGV Building, 395
Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City,
Philippines
Tel : (+632) 8478-5091/ 8478-5093/ 8478-5099/
Email: info@arta.gov.ph and
complaints@arta.gov.ph
Website: <http://arta.gov.ph/>

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS VALUATION & CLASSIFICATION DEPARTMENT

New Customs Building Port Area, Manila
Philippines 1018
Tel : (+632) 8526 6355
Fax : (+632) 8527 4573
Website:
<http://www.customs.gov.ph/html/cover.htm>

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

SRA Building, North Avenue Quezon City
Philippines 1102
Tel : (+632) 8929-7319/ 8926-7237
Website : <http://www.nfa.gov.ph>

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

National Internal Revenue Building, Diliman,
Quezon City, M.M. Philippines
Tel : (+632) 8981 7000/ 8929 7676
Website : <http://www.bir.gov.ph>

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

BUREAU OF IMPORT SERVICES

349 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City,

Philippines

Tel : (+632) 8896 4430

Fax : (+632) 8896 4431

Website : <http://www.dti.gov.ph>

**BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
RELATIONS**

357 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City, Metro
Manila, Philippines 1200

Tel : (+632) 8465 3300

Fax : (+632) 8890 4812

Website : <http://www.dti.gov.ph>

**NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM
FILIPINOS**

79 Jocfer Annex Building Commonwealth
Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Tel : (+632) 8952-48-75 / (02) 8952-64-19 /

Email: ncmf.osec@gmail.com

Website: <http://ncmf.gov.ph/contact-us>

Attachments:

No Attachments