

[MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 03, S. 2018, April 18, 2018]

GUIDELINES ON THE EXPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS, ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Adopted: 13 March 2018

Date Filed: 18 April 2018

WHEREAS, the strengthening of our country's exportation and veterinary certification procedures is critical amidst enhanced world trade liberalization and global competitiveness;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a member of the World Organization for Animal Health or Office International des Epizooties (OIE) which has set guidelines on trade measures, exportation and veterinary certification procedures under Section 5 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code issued in accordance with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) Bureau of Animal Industry - National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division (BAI-NVQSD) is mandated to set up a quarantine inspection system relative to international movement of animals together with their documentation and issuance of permit and commodity clearance pursuant to Republic Act No. 8435 (Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act), Section 5, Act No. 3639 and Section 26, Executive Order No. 338, Series of 2001, in order to prevent the entry of exotic diseases and the spread of endemic diseases in the importing country;

NOW THEREFORE, I, EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), in accordance with the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Memorandum Circular governing the exportation of live animals from the Philippines for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

1.1 ACCREDITATION - refers to the process of officially recognizing an applicant individual or company whose local farm/animal facility/ establishment has been subjected to evaluation, validation and on-site requirements of the importing country. Upon recommendation of the BAI and approval by the DA Secretary or his authorized representative, the applicant becomes an Accredited Exporter and a Certificate of Farm/Animal Facility/Plant Establishment (whichever is applicable) Accreditation is issued accordingly.

1.2 INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE (IVC) - otherwise called Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) refers to the document issued by the BAI-NVQSD which specifies that the animals, animal products and by-products or animal effects intended for international transport are free from any communicable animal diseases or are not carriers thereof.

1.3 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.

SECTION 2. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This Circular shall apply to an individual or company that intends to export live animals, animal products and by-products from the Philippines.

SECTION 3. GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Depending upon the import regulations of destination country, the Philippines as a country may be required by the importing country to undergo accreditation as an exporter prior to approval of export. The BAI shall make a formal request for accreditation and complete the documentation/import risk analysis requirements of the importing country.

3.2 The exporting Farm/Animal Facility/Establishment must be an accredited exporter by the DA-BAI.

3.3 The accreditation of the applicant individual or company shall only commence after an evaluation or inspection mission have been carried out by the competent authority of importing country and its animal health requirements have been communicated to the BAI-NVQSD.

3.4 All exports shall be accompanied by a Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC)/Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC)/International Veterinary Certificate (IVC)/Commodity Clearance Certificate (CCC) or other export clearance issued and signed by the BAI.

3.5 In the event that a disease outbreak occurred in the country, DA-BAI may apply temporary protective/preventive measures such as suspension of export from any part of the country.

3.6 At the port of departure prior to exportation, the animals, animal products and by-products and/or the accompanying certificates shall be verified and checked by BAI-NVQSD personnel. Further checks on the animals, animal products and by-products will also be carried out particularly the general conditions of the live animals, prior to clearance or loading.

SECTION 4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR BAI ACCREDITATION AS AN EXPORTER

4.1 Interested applicant may submit a letter of intent addressed to the BAI Director to export live animals, animal products or by-products to a particular country. In addition, the following requirements shall be submitted together with the letter:

- Mayor's Business Permit: Certified True Copy or presentation of Original Copy
- DTI or SEC Registration: Certified True Copy or presentation of Original Copy
- BIR-TIN Registration: Certified True Copy or presentation of Original Copy
- Process Flow for storage of commodity/product
- Letter of Authority for the company's representative
- Notarized lease of contract or proof of ownership of warehouse and cold storage facility
- FDA (License to Operate and Certificate of Product Registration) - If processed food products of animal origin
- Duly accomplished Application Form

4.2 Upon receipt of the Letter and aforementioned requirements, the BAI- NVQSD shall conduct documentary evaluation of the submitted documents.

4.3 The BAI inspection team will conduct on site verification and inspection of applicant's facility or establishment to assess compliance to the standard requirements of the importing country. For the export of animal products/ by-products, the team will visit office/ warehouse/ cold storage to validate the process flow for storage' of commodity/product. For the export of particular animal/s or animal health verification of animal products/by- products source animals, the team will visit farm/quarantine site and conduct facility inspection and collection of laboratory samples.

The applicant will be given considerable time to comply with the requirements, as necessary.

4.4 The BAI-Inspection Team will prepare a report and submit necessary recommendations to NVQSD Chief for evaluation.

4.5 Evaluation result with findings for further compliance shall be given a chance to comply at the client's preference. Processing of certificate shall proceed only upon compliance with the inspection recommendation.

4.6 The NVQSD Chief will endorse the BAI Certificate of Accreditation as Exporter to the Director for his approval.

4.7 The BAI Certificate of Accreditation as Exporter is valid for Two (2) years from its issuance.