

[BFAD BUREAU CIRCULAR NO. 2007-006, July 12, 2007]

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR IMPORTATION OF PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS FOR DISTRIBUTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

I. RATIONALE

It is the policy of the State as embodied in Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them and, in Section 12, Article XIII, to establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

It is further declared as a policy of the State under Article 2 of Republic Act No. 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines to protect the interests of the consumer, promote his general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry and in Section 2 of Republic Act No. 3720 as amended by Executive Order No. 175, s. 1987, otherwise known as Foods, Drugs and Devices and Cosmetics Act, that it is the policy of the State to ensure safe and good quality food and to regulate the production, sale and traffic of the same to protect the health of the people. Pursuant to such policies, the State was mandated to adopt measures to ensure pure and safe supply of food in the country.

II. DIRECTIVE

Due to proliferation of unsafe imported processed food products in the market, all imported processed food products are not permitted to be sold or offered for sale without the Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) issued by this Office.

Prior to the issuance of License to Operate (LTO) as food importer, the original copy of the Certificate of Free Sale (CFS) issued by the Regulatory Agency of the country of origin is required in addition to proforma invoice. An authenticated copy of the said Certificate of Free Sale shall likewise, be included in the application documents for product registration.

For this purpose, the food importer must present the original copy of the CPR to the Bureau of Customs as part of the requirement before releasing to the market the imported food products.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Adopted: 12 July 2007