

[BAI MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 20, S. 2004, July 10, 2004]

LIFTING THE TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM CATTLE FROM THE NETHERLANDS

WHEREAS, the government of the Netherlands instituted to contain the outbreak of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and ensure food safety in their country;

WHEREAS, based on the evaluation of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, the risk of Contamination from importing specific meat and meat products derived from cattle from the Netherlands is negligible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LUIS P. LORENZO, JR., Secretary of Agriculture by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby lift the temporary ban on the importation of meat and meat products derived from cattle from The Netherlands thereby allowing the importation of the abovementioned products subject to the following conditions:

1. Only beef from cattle not older than thirty (30) months , devoid of any nerves and other BSE specified risk materials (SRM) shall be imported;
2. The beef should come only from healthy ambulatory and not downer cattle born and grown in The Netherlands.
3. The slaughter of the cattle and cutting/packaging of the beef should be done in a meat facility used only for 30 month old and younger cattle.
4. The beef should not at anytime and in any manner get in contact or mixed with beef coming from cattle older than 30 months.
5. The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture or a third party certification company to be accredited by the Philippine Department of Agriculture shall certify that:
 - a) The age of the slaughter cattle is not older than 30 months.
 - b) The slaughter cattle is born and grown in The Netherlands.
 - c) The slaughter of the cattle and cutting/packaging of the beef is done in a meat facility used only for 30 months old and younger cattle.
 - d) The beef has not been in contact or mixed with beef from cattle older than 30 months.
6. The slaughter date of the cattle or the production date of the beef shall be included in the packaging label.