IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DA TRADE SYSTEM: ELECTRONIC REQUEST FOR INSPECTION (ERFI)

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WHEREAS, the eRFI system has been observed to have been properly running, taking into account the elimination of manual re-encoding and the streamlined procedures in the preparation of Inspection Report;

WHEREAS, the series of consultations, re-orientations and training workshops conducted by DA-Policy Research Service (DA-PRS), Information Technology Center for Agriculture and Fishery (ITCAF),Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI),Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) drew an overwhelming interest and acceptance from the importers/brokers and quarantine officers;

WHEREAS, based on the assessment and evaluation of the same agencies, the DA Trade System-eRFI is properly running and ready for implementation by January 2015 to enable the electronic transmission of the Quarantine Inspection Report at the Port, to the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) as the authorized second point border inspector;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PROCESO J. ALCALA, Secretary of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby direct the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to undertake the implementation of the DA Trade System- eRFI subject to the following conditions:

- The DA Trade System: eRFI shall be implemented in pilot mode from January to March 2015 and full implementation shall be observed from April 2015 onwards;

- Importers and their respective authorized Customs brokers are required to strictly comply with the usage of the eRFI System in filing and lodging the Request for Inspection (RFI), with the re-use of the BOC-processed Import Entry Declaration data (i.e., with Customs declaration number) and e-SPS Import Clearance data for submission as electronic RFI;

- ITCAF must ensure 24/7 internet connections at the international ports and airports and provision of appropriate equipments, e.g., computers, laptops, tablets or other devices, to all concerned Quarantine Officers stationed at these ports; and

- Port quarantine officers who fail to observe this Circular shall be dealt with accordingly wit the appropriate penalties prescribed in the Civil Service Laws and Rules.

This CIRCULAR shall take effect immediately.

(SGD) PROCESO J. ALCALA
Secretary

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