

CLARIFICATORY NOTES ON REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE IMPORTATION OF BUFFALO MEAT FROM INDIA

DA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 15 SERIES OF 2003, October 08, 2003

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Because of the observations that (1) trading of buffalo meat is being practiced and (2) procedures on the disposal of packaging materials are not properly followed, the regulations pertaining to the importation of Indian Buffalo Meat signed by the Secretary of Agriculture are hereby reiterated, to wit:

MC 5 SERIES OF 1993 - Implementing Guidelines on the Importation of Buffalo Meat and Meat Products from India

Article III, Section 12 - all the materials used for packaging shall be disposed of by burning to preclude possible spread of infection, and meat scraps should be collected for rendering or incineration under the supervision of NMIC personnel.

AO 31 SERIES OF 2002 - Supplemental Guidelines on the Importation and Utilization of Buffalo Meat from India.

Paragraph 3. All imported fresh frozen buffalo meat shall be used solely for meat processing using the standards indicated in the OIE Code.

Paragraph 4. Only NMIC Accredited "AAA" and "AA" meat processors shall be allowed to import according to their rated capacity. A DA-Interagency team shall monitor the capacity of the meat processors to utilize buffalo meat.

Paragraph 5. Any violation will be subject to revocation of accreditation.

MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 25 SERIES OF 2003 - Supplemental Guidelines in the Labeling of Cartons and Monitoring of Utilization of Indian Buffalo Meat.

Paragraph 2. In addition to pertinent documents issued by the NMIC field personnel to meat importers an Imported Meat Utilization Certificate (IMUC) which is also known as a certification of inventory/ending stock of imported meat and meat products stored at cold storages and processing plants, shall also be issued to monitor the utilization of the meat by importers and or processors.

Let it be clearly stated that the transfer/movement of Indian Buffalo Meat from the importing entity to another, for whatever purpose, is prohibited. Likewise, the disposal of packaging materials of sound meat must be (1) under the supervision of NMIC personnel and (2) by burning/incineration.

Violation of the aforecited shall be meted with the penalty of revocation of accreditation. NMIC personnel found to be remiss on their function shall be meted administrative sanctions.

For strict compliance.

Adopted: 8 Oct. 2003

(SGD.) LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.

Secretary

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