



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE

ORDER NO. 275

Series of 2025

**SUBJECT: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING FOOD SAFETY AND TRACEABILITY
ON IMPORTATION OF FISH AND FISHERY/AQUATIC PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN
CONSUMPTION**

WHEREAS, Section 61 (c) of Republic Act 8550, as amended, provides that fishery products may be imported only when the importation has been certified as necessary by the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the NFARMC, and all the requirements of the Fisheries Code, as amended, as well as all existing rules and regulations have been complied with: Provided, that fish imports for canning/processing purposes only may be allowed without the necessary certification, but within the provisions of Section 61 (d) of the Code;

WHEREAS, Section 67 of RA 10654 provides that the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Service shall conduct fisheries quarantine and quality inspection of all fish and fishery/aquatic products coming into and going out of the country by air or water transport, to detect the presence of fish pest and diseases and if found to harbor fish pests or diseases shall be confiscated and disposed of in accordance with environmental standards and practices;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act 10611, otherwise known as the "Food Safety Act of 2013", the imported fish and fishery products must be compliant with the Philippine Food Safety Standards;

WHEREAS, an effective implementation of food safety control measures requires a robust risk management system pursuant to Section 7, Article IV of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10611;

WHEREAS, Section 12 of RA 10611 provides that food to be imported into the country must come from countries with an equivalent food safety regulatory and traceability system and shall comply with international agreements to which the Philippines is a party;

WHEREAS, Section 15 (a) and 16 (d) of RA 10611 provides that the DA shall be responsible for food safety in the primary production and post-harvest stages of the food supply chain and foods locally produced or imported and the BFAR is the food safety regulatory agency for fresh fish and other seafoods including those grown by aquaculture;

WHEREAS, Section 27 of RA 10611 provides that traceability shall be established for foods at relevant stages of production, post-harvest handling, processing or distribution, when needed to ensure compliance with food safety requirements;

WHEREFORE, taking into consideration public welfare and safety in accordance with the provisions of RA 10611 and RA 8550, as amended, the following rules and regulations governing



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The Philippine official control on food safety and traceability assurance of imported fish and fishery/aquatic products are hereby promulgated:

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms and Phrases - For purposes of this Order, the following phrases and terms shall mean:

- a) ***Application Form to Import (AFI)*** – a document required by the BFAR to be filled up by a Licensed Importer indicating the details of the importation, such as, but not limited to, purpose of the importation, species or kind of fish, volume to be imported, and country of origin.
- b) ***BFAR*** – refers to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.
- c) ***Border Inspection*** - for purposes of this Order, border inspection shall mean the physical inspection conducted at the port of entry to ensure the legality of importation through validation of import documents against the imported fish and fishery/aquatic products and to ensure food safety and traceability thereof.
- d) ***Canning*** – process involving the use of heat, alone or in combination with other means of preservation, to kill or inactivate all microbial contaminants, irrespective of their source, to pack the product in a hermetically sealed container so that it will be protected from recontamination (FAO, 1988).
- e) ***Certificate of Necessity to Import (CNI)*** - refers to a certification issued by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture that attests the need to import fish and fishery/aquatic products.
- f) ***Co-mingling*** - presence of any other commodity not specified in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Clearance (SPSIC).
- g) ***Consignment*** – refers to the quantity of fish and fishery/aquatic products bound for a customer in the country of destination and conveyed by one means of transportation.
- h) ***Department*** – Department of Agriculture (DA).
- i) ***Director*** – refers to the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources.
- j) ***Diversion*** – for the purpose of this Order, diversion shall refer to the use of the imported products for purposes other than what is specified in the SPSIC.
- k) ***Domestic Transport Permit*** – refers to the permit issued by the BFAR for every withdrawal of imported fish and fishery/aquatic products from the cold storage to the final destination.
- l) ***Fish and fishery/aquatic products*** – include not only finfish but also mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms, and all other species of aquatic flora and fauna, and all other products of aquatic living resources in fresh chilled and frozen form.



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- m) **Fishery establishments** –any unit of a food business including but not limited to fish pond, hatcheries, companies, freezing and cold storages, ice plant, processing plant, pre-processing plant, fish landing sites/ports, auction/wholesale markets, fishing vessels, and all other businesses involved in the food chain.
- n) **Food Safety** –shall refer to the assurance that the food is handled, prepared, and processed properly and when consumed will not harm the consumers.
- o) **Fresh chilled** – refers to freshly caught fish and fishery/aquatic products, which have not undergone any treatment, processing or alteration that may change the chemical characteristics of the product and subjected to a temperature of 0-4°C.
- p) **Frozen fishery/aquatic products** – fish/fishery/aquatic products which have been subjected to a freezing process sufficient to reduce the temperature to -18°C (0°F) to preserve its quality and to maintain said product at this temperature.
- q) **Hazard** – refers to biological, chemical or physical agents in food with a potential to cause adverse effects on health.
- r) **Importation for Direct Consumption** – For purposes of this Order, it shall refer to importation of fish and fishery/aquatic products intended to be offered to the public in general without undergoing processing or canning and which requires a Certificate of Necessity to Import.
- s) **International Health Certificate** – refers to a written guarantee issued by an authorized or competent regulatory agency from the country of source and/or origin, certifying that the fish and fishery/aquatic products have been handled, processed, and packed in hygienic manner and does not contain hazards that may pose risks to human and aquatic animal health.
- t) **Licensed Importer (LI)** – refers to an individual or entity authorized by the BFAR to import fresh chilled and frozen fish and fishery/aquatic products.
- u) **License to Operate as Importer** – refers to the document granting permission to a person to engage in importation of fish and fishery/aquatic products after proving technical capability to (1) comply with Sanitary and/or phytosanitary requirements set by the BFAR, and (2) conform to specific quality standards and technical regulations.
- v) **NFARMC** – refers to the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council.
- w) **Official Laboratory** – refers to the Competent Authority Laboratory and other laboratories recognized by said Competent authority to carry out analyses on samples of official control on fish and fishery/aquatic products.
- x) **Packaging** – refers to the procedure of protecting fish and fishery/ aquatic products by a wrapper, a container, or any other suitable packing material.



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y) **Pre-Border Control Measures and Audit** - pre-border control measures and audit shall mean actions taken including inspection conducted by the BFAR on the establishment/facilities in the country of origin where the imported fish and the fishery/aquatic products are sourced to verify compliance to Philippine regulations on food safety and traceability requirements.

z) **Post Border Inspection** - post border inspection shall mean inspection/audit and verification conducted by the BFAR beyond the port of entry, such as but not limited to, cold storage warehouses, processing plant, and importer's establishments to ensure food safety and traceability of imported fish and fishery/aquatic products.

aa) **Processing** -refers to any action that substantially alters the initial raw material or products or ingredients including, but not limited to heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion, and combination of those processes intended to produce food.

bb) **Processing Plant** – an establishment wherein the handling, preparation, and processing of fish and fishery/aquatic products are done with the use of processing equipment in accordance with the standards herein prescribed.

cc) **Risk Management** – refers to the process of weighing policy alternatives to accept, minimize, or reduce assessed risk, and if necessary, to select and implement appropriate prevention and control measures.

dd) **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC)**– document issued by the concerned DA bureau or agency prior to importation to ensure that the products being imported meet SPS measures to protect human, animal or plant life or health, ensuring that the agricultural and fishery products are safe for consumers, and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among animals or plants. Such document also prescribes the pre-entry conditions to be complied by the exporting country and the post-entry conditions for the maintenance of quality and suitability of the product for the intended purposes.

ee) **Secretary** – Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

ff) **Traceability** –refers to the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stages of production, processing, and distribution. It facilitates knowledge regarding the identity, history, and source of a product, or of material contained within a product. It also facilitates knowledge regarding the destination of a product, or any ingredients contained within it.

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 2. Scope - This Order shall establish the guidelines as well as food safety controls and inspection for the following importations of fish and fishery/aquatic products classified under Section 61 (c) of the Amended Fisheries Code as follows:

- a. Importation for canning or processing; and



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b. Importation certified as necessary by the Secretary.

Importations for direct consumption falling under (b) shall only be allowed when certified as necessary by the Secretary upon consultation with the NFARMC; provided that for all types of importations, it shall be allowed only upon compliance with all the requirements of the fishery laws, rules, and regulations, including this Order.

SECTION 3. Licensing of Importers - All importers of fish and fishery/aquatic products must be licensed by the BFAR before they can be allowed to import. The list of the documentary requirements for licensing is attached as Annex I of this Order.

Upon submission by the importer of an Application for License, the BFAR shall verify and validate the statements made in its application and, thereby, inspect and determine the capacity of its facilities, including its cannery or processing plant, in so far as applicable, and the cold storage warehouse that will be used therefor.

A License to Operate as Importer shall be issued by the BFAR to an importer which shall be valid for a period of three (3) years subject to annual inspection and verification of consistent compliance to the requirements listed in Annex I and may be revoked or suspended canceled, terminated, or suspended for non-compliance thereof.

All importers shall undergo the licensing process stated herein. Existing accreditation/registration issued to importers under Fisheries Administrative Order Nos. 195 and 259 shall be cancelled within six months from the issuance of this Order.

A License to Operate as Importer (LTOI) may be revoked or suspended for violation of any of the terms and conditions stated therein.

SECTION 4. Implementation of Risk Management System -The BFAR shall implement a risk management system in the implementation of its food safety control measures in a non-discriminatory manner.

CHAPTER II

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT CLEARANCE

SECTION 5. Issuance of SPSIC - No fish and fishery/aquatic products shall be imported without a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) issued covering such importation. An SPSIC shall be issued by the DA Secretary or his duly authorized representative only after an application thereof has been filed, provided that all regulatory and documentary requirements have been complied with.

SECTION 6. Filing of Application for the Issuance of SPSIC - A licensed fish importer intending to import fish and fishery/aquatic products shall file the duly accomplished Application Form to Import (AFI) at least five (5) working days for the issuance of SPSIC prior to departure of the



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shipment from the country of origin. The AFI shall be accompanied by a proforma invoice and proof of payment of the non-refundable processing fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) and application fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00).

Provided that, the process for the issuance of SPSIC for importation of fish and fishery products by fishing boatloads shall be covered by a separate guidelines to be developed by the BFAR.

SECTION 7. Validity of SPSIC – All SPSICs shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) days reckoned from the date of issuance and the product or consignment shall be shipped-out within the said period.

SPSICs shall be non-transferrable and non-reusable.

CHAPTER III IMPORTATION FOR CANNING OR PROCESSING

SECTION 8. Qualified Importers – Only individuals, partnerships, cooperatives and corporations, that are engaged in canning or processing of fish and fishery/aquatic products may import for canning and processing.

Provided that all importations intended for canning and processing shall not be diverted, distributed, or used for other purposes.

SECTION 9. Verification of the Quantity of Fishery Product for Importation - The BFAR shall conduct a verification of the quantity of fishery products applied for importation.

The documents required to be available during the verification is listed in the Annex II of this Order.

CHAPTER IV IMPORTATION OF FISH AND FISHERY/AQUATIC PRODUCTS FOR DIRECT CONSUMPTION

SECTION 10. Certificate of Necessity to Import – Pursuant to Section 61 (c) of Republic Act No. 8550, as amended, the Secretary, in consultation with the NFARMC, may issue a Certificate of Necessity to Import (CNI) fish and fishery/aquatic products.

CNIs may be issued for different purposes depending on the necessity identified.

Provided that, during off and closed fishing season, there is a pre-determined necessity to import fish and fishery/aquatic products.

SECTION 11. Qualified Importers – Individuals, partnerships, cooperatives, or corporations, that are licensed by the BFAR as importer are qualified to import fish and fishery/aquatic products for direct consumption by the public without undergoing processing or canning.



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Provided that, for CNI issued during off and closed fishing season, only the following are qualified to import:

- a. members of an organization or association from commercial fishing sector affected by the closed fishing season that have been in existence for at least three (3) years; and
- b. registered fisheries associations or cooperatives affected by the closed fishing season that have been doing fish trading business and in existence for at least three (3) years.

Provided further that, at least eighty percent (80%) of the Maximum Importable Volume (MIV) of the CNI for off and closed fishing season shall be allocated to members of an organization or association from the commercial fishing sector based on their landings of fish catch.

CHAPTER V FOOD SAFETY CONTROLS AND INSPECTION

SECTION 12. Eligibility of Foreign Country Establishments and Pre-Border Control Measures - In order to control the entry of food-borne illnesses and trans-boundary movement of fish and aquatic diseases, the BFAR shall implement pre-border control and inspection to verify compliance of the foreign fishery establishment with this Order.

For this purpose, foreign fishery establishments intending to export fish and fishery products to the Philippines must be accredited by the Competent Authority of the country of origin (CO) and shall be subsequently endorsed for the consideration of the Philippine government prior to the importation of fishery products. Only those foreign fishery establishments endorsed by their respective Competent authorities shall be eligible to export to the Philippines.

Subject to international laws and agreements, the requirement under this Section shall take effect within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order. Within said transitory period, competent authorities of the country of origin shall submit the list of their approved fishery establishments.

SECTION 13. Pre-Border Audit - The BFAR shall conduct a risk-based audit of the establishments endorsed by the Competent Authority of the country of origin to ensure compliance with the food safety standards under RA 10611 or the "Food Safety Act of 2013", Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures (SSOP), Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP), and other relevant traceability measures. The DA-BFAR may suspend approval of establishments found to be not compliant with the said standards.

The requirements under this Section shall be implemented one (1) year after the effectivity of this Order.

SECTION 14. Border and Post Border Control- Importations of fish and fishery/aquatic products under this Order shall comply with the following border control requirements and standards:



- a) **International Health Certificate** - Fish and fishery/ aquatic products exported to the Philippines shall be accompanied by an International Health Certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country. The international health certificate issued by the competent authority shall comply with the applicable requirements as per the model Health Certificate (Annex III) provided by the DA-BFAR which shall include, but not limited to, microbiological and chemical analysis with the regulatory limits as indicated in Annex IV. The BFAR may also require other laboratory tests in the health certificate as deemed necessary.
- b) **Random and Risk-based Sampling** - Fish and fishery/aquatic products shall be subject to random and/or risk-based sampling for the required laboratory analysis.
- c) **Packaging and Labeling** - Packaging materials for fish and fishery/aquatic products should be food-grade and hygienic food contact materials, not reused or recycled, not easily broken or deformed by moisture and stress, and shall not be a source of contamination.

The label must be made of water-proof and durable material. It shall contain the following information with English translation:

- i. Name of importer;
- ii. the country of origin;
- iii. species of fish/fishery products;
- iv. fishing ground (FAO Zone Number) for wild caught;
- v. net weight;
- vi. lot code or batch code or production code;
- vii. information on the required temperature to preserve its quality, i.e. keep frozen at -18°C; and
- viii. shelf-life date

Fish and fishery/aquatic products imported for processing or canning shall have the following text in the packaging: "IMPORTED FOR PROCESSING OR CANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO WET MARKETS. VIOLATION THEREOF IS PUNISHABLE UNDER PENALTY OF LAW" except those directly imported from a fishing vessel.

- d) **Storage and Transport of Imported Fish and Fishery Products** - Imported fish and fishery/aquatic products shall be stored and transported at the following temperature requirement:
 - i. Fresh chilled fish and fishery products shall be stored and maintained at 4°C or below; and
 - ii. Frozen fishery products shall be stored and maintained at -18°C or below.
- e) **Catch Certificate** - subject to bilateral trade agreements, wild-caught marine fish and fishery products exported to the Philippines shall be accompanied by a Catch Certificate



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issued by the competent authority of the exporting country to ensure that the said products are not sourced from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUUF).

SECTION 15. Border and Post Border Inspection - Upon arrival at the designated port of entry, the imported fish and fishery/aquatic products shall be subjected to the following border and post-border procedures:

1. Documentation and inspection/verification of imported fish and fishery products and the following accompanying documents:
 - a. Original copy of the International Health Certificate. The International Health Certificate shall be supported by laboratory test results from the official laboratory from the country of origin.
 - b. Vessel captain's statement (for fish unloaded directly from a fishing vessel);
 - c. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance/ Certificate issued by the BFAR;
 - d. Airway bill for air freight or bill of lading for sea freight;
 - e. Commercial invoice; and
 - f. Catch certificate (for marine fish and fishery products).

In the absence of the original copy of the International Health Certificate and SPSIC from the country of origin, the shipment shall be committed to a storage facility for a period of not exceeding fifteen (15) days to allow the importer to submit such documents. Failure to comply within the specified period, the shipment shall be returned to the country of origin, otherwise, forfeited in favor of the government for its proper disposition. All expenses involving storage, return to origin and disposition of the shipment shall be borne by the importer.

2. Upon arrival at the cold storage, the BFAR shall conduct inspection to check whether any the following occurs:
 - a. co-comingling;
 - b. signs of thawing;
 - c. violation of the packaging and labelling requirement; (e.g. no English translation);
 - d. tampering of BFAR seal;
 - e. presence of prohibited commodities;
 - f. misdeclaration of product;
 - g. technical smuggling; and
 - h. other forms of violation.

Imported products found unfit for human consumption or not compliant with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements shall be returned to the country of origin or destruction at the expense of the importer.

All expenses involving storage, return to origin and disposition of the shipment shall be borne by the importer. Fees and charges incidental to examination and storage of imported products shall be chargeable to the importer.



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Fish and fishery/ aquatic products not included in the SPSIC, shall be confiscated immediately without prejudice to the filing of a proper case against the importer.

Imported fish and fishery/aquatic product found to be a vector or carrier of any fish pest and/or disease shall be confiscated and disposed of in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

SECTION 16. Traceability of Imported Fish and Fishery/Aquatic Products- To ensure traceability of imported fish and fishery/aquatic products, the BFAR shall implement full documentation of the movement of fishery products in specified stages of the supply chain.

Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order the BFAR shall commence digitization of its traceability system for verification and monitoring.

A Domestic Transport Permit shall be secured for the domestic movement of the imported fish and fishery/aquatic products from the port of entry to its final destination.

SECTION 17. Use of Licensed Cold Storage Warehouse – Only cold storage warehouse with a valid License to Operate issued by the BFAR shall be used as storage facility for the fish products imported under this Order.

CHAPTER VI PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

SECTION 18. Prohibitions – In addition to other prohibitions mentioned in any other laws, rules and regulations, the following are strictly prohibited:

- a. Importing of fish and fishery/aquatic products without SPSIC or beyond its validity. The international health certificate shall be supported by laboratory test results from the official laboratory from the country of origin;
- b. Importing of prohibited fish and fishery/aquatic products;
- c. Importing of fish and fishery/aquatic products not covered by the SPSIC;
- d. Co-mingling of other commodities not included in the SPSIC;
- e. Misdeclaration of products/species and volume of the consignment during border inspection;
- f. Selling or diverting imported fish and fishery/aquatic products for purposes other than what is specified in the SPSIC;
- g. Violating relevant SPS and biosafety rules and regulations or any conditions imposed in the SPSIC;
- h. Recycling, tampering, modifying or altering, and forging the signatures in the SPSICs;
- i. Selling, transferring, and conveying of SPSIC;
- j. Providing false information in the application form or in any of the accompanying documents to the application or submission of forged documents;
- k. Selling, utilizing, or distributing imported fish and fishery /aquatic products not fit for human consumption;
- l. Unloading, transporting, storing, and trading imported fish and fishery /aquatic products without the necessary permits and documents as required under this Order;



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- m. Unauthorized removal, breaking, or tampering of the BFAR seal in the containers;
- n. Non-compliance of the packaging and labelling requirements provided in this Order;
- o. Failure of the cold storage warehouse to provide data of deposited imported fish therein as required by the BFAR;
- p. Using unlicensed cold storage warehouse or unauthorized refrigerated container facility for the storage of imported fish and fishery/aquatic products.
- q. Diversion of the imported fish and fishery/aquatic products to another cold storage aside from the final destination indicated in the SPSIC without prior authority from the BFAR;
- r. Unloading of imported fish at the cold storage warehouses without the presence of the BFAR personnel;
- s. Failure to comply with biosecurity and food safety controls and inspections provided in this Order.

SECTION 19. Penalties - Any importer who is found to have violated any of (a) to (j) of the previous section shall be punished with an administrative fine of five (5) times the value of the species or Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱300,000.00) to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00), whichever is higher, and forfeiture and/or destruction of the shipment.

Upon conviction by a court of law, the offender shall be punished with eight (8) years of imprisonment and fine of twice the administrative fine, forfeiture and/or destruction of the shipment: Provided, that offenders shall be banned from being members or stockholders of companies currently engaged in fisheries or companies to be created in the future.

Failure on the part of the shipping or forwarding Company from whose possession the fish or fishery species imported are discovered or seized to fully cooperate in the investigation conducted by concerned government authorities shall create a presumption that there is connivance or conspiracy between the shipping company and the shipper to perpetrate the aforementioned offenses.

For violations under (k) to (s) of the previous section, the offender shall be punished with a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (₱100,000.00) to Five million pesos (₱5,000,000.00), depending on the socioeconomic impact and seriousness of the violation, volume and value of the fisheries product, damage to the environment due to the violation, and the habituality of the offender.

For all violations under this Order, the accompanying penalties of confiscation and forfeiture of imported fish and fishery/aquatic products in favor of the government shall be imposed. Provided that, for violations under (a) to (j) of the previous section, the accompanying penalties of blacklisting and permanent disqualification from importation of fish and fishery/aquatic products shall likewise be imposed. Said blacklisting shall apply to the company and its Board of Directors/Trustees, as well as its officers.

For habitual violators under Rule 135.1 of the IRR of RA 8550, as amended, or those who have committed multiple fishery laws violations under Section 4 (82)(j) of the same Code, the maximum penalty shall be imposed and the additional administrative penalties or sanctions under Section 135 of the Fisheries Code, as amended, shall also be applied.



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The foregoing penalties shall not preclude the application of the provisions of Republic Act No. 12022 otherwise known as "Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act", Republic Act No. 10611 otherwise known as "The Food Safety Act of 2013", and any other existing applicable laws.

For offenses falling under Republic Act No. 12022, a criminal case for such violation shall be filed and no administrative settlement shall be allowed.

CHAPTER VII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 20. Annexes – The Annexes of this Order may be amended by virtue of a BFAR Fisheries Office Order in case there is a need to update the same.

SECTION 21. Repealing Clause – All existing Orders, rules and regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order, including Fisheries Administrative Order Nos. 195 and 259, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 22. Separability Clause – If any portion or provision of this Order is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portion or portions thereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 23. Effectivity – This Order shall take effect immediately following its publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation and upon its filing with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center.

Done this 24th day of November 2025 in Quezon City.



FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary

Recommending Approval:



DRUSILA ESTHER E. BAYATE
Undersecretary for Fisheries and
Chairperson, NFARMC



DA-CO-OSEC-AO20251010-00015



ANNEX I

I. Requirements for Licensing of Importers for Canning/Processing:

- a. Duly accomplished application form
- b. Valid registration certificates from DTI (for sole proprietorship), SEC with Articles of Incorporation and GIS (for partnerships and corporations), CDA (for cooperatives), or DOLE (for associations and organizations)
- c. Latest Audited Financial Statement
- d. Valid Mayor's/ Business Permit
- e. Valid Sanitary Permit
- f. Company Profile, including officers, office and establishment location map with geotagged photos
- g. Valid BIR Registration
- h. Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- i. Valid BFAR License to Operate of Cold Storage Warehouse (CSW)
- j. Valid BOC-Accreditation Certificate
- k. Valid BOC Certificate of Registration
- l. Certified True Copy of Valid Lease Agreement with BFAR-licensed CSW
- m. Valid FDA License to Operate as Food Manufacturer and/or HACCP certification
- n. Special Power of Attorney for Authorized Representative

II. Requirements for Licensing of Importers for Importation for Direct Consumption without undergoing Canning and Processing

- a. Duly accomplished application form
- b. Valid registration certificates from DTI (for sole proprietorship), SEC with Articles of Incorporation and GIS (for corporations), CDA (for cooperatives), or DOLE (for associations and organizations)
- c. Latest Audited Financial Statement [f21]
- d. Valid Mayor's/ Business Permit
- e. Company Profile, including officers, office and establishment location map with geotagged photos
- f. Applicable Valid BIR Registration
- g. Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- h. Valid BOC-Accreditation Certificate
- i. Valid BOC Certificate of Registration
- j. Certified True Copy of Valid Lease Agreement with BFAR-licensed CSW
- k. Valid BFAR License to Operate of CSW
- l. Special Power of Attorney for Authorized Representative
- m. Valid BFAR License to Operate and simplified HACCP for Fishery and Aquaculture Business Operators' processing plant
- n. Other requirements as may be necessary



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ANNEX II

Requirements During the Conduct of Verification to Canners/Processors

1. Notarized contract or toll packing agreement with the canner/processor;
2. Delivery receipt/Purchase Order with the name and complete business address of canner/processor;
3. Withdrawal records from the cold storage;
4. BIR monthly VAT/Percentage Tax Returns;
5. Proof of ownership of Cold Storage or CSW Agreement;
6. Production capacity;
7. CSW Capacity;
8. Permit or clearance for domestic movement of products, if applicable; and
9. Other requirements as may be necessary



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Logo of
Competent
Authority

(Competent Authority)



Health Certificate for Fish and Fishery Products for Export to the Philippines

Part I. Description of Consignment

Country of Source:

Consignor/Exporter

Name:

Accreditation No.:

Address:

Country:

ISO Country Code:

Certificate Reference Number:

Competent Authority:

Consignee/Importer

Name:

Address:

Country of Origin:

ISO Country Code:

Place of Dispatch

Name:

Address:

Country:

ISO Country Code:

Date of Departure:

Country of Destination:

ISO Country Code:

Place of Destination

Name:

Address:

Country:

ISO Country Code:

Means of Transport

by air

by sea

Container Number/ Seal Number:

Airline Flight Number:

Transport condition

Chilled

Frozen

Source

Wild

Farmed/Cultured

Scientific Name	English / Common Name	Type of packaging	Number of packages	Quantity/Net Weight
Total Quantity/Net Weight:				
Total Gross Weight:				

Intended use of the commodity

Direct Human Consumption

Further Processing for Human Consumption

Further Processing for Export

Others (specify):

Part II. Health Attestation

This is to certify that the above-mentioned fish and fishery/aquatic products:

1. Originated from an establishment approved or accredited by the Competent Authority;
2. Have complied with the physical, chemical, and biological regulatory requirements and limits as indicated in Annex IV of FAO No. 275, series of 2025, and are deemed fit for human consumption;
3. Comply with the packaging, labeling, storage, and transport requirements as provided under FAO No. 275, Section 14 and;
4. Are intended for further processing and export to the European Union (EU), in compliance with the applicable EU requirements.

Certifying Officer:

Name:

Official Stamp

Position:

Signature

Date:



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ANNEX IV

Laboratory Analysis with Regulatory Limits

ANALYSIS	REGULATORY LIMIT	REFERENCE
1. Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Fishery Products		
Sensory Test	Fish & Fishery Products	PNS/BAFS 66:2020 Fish and fishery products – Milkfish - Fresh chilled and fresh frozen
		PNS/BAFS 67:2020 Fish and fishery products – Tilapia - Live, fresh chilled and fresh frozen
		PNS/BAFS 70: 2023 Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Shrimps and Prawns
		PNS/BAFS 71:2021 Quick Frozen Finfish, Uneviscerated and Eviscerated
		PNS/BAFS 72: 2022 Live, Raw Fresh Chilled or Frozen Abalone
		PNS/BAFS 73:2021 Fish and fishery products – Grouper
		PNS/BAFS 89:2021 Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs
		PNS/BAFPS 90:2011 Quick frozen fish fillets
		PNS/BAFPS 91:2011





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			Quick frozen lobsters
			PNS/BAFS 136: 2023 Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Cephalopods
			Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Raw Tuna
			PNS/BAFS 206:2017 Live, Fresh-chilled and Fresh-Frozen Pompano
			PNS/BAFS 205: 2024 Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Small Pelagic Finfishes
			PNS/BAFS 177: 2023 Live, Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Crabs
			PNS/BAFS 235: 2022 Fresh Frozen Soft-Shell Crab
			PNS/BAFS 237: 2024 Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Siganid
			PNS/BAFS 240:2024 Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Scallop Products
			PNS/BAFS 373:2023 Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish in Laboratories - Guidelines

2. BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

2.1 MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION



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2.1.1. Aerobic Plate Count (APC)	Fish and fishery/aquatic product, RTE	10^5 cfu/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
	Fish, Raw, Chilled, Frozen		
	Cephalopods	10^6 cfu/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
2.1.2. <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Crustacean, Raw	5×10^5 cfu/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
2.1.3. Coagulase positive- <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Cephalopods	10^3 cfu/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
2.1.4. <i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Crustacean, Raw		PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
	Fish and fishery/aquatic product, RTE	10^2 cfu/g	
	Cephalopods		
	Bivalve molluscs, Live		
2.1.5. <i>Escherichia coli</i>	Fish and fishery/aquatic product, RTE	3 cfu/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and



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		Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
Fish, Raw, Chilled, Frozen	10 cfu/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
Cephalopods	11 MPN/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria
Fresh and Frozen bivalve molluscs	16 MPN/g	International Commission on Microbiological Specification for Foods (ICMSF) 2 nd edition
Frozen raw crustaceans	11 MPN/g	International Commission on Microbiological Specification for Foods (ICMSF) 2 nd edition
Bivalve molluscs, Live, Raw - intended for direct consumption	2.3 MPN/g	PNS/BAFS 372:2023 Primary and Postharvest Food and Feed-Product Standard-Microbiological Criteria

2.2. PARASITOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

2.2.1. Zoonotic Parasites	Fresh Chilled Frozen Fish Products	Absent	Codex Alimentarius
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2.3. CRUSTACEAN PATHOGENS

2.3.1. White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV)	Whole fresh chilled/frozen susceptible species	Negative Detection	World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Listed Diseases/ Emerging Disease
2.3.2. Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease caused by specific virulent strain of <i>Vibrio</i>			

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<i>parahaemolyticus</i> (<i>VpAHPND</i>)			
2.3.3. Infectious hypodermal and Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV)			
2.3.4. Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV)			
2.3.5. Infectious Myonecrosis Virus (IMNV)			
2.3.6. Yellow-head Virus (YHV)			
2.3.7. Macrobrachium rosenbergii -Nodavirus (MrNV)			
2.3.8. Decapod Iridescent Virus 1 (DIV1)			

3. CHEMICAL TESTING

3.1. CHEMICAL ELEMENTS (HEAVY METALS)

3.1.1 Cadmium (Cd)	Bivalve Mollusc, Cephalopods	2.0 mg/kg	PNS/BAFS 194:2022 General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed
3.1.2 Lead (Pb)	Fish	0.3 mg/kg	
3.1.3 Methylmercury	Tuna Alfonsino Marlin Shark	1.2 mg/kg 1.5 mg/kg 1.7 mg/kg 1.6 mg/kg	
3.1 HISTAMINE	Fish and Fishery Products	Avg ≤ 100 ppm, max = 200 ppm	PNS/BAFS 71:2021 Quick Frozen Finfish, Uneviscerated and Eviscerated
			PNS/BAFS 73:2021 Fish and fishery products – Grouper – Live, fresh chilled or fresh frozen
			PNS/BAFS 137: 2024 Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Raw Tuna
			PNS/BAFS 205: 2024



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			Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Small Pelagic Finfishes PNS/BAFS 237: 2024 Fresh Chilled and Fresh Frozen Siganid
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3.2 MARINE TOXINS

3.2.1 Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST)	Bivalve Mollusks	≤ 60 µg/ 100g	FAO 235 Series of 2010 PNS/BAFS 89:2021 Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs
3.2.2 Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)	Bivalve Mollusks	≤ 20 mg/kg	PNS/BAFS 89:2021 Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs
3.2.3 Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP)	Bivalve Mollusks	≤ 160 µg/kg	PNS/BAFS 89:2021 Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs

3.3 BANNED ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUES

3.3.1 Chloramphenicol	Aquaculture Products	Negative Detection	DA AO No. 60 s.1990/ DOH AO No. 91 s.1990
3.4.2. Nitrofurans (AOZ, AMOZ, AHD, SEM)	Aquaculture Products	Negative Detection	DOH-DA Joint Administrative Order No. 2 s. 2000

3.4 RESIDUES OF OTHER ANTIBACTERIAL SUBSTANCES

3.4.1 Chlortetracycline	Aquaculture Products	200 µg/kg (sum of chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline and tetracycline)	CAC/MRL 2-2015
3.4.2 Oxytetracycline	Aquaculture Products	200 µg/kg (sum of chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline and tetracycline)	CAC/MRL 2-2015
3.4.3 Amoxicillin	Aquaculture Products	50 µg/kg	PNS/BAFS 48:2022



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			Veterinary Drug Residues in Food — Product Standard — Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)
3.5 DYES			
3.5.1 Malachite green and metabolites	Aquaculture Products	Negative Detection	BFAR Administrative Circular No. 256 s.2015
3.5.2 Gentian Violet		Negative Detection	BFAR Administrative Circular No. 256 s.2015



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