



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL DISTRICT AND SUB PORT COLLECTORS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED


SUBJECT : Extension of Rice shipments covered by MAV

DATE : 17 March 2017

This is with reference to the attached letter dated 16 March 2017 of Atty. Maia Chiara Halmen Reina A. Valdez, Undersecretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretary and NFA Council Permanent Alternate Chairperson, relative to the amendment of the 2016 MAV Guidelines, which the NFA Council approved on 27 February 2017, effectively extending the arrival period of rice importation under the 2016 MAV to March 31, 2017.

Based on the said letter, **please be informed that the extension is effective to all rice importations under the 2016 MAV regardless of the source country.**

For strict and immediate compliance.


M/GEN. NATALIO C. ECARMA III (RET)
Officer-In-Charge and
Deputy Commissioner, RCMG



MAR 17 2017

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Office of the President of the Philippines
Malacañang

OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY
CABINET ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

EXTREMELY URGENT

16 March 2017

MR. CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ
Secretary
Department of Finance
3/F DOF Building
Roxas Blvd. cor. Pablo Ocampo St.,
Manila, 1004



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Republic of the Philippines



Re: BOC Memorandum dated 6 March 2017 re: *Rice shipments covered by MAV*

Dear Sec. Dominguez:

This refers to the BOC Memorandum ("Memorandum") dated 6 March 2017, issued by Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Nicanor E. Faeldon.¹

Said Memorandum informs all district and sub port collectors that "*rice importations coming from countries other than Pakistan and India should be subjected to seizure by the concerned Port*".

It referred to the letters from the National Food Authority (NFA) Management dated 28 February 2017² and 2 March 2017³, which incorrectly stated that the "*arrival period of rice importations under the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) Program for the year 2016 will only be until 28 February 2017, except for rice importations from Pakistan and India as source countries x x x*".

The good Secretary has been well informed by the members of the NFA Council in a past meeting of the amendment of the 2016 MAV Guidelines, which the NFA Council approved on 27 February 2017⁴, effectively extending the arrival period of the rice importation under the 2016 MAV to 31 March 2017. This extension is effective to all rice importation under the 2016 MAV regardless of the source country.

¹ Attached is a copy of the said Memorandum for your reference.
² From NFA Administrator Jason Laureano Y. Aquino.
³ From NFA Grains and Marketing Operations Division Director Lemuel R. Pagayunan.
⁴ NFA Council Resolution No. 851-2017-B.

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Further, this extension has been made known to both the NFA Administrator and the BOC Commissioner in separate letters. In particular, the NFA Council, through the NFA Chairperson, directed the NFA Administrator to immediately and strictly comply with the NFA Council Resolution while the BOC Commissioner was requested to respect the same.

The NFA Council likewise highlighted to the good Secretary that the qualified and legitimate rice importers under the 2016 MAV are merely awaiting clearance and assurance from the BOC that their rice import allocations will not be subjected to seizure. It is worth noting that the importers who have already commenced shipment of their rice import allocations, rather than sending the shipment back to their suppliers, they have opted to store rice imports in facilities outside the specified point of entries, thereby incurring additional costs such as demurrage fees and other related payments.

A mere technicality, *i.e.* the delay and unfounded refusal of the NFA Administrator to comply with the directives of the NFA Council, need not cause the legitimate traders to be considered and labeled as smugglers, when their requests for extensions are just and within the extension of the period allowed by the NFA Council.

In this regard and on behalf of the NFA Council of which the good Secretary is a member, we seek your assistance on this matter, specifically in addressing the Memorandum issued by the BOC Commissioner.

Additionally, we request that the BOC be directed to furnish the NFA Council, through the DOF, a copy of all import permits filed or forwarded to it in order for the NFA Council to validate the reports of several shipments from Vietnam and Thailand, among others.

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate the assistance extended to the NFA Council for the welfare of the NFA, legitimate rice importers, and farmers alike.

We look forward to your feedback on the matter.

Sincerely,


ATTY. MAIA CHIARA HALMEN REINA A. VALDEZ
Undersecretary and NFA Council Permanent Alternate Chairperson

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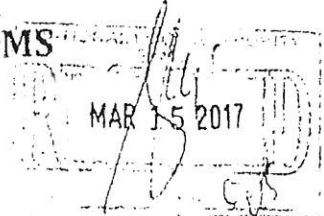
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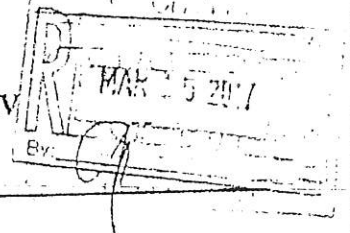


MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL DISTRICT AND SUB PORT COLLECTORS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Rice shipments covered by MAV

DATE : 06 March 2017



Pursuant to the letter dated 28 February 2017 of Jason Laureano Y. Aquino, Administrator, National Food Authority (NFA), and the letter dated 02 March 2017 of Lemuel R. Pagayunan, Director, Grains Marketing Operations Division, NFA, the arrival period of rice importations under the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) Program for the year 2016 will only be until 28 February 2017, except for rice importations from Pakistan and India as source countries wherein it has been extended until 31 March 2017.

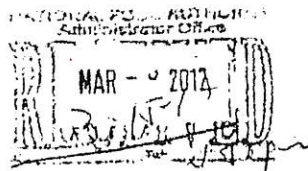
Accordingly, rice importations coming from countries other than Pakistan and India should be subjected to seizure by the concerned Port.

For strict and immediate compliance.

[Signature]
NICANOR E. FAELDON
Commissioner



MAR 07 2017



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
ODAMO
RECEIVED
MAR 15 2017

AM: PM:

[Handwritten initials]