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BOC-01-06556

AOCG Memo No. 137-2022

## MEMORANDUM

**TO :** ALL DISTRICT AND SUPPORT COLLECTORS  
ALL DEPUTY COLLECTORS FOR ASSESSMENT  
CHIEFS ASSESSMENT DIVISION  
CUSTOMS APPRAISERS  
CUSTOMS EXAMINERS  
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

**FROM :** ATTY. EDWARD JAMES A. DY BUCO  
Deputy Commissioner, AOCG

**SUBJECT :** CLARIFICATIONS BY THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY  
ON SEC.4 OF RA NO. 11203 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
RICE TARIFFICATION LAW

**DATE :** April 20, 2022

This refers to the clarifications made by George Y. Culaste, Director, Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) on Sec. 4 of RA No. 11203 otherwise known as the Rice Tariffication Law which states "Failure on the part of the BPI to release the SPSIC without informing the rice importer of any error, deficiency, omission, or additional documentary requirements shall mean automatic approval of the SPSIC applied for within seven (7) days of the submission of complete requirements."

As per letter of Dir. Culaste dated 12 April 2022, "importations covered by the above-mentioned provision are verified wherein a **letter of validation** is issued stating that there was indeed a **valid and deemed approved** Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) application lodged by the importer in the DA Trade System. Such letter is provided to PQ Offices at the ports of entry..."

Attached herewith is a copy of the subject letter for your reference, guidance and appropriate action.





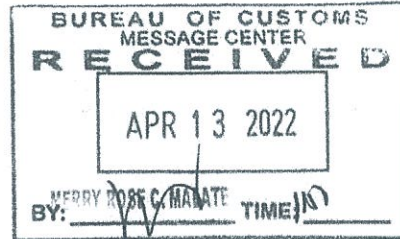
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY**

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April 12, 2022

**Mr. REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERRO**

Commissioner  
Bureau of Customs  
South Harbor Gate 3  
Port Area, Manila



Dear Sir:

This pertains to milled rice importations using the provisions of Section 4 of RA 11203 *Rice Tariffication Law*, "Failure on the part of the BPI to release the SPSIC without informing the rice importer of any error, deficiency, omission, or additional documentary requirements shall mean automatic approval of the SPSIC applied for within seven (7) days of the submission of complete requirements".

In this regard, please be informed that importations covered by the abovementioned provision are verified wherein a **letter of validation** is issued stating that there was indeed a **valid and deemed approved** Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) application lodged by the importer in the DA Trade System. Such letter is provided to PQ offices at the ports of entry as reference for their port's document verification procedures and to facilitate processing of such milled rice shipments upon arrival. This also includes other necessary importation documents required under DA Department Circular No. 4 Series of 2016 and other applicable laws.

Further, such importations are subjected to 100% Plant Quarantine (PQ) inspection procedures and if necessary, phytosanitary treatments at the port of entry or importer's warehouse.

Hoping this may enlighten your good office on the documents provided by BPI and the PQ port procedures being implemented to those importations with such cases.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

**GEORGE Y. CULASTE, PhD.**  
Director

