



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**

MANILA 1099  
South Harbor, Gate 3, Port Area, Manila

MASTER COPY

*dlf*

July 16, 2019

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 174-2019

To: All Deputy Commissioners  
All Service Directors  
All District/Port Collectors  
All Others Concerned

**SUBJECT: SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT CLEARANCE (SPSIC) FROM THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY (BPI)**

With reference to the letter dated July 3, 2019 from Mr. George Y. Culaste, Officer-in-Charge, Director, Bureau of Plant Industry, all concerned are informed that all importations of rice, wheat and grains must be accompanied by a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) and should comply with food safety and plant quarantine rules.

For your information and guidance.

For records purposes, please confirm the dissemination of this Circular throughout your Offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof.

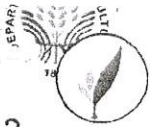
  
**REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO**

Commissioner

JUL 23 2019



BOC-09-04300



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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY**  
Manila

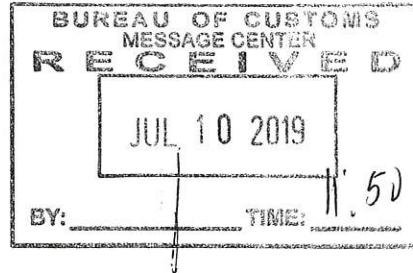
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
ASSESSMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION  
**MASTER COPY**  
BY: DENVER  
DATE: 11 JUL 2019  
TIME: 4:17

692 San Andres Street,  
Malate, Manila, Philippines  
e-mail: bpi.directoroffice@yahoo.com

Tel. No. 525-79-09  
525-29-87  
525-78-57  
Fax No. 521-76-50

3 July 2019

**REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO**  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Customs  
G/F OCOM Building, 16<sup>th</sup> Street,  
South Harbor, Port Are, Manila  
(632) 705-6000



Dear **Commissioner Guerrero**:



BOC-09-04300

Greetings!!!

We are writing your good office regarding the recent requests from the Bureau of Customs regarding rice imports abandoned and held in the ports of entry. We would like to inform you that DA-Department Circular No. 4, series of 2016 *Guidelines on the Importation of Plants, Planting Materials and Plant Products for Commercial Purposes* and Presidential Decree 1433, as amended also known as the *Plant Quarantine Law of 1978* are enforced by the Bureau of Plant Industry. Existing rules and regulations require that importation of plants, planting materials and plant products including grains be accompanied by **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC)**.

In light of the recently passed Republic Act 11023 also known as *An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and For Other Purposes*, all importation of rice, wheat and grains must be accompanied by an SPSIC and must comply with food safety and plant quarantine rules. We request that this information be also circulated to all ports and all customs inspectors for their guidance and cooperation.

Thank you very much and we hope to continuously collaborate with your office in facilitating trade and at the same time protecting our borders from sanitary and phytosanitary risks.

Very truly yours,

**GEORGE X. CULASTE**  
OIC, Director  
Bureau of Plant Industry

