

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MANILA 1099

April 18, 2016

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 55 - 2016

TO: All Deputy Commissioners
All Directors and Division Chiefs
All District / Port Collectors
and Others Concerned

**SUBJECT: Cargo Inspection by DA and DOH per PCAF Resolution No. 1,
series 2016**

Attached is the letter dated March 30, 2016 of Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, Department of Agriculture and Chairperson-Coordinator, Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), endorsing a copy of Resolution No. 1, s. 2016 issued by Ms. Rufina S. Salas, Chairperson, PCAF Committee on Livestock and Feed Crops.

For your information and guidance.

Please confirm the dissemination of this circular throughout your offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof.


ALBERTO D. LINA
Commissioner



APR 19 2016

PDCD/SPDS-L-16-006

30 March 2016

MR. ALBERTO D. LINA
Commissioner
Bureau of Customs
G/F, OCOM Building, Port Area
Manila, Philippines

14 APR 2016 11:00

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Office of the Commissioner
Incoming Document No
16-11208

Dear Commissioner Lina:

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) (formerly the National Agricultural and Fishery Council), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA) has been mandated to act as a consultative body and serve as a forum where the government and the private sectors can discuss agriculture and fisheries issues and come up with policy recommendations and resolutions which are endorsed to the concerned agencies or departments for appropriate action. There are eight National Sectoral Committees (NSCs) under the PCAF, namely: Food Staples; Fruits and Vegetables; Commercial Crops; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Poultry, Livestock and Feed Crops; Agriculture and Fishery Mechanization; International Trade; and Climate Change.

Relative to this, we are hereby endorsing to your office the attached PCAF- Committee on Poultry, Livestock and Feed Crops (CPLFC) Resolution No. 1, Series of 2016, *Requesting the Department of Finance through the Bureau of Customs to strictly implement the provision of the Food Safety Act of 2013, Section 12 (b)* that was passed during the PCAF-CPLFC meeting last 16 March 2016.

The resolution states that under the Food Safety Act of 2013, Article IV, Section 12 (b), imported foods shall undergo cargo inspection and clearance procedures by the DA and the DOH at the first port of entry to determine compliance with national regulations. This inspection being conducted by the DA and the DOH shall always take place prior to assessment of tariff and other charges by the Bureau of Customs. Implementation of this policy will also serve as a control mechanism against possible technical smuggling of agricultural and food products.

Your favorable and immediate response to this request will be much appreciated.

Very truly yours,


PROCESO J. ALCALA
Secretary, DA and Chairperson-Coordinator, PCAF

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PCAF COMMITTEE ON POULTRY, LIVESTOCK AND FEED CROPS

Resolution No. 1

Series of 2016

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE THROUGH THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS TO STRICTLY IMPLEMENT ARTICLE IV, SECTION 12 (B) OF THE FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 2013

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people. Furthermore, Section 9, Article XVI provides that the State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous contaminant products;

WHEREAS, the Food Safety Act of 2013 (Republic Act No. 10611) was signed on 23 August 2013 to strengthen the food safety regulatory system in the country to protect consumer health; facilitate market access of local foods and food products, and for other purposes;

WHEREAS, Section 12, Rule 12 b.1 of RA No. 10611 and its IRR, states that the DA and DOH shall develop the regulations on cargo/shipment inspections and clearance procedures for imported products prior to assessment of the Bureau of Customs for the appropriate tariffs;

WHEREAS, under this Act, Article IV, Section 12 (b) states that imported foods shall undergo cargo inspection and clearance procedures by the DA and the DOH at the first port of entry to determine compliance with national regulations and this inspection by the DA and the DOH shall always take place prior to assessment for tariff and other charges by the BOC;

WHEREAS, the strict enforcement of this policy will help ensure the safety of these imported agricultural and food products that could bring in diseases from other countries;

WHEREAS, the implementation of this policy will serve as a control mechanism against possible technical smuggling of agricultural and food products;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED; that the PCAF-CPLFC is requesting the Department of Finance through the Bureau of Customs to strictly implement Article IV, Section 12 (b) of the Food Safety Act of 2013.

Unanimously passed during the CPLFC meeting held on 16 March 2016 at the the PCAF Apacible Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DA Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

For the Committee on Poultry, Livestock and Feed Crops


RUFINA S. SALAS
Chairperson