



Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Finance  
**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**  
 1099 Manila

**MEMORANDUM**

To : **All Deputy Commissioners  
 All District and Sub-Port Collectors  
 All Formal Entry Division Personnel  
 All Others Concerned**

From : **REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO**  
 Commissioner

Subject: **Supplemental Interim Guidelines in The  
 Implementation of Republic Act No. 11203**

Date : **26 March 2019**



BOC-09-00477

On 5 March 2019, the Bureau of Customs issued an Interim Guidelines in the implementation of R.A. No. 11203 (An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for other purposes), pending the issuance of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

As stated in the said Interim Guidelines, all importers of rice are simply required to secure a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) prior to importation. Provided, the imported rice should arrive before the expiration of the SPSIC. Import Permits issued by the National Food Authority (NFA) are, therefore, no longer required for rice importation to the Philippines effective 5 March 2019, the date of effectivity of R.A. 11203.

Section 19 of R.A. 11203 is clear that all laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. In other words, the need for an import permit is inconsistent with the provisions of the Rice Tariffication Law. Moreover, the law does not provide for any saving clause that would necessitate the submission of an Import Permit from the NFA for rice importation prior to the effectivity of the law, on 5 March 2019, but arrived thereafter.

Reference must be made that *importation* refers to the act of bringing in of goods from a foreign territory into Philippine territory, whether for consumption, warehousing, or admission as defined under the CMTA (*Section 102 [z]*). Importation begins when the carrying vessel or aircraft enters the

Philippine territory with the intention to unload therein. Importation is deemed terminated when the duties, taxes and other charges due upon the goods have been paid or secured to be paid, at the port of entry unless the goods are free from duties, taxes and other charges and legal permit for withdrawal has been granted: or in case the goods are deemed free of duties, taxes and other charges, the goods have legally left the jurisdiction of the Bureau (*Section 103, Id.*).

Accordingly, except as otherwise provided for by the CMTA or in other laws, all goods, when imported into the Philippines, shall be subject to duty upon importation, including goods previously exported from the Philippines. Upon payment of the duties, taxes and other charges, the Bureau shall issue the necessary receipt or document as proof of such payment (*Section 104, Id.*).

In view thereof, effective 5 March 2019, the Bureau will no longer require the importers to submit or present any Import Permit from the NFA on all rice shipments that will arrive in the Philippines, regardless of the date of the departure of the rice shipment(s) from the point of origin. Instead, a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) shall be required prior to importation as herein defined.

All other provisions of the Interim Guidelines are hereby reiterated.

Accordingly, All Concerned are hereby enjoined to process expeditiously all rice importations that arrived commencing 5 March 2019, in accordance with the Interim Guidelines and this Supplement.

Thus, all rice importations shall now be processed under the regular customs clearance procedure including, among others, filing of entries without need for Import Permit from NFA.

For your guidance and strict compliance.