



# BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

MAKABAGONG ADUANA, MATATAG NA EKONOMIYA



PROFESSIONALISM

INTEGRITY

ACCOUNTABILITY

31 March 2023

**CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
NO. 53 - 2023

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

**SUBJECT: IMPORT GUIDELINES ON LEATHER INCLUDING FINISHED OR FULLY PROCESSED/TANNED LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS AND OTHER NON-FOOD, NON-FEED, PROCESSED PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN TO THE PHILIPPINES**

With reference to the attached letter dated 27 February 2023 from Mr. Paul Limson, DVM, Director, Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Department of Agriculture (DA), please be informed that pursuant to DA Administrative Circular No. 02 series of 2023 re: Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Leather and Hides (Finished Products, Tanned and Untanned, Processed and Unprocessed) and other Non-Food, Non-Feed, Processed Products of Animal Origin, the BAI will no longer be issuing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSICs) starting 08 March 2023 for the following commodities:

- a. Fully furnished leather products/goods
- b. Fully tanned hides and skins
- c. Fully dressed furs and fur products
- d. Souvenir items made from washed and dyed feathers.
- e. Feather- fishing leisure

Moreover, importation of non-food, non-feed, processed products of animal origin such as processed horns and skulls used for religious activities, processed handicrafts, and processed taxidermy in display form do not require SPSIC from BAI. However, they must come from countries free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and other related transboundary animal diseases (TADs).

For information and reference.

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



**BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO**  
Commissioner  
MAR 31 2023



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**  
Visayas Ave., Diliman Quezon City 1101

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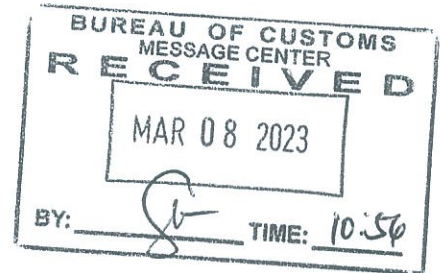
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BOC-03-19208

February 27, 2023

**MR. BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO**  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Customs  
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila



**SUBJECT: IMPORT GUIDELINES ON LEATHER INCLUDING FINISHED OR FULLY PROCESSED/TANNED LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS AND OTHER NON-FOOD, NON-FEED, PROCESSED PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN TO THE PHILIPPINES**

1:45 03-10-23

Dear **Hon. Commissioner Rubio:**

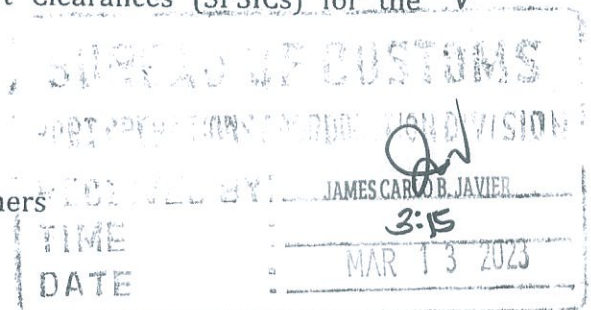
Greetings from the Bureau of Animal Industry!

Sir, we are writing to your good office concerning the attached Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Circular No. 2, Series of 2023, "Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Leather and Hides (Finished Products, Tanned and Untanned, Processed and Unprocessed) and other Non-Food, Non-Feed, Processed Products of Animal Origin."



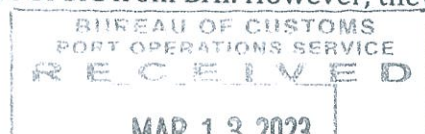
We wish to inform you that starting March 8, 2023, the Bureau of Animal Industry will no longer be issuing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSICs) for the following commodities:

- fully finished leather products/goods
- fully tanned hides and skins
- fully dressed furs and fur products
- souvenir items made from washed and dyed feathers
- feather-fishing lures



The above-mentioned products are considered low-risk commodities, having undergone a series of processing. This is deemed to have a negligible risk of introducing animal diseases and is not a food safety concern.

Moreover, importation of non-food, non-feed, processed products of animal origin such as processed horns and skulls used for religious activities, processed handicrafts, and processed taxidermy in display form do not require SPSIC from BAI. However, they must



come from countries free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and other related transboundary animal diseases (TADs).

The said DA Administrative Circular has already been published in a newspaper of national circulation.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

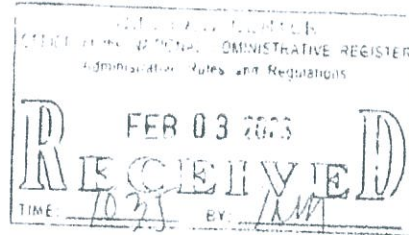
Very truly yours,

  
PAUL C. LIMSON, DVM  
Director



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
1100 Quezon City

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**ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR**  
No. 02  
Series of 2023

**SUBJECT : RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION OF LEATHER AND HIDES (FINISHED PRODUCTS, TANNED AND UNTANNED, PROCESSED AND UNPROCESSED) AND OTHER NON-FOOD, NON-FEED, PROCESSED PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is mandated as per Section 26 of Executive Order No. 338 s.2001, to set a quarantine inspection system relative to inter-regional and international movement of animals, animal products including documentation and issuance of permit and commodity clearance in relation hereto, to safeguard against the entry of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) into the country;

**WHEREAS**, DA Memorandum Order No. 16, s.2005 "Importation of Fully Tanned Leather from All Countries" was issued based on the import risk of FMD and Anthrax. However, new import risk analysis data shows that the likelihood of hides and skins carrying infectious agents of concern would be greatly diminished in extreme pH levels attained during the tanning process and other recommended procedures by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH);

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act 11032 (Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service and Deliver Act) directs government offices to evaluate and streamline its regulatory processes;

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) recommends that alternative risk management options may be employed for certain low-risk commodities (such as, but not limited to finished or fully processed/tanned leather goods), and in lieu of a Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC), a document indicating the country of origin of the product (i.e. Veterinary Health Certificate [VHC], proforma invoice, or proof of purchase) may be presented by the importer;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, this Circular is hereby issued as the guidelines for the importation of LEATHER, INCLUDING FINISHED OR FULLY PROCESSED/TANNED LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS, AND OTHER NON-FOOD, NON-FEED, PROCESSED PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN to the Philippines:

Item	Description	Import permit requirement
1. Fully finished leather products/ goods; fully tanned hides and skins; fully dressed furs and fur products; souvenir items made from washed and	o Fully finished leather products/goods - e.g. leather belts, wallets, shoes, watch straps, bags, etc.	<b>SPS IMPORT CLEARANCE IS NOT REQUIRED FROM BAI</b>
	o Fully tanned hides and skins - undergone a full tanning	Importer shall present either Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC),

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Administrative Officer V  
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<p><b>dyed feathers; feather-fishing lures</b></p>	<p>process so that they are preserved from putrescence and are thermally stable for use in a manufactured product (does not include wet blue, brown, and white)</p>	<p>proforma invoice or proof of purchase indicating source of origin to the veterinary quarantine officer at the port of entry.</p>
<p><b>2. Processed hides and skins; salted or dried hides and skins</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Processed hides and skins – hides and skins that have been pickled or limed; includes wet whites, wet blues, wet salted, and wet browns</li> <li>• Wet blue – hides tanned with chromium salt; they are thermally stable but not usable in this form</li> <li>• Wet brown – hides tanned with vegetable tanning agent/s; thermally stable but not usable at this form</li> <li>• Wet white – hides tanned with various organic and/or inorganic agents which leave it white in color; thermally stable but not usable, require re-tanning before suitable for end-use</li> </ul>	<p><b>SPS IMPORT CLEARANCE IS REQUIRED FROM BAI</b></p> <p>Any commodity under this description that arrives without an SPS Import Clearance shall be subject to existing rules and regulations governing importation of agricultural products.</p>
<p><b>3. Untanned (raw) &amp;/or untreated hides, skin, and fur skins of animal origin</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Untanned (raw) hide or skin – outer covering of ruminants, porcine, ratites, equines and porcine that is raw and has not been chemically processed into permanent and durable form of leather</li> <li>○ Raw skin, hides, and wool; furs or pelts that have not been fully dressed; unprocessed animal and bird carcasses and trophies that will be used for taxidermy; unprocessed hoofs, horns, wool, feathers, and down</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Non-food, non-feed, processed products of animal origin from countries free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Examples: processed horns and/or skulls used for religious activities; processed handicrafts, processed taxidermy in display form; washed wool, etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SPS IMPORT CLEARANCE IS NOT REQUIRED FROM BAI</b></p> <p>Importer shall present Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) or</p>

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Administrative Officer V  
DA-Records Division

<p><b>and related Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs)</b></p>		<p>proforma invoice or proof of purchase indicating source of origin, <b>and</b> CITES/non-CITES certification (if applicable) to the veterinary quarantine officer at the port of entry.</p> <p>Product/process certification coming from the seller or consignor shall be submitted.</p>
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Should the Veterinary Quarantine Officer at the port of entry determine that the commodity poses a sanitary risk and possible carrier of infectious animal disease, the commodity shall be subject to violation as stipulated in Article V of DA Administrative Circular no. 6, series of 2022 *“Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Importation of Agricultural and Fish and Fisher/Aquatic Products; Animal Feeds, Feed Ingredients and Feed Additives; and, Fertilizers, Pesticides and other Agricultural Chemical Products into the Philippines”*.

All hand-carried products and packages of the above commodity with or without SPS Import Clearance shall pass through Veterinary Quarantine Inspection Procedures.

All existing administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. If any portion of this Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation and its filing with the National Administrative Register, U.P. Law Center.

Done this 20th day of January 2023.

**DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN**  
Senior Undersecretary



DA-CO-OSEC-MC20230113-00003

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Administrative Officer V  
DA - Bureau Office