



# BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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24 August 2020

**CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
**NO. 211-2020**

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

**SUBJECT: Memorandum Circular No. 40 Series of 2020**

Attached is a copy of Memorandum Order No. 39 Series of 2020 from the Department of Agriculture entitled:

**“TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD BIRDS AND THEIR P[RODUCTS INCLUDING POULTRY MEAT, DAY OLD CHICKS, EGGES AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM *Australia*”**

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

  
**REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO**  
Commissioner

South Harbor, Gate 3, Port Area, Manila 1099

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**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

No. 40

Series of 2020

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD BIRDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING POULTRY MEAT, DAY OLD CHICKS, EGGS AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM *Australia***

**WHEREAS**, Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order No. 292 provides the authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department, to establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government and promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 (Charter of Bureau of Animal Industry) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;

**WHEREAS**, based on the official report submitted by Dr Mark Schipp, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government, Canberra, Australia to the World Organisation for Animal Health on 31 July 2020, there was one (1) outbreak of H7N7 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Lethbridge, Victoria, Australia affecting birds on 24 July 2020, as confirmed by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (OIE Reference Laboratory);

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to prevent the entry of HPAI virus to protect the health of the local poultry population;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR**, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures for the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products from Australia:


1. Banning the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day old chicks, eggs and semen;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodities;
3. All incoming poultry shipments with SPS import clearance issued on or before **6 August 2020** will be allowed provided that frozen poultry meat has a

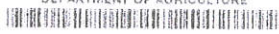
slaughter/process date of 21 days prior to the start of the HPAI outbreak (on or before 3 July 2020). All shipments will be subject to veterinary quarantine rules and regulations.

4. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above stated commodities (with the exception on heat treated products) into the country by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports of entry if the provisions written in Item 3 are not followed.
5. Importation of meat products of poultry is subject to the conditions provided in Article 10.4.19, 10.4.20 and 10.4.26 of OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019).<sup>1</sup>

This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately and shall remain enforced unless revoked in writing. All orders inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.

  
WILLIAM D. DAR, PH.D.  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
  
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<sup>1</sup>Heat treated products are acceptable following Chapter 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019) provided that in addition to the Veterinary Health Certificate, the Competent Authority will include in the certification the following:

1. Temperature and duration of heating or pasteurization of products
2. There is no co-mingling of raw materials with any other materials of animal origin