JREAU OF CUSTOM



18 May 2021

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR (CMC) NO. 102-2021

SUBJECT: EO 134 (SERIES OF 2021) ON "FURTHER MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN MEAT OF SWINE UNDER SECTION 1611 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10863. OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT," REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 128 (S. 2021) FOR THE PURPOSE"

In view of the effectivity of Executive Order No. 134 (series of 2021) on "Further Modifying the Rates of Import Duty on Fresh, Chilled or Frozen Meat of Swine under Section 1611 of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization And Tariff Act," Repealing Executive Order No. 128 (s. 2021)" on 18 May 2021, all concerned are informed that all articles specifically listed in Annex A of EO 134 (s. 2021), which are entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption, shall be levied the temporary MFN rates of duty as prescribed therein.

EO 128 (s. 2021) is hereby repealed. All other issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with EO 134 (s. 2021) are likewise repealed and modified accordingly.

EO 134 (s. 2021) shall be effective for a period of one (1) year.

Thus, the Bureau of Customs' Electronic to Mobile (E2M) System is hereto required to reflect the temporary MFN rates of duty pursuant to the said EO.

All District and Sub-Port Collectors, and all others concerned are hereby directed to confirm the dissemination of this Order throughout their offices within five (5) days from receipt thereof for records purposes.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO Commissioner of 17

MAY 18 2021



MALACAÑAN PALACE MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 134

FURTHER MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN MEAT OF SWINE UNDER SECTION 1611 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10863, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT," REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 128 (S. 2021) FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 128 (s. 2021) temporarily reduced the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariff rates on fresh, chilled, or frozen meat of swine under AHTN 2017 Heading No. 02.03 from 30% (in-quota) and 40% (out-quota), to 5% (in-quota) and 15%(out-quota) for the first three (3) months of effectivity, and 10% (in-quota) and 20% (out-quota) from the 4th until the 12th month, to address the existing pork supply shortage, stabilize prices of pork meat, and minimize inflation;

WHEREAS, while it remains imperative to reduce the tariff rates for pork products to achieve the objectives of EO No. 128, the government recognizes the plight of all concerned sectors and stakeholders, including the local hog industry, who will be affected by the tariff reduction;

WHEREAS, Section 1608 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10863 empowers the President, in the interest of general welfare and national security, and upon recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), to increase, reduce or remove existing rates of import duty; and

WHEREAS, on 06 May 2021, the NEDA Board endorsed *ad referendum* the further adjustment of the reduced tariff rates on pork meat under EO No. 128;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Rates of Import Duty. The articles specifically listed in Annex A hereof, as classified in compliance with Section 1611 of RA No. 10863, shall be subject to the temporary MFN rates of duty, in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite the article.

Upon the effectivity of this Order, all articles specifically listed in Annex A hereof, which are entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption, shall be levied the temporary MFN rates of duty as prescribed therein.

SECTION 2. Repeal. EO No. 128 is hereby repealed. All other issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Order are likewise repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. Separability. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately upon its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, and shall be effective for a period of one (1) year from such date.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 15th day of year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty One.

May

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By the President:

SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary



Office of the President
MALACAÑANG RECORDS OFFICE

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JUNIOLE DIRECTOR IV 16717111

			MFN Rates of Duty (%)		
Hdg. No.	AHTN Code 2017	DESCRIPTION	First 3 months ¹ upon effectivity	4 th to 12 th month	After the 12 th month
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
02.03	0203.11.00	Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen. - Fresh or chilled : Carcasses and half-			
	0203.11.00A	carcasses :	40	45	00
	0203.11.00A		10 20	15	30
	0203.11.008	Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone in :	20	25	40
	0203.12.00A	In-Quota	10	15	30
	0203.12.00B 0203.19.00		20	25	40
	0203.19.00A		10	15	30
	0203.19.00B		20	25	40
	0203.21.00	 Carcasses and half carcasses : 			
	0203.21.00A	In-Quota	10	15	30
	0203.21.00B 0203.22.00	 - Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone 	20	25	40
	0203.22.00A	in : In-Quota	10	15	30
	0203.22.00B 0203.29.00		20	25	40
	0203.29.00A	In-Quota	10	15	30
	0203.29.00B	Out-Quota	20	25	40

 $^{^{\}mathrm{1}}$ First ninety (90) days upon effectivity.

Group asks Neda to boost PSA's data gathering capability on fish supply

▼OOD security advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan urged the government to allow more funds to improve the data collection and production of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to provide policy-makers with a better picture of the country's fish supply situation.



BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 114

FURTHER MODEYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON FRESH CHILLED OF PROZEIN MEAT OF SUMME UNDER SECTION 1911 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1085. OTHERWISE KNOWN AS TO "CUSTOMS MODERIZATION AND TARRY ACT." REPEAUNG EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 218



			MBF IN Studios of Shutty (%)		
Hdg. No.	AHTN Code 2017	DESCRIPTION	First 3 mouths' spon effectivity	45 to 125 morth	After the 12th month
191	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
02.03	0205.11.00	Meat of swins, fresh, chilled or troklen. Freigh or shilled - Concesses and half- consisses.	10	14	30
	9293 11 09A	in-Queta	30	25	40
	0293 17 00 0293 17 00	- Cod-Guide - Huma, shoulders and cuts thansof, with bone pt		67	
	3303 12 30A	to-Cluste	1.0	12	30
	0203 12 009	Cut-Quela	20	25	40
	0203 19:00	- Other			
	0203 19.00A	In Clumbs	503	16	.50
	0203 19 008	Out-Charles	210	29	40
		Frazon Carcasses and half			
	9203.21.00	CHESTORNES		15	76
	0203-21 00A	In-Queta	10	26	40
	0203-21 008	Dus-Quote	200	210	40
	029/5 Z2 dili	Hearing, ofsculdorn and cuts thereof, with books in			
	0005 57 00A	- to-Quota	140	15	20
	0203 22 006		20	2%	40
	0203.29.70	- Other			
	02623-26-00A		16	15	30
	112020 259-0009		36	26	40

"[In order] to generate more accu-rate data, the Neda [National Economic and Development Authority] and the national government must hike the budget of the PSA to review how they capture fisheries data," the group said in its fortnightly virtual news briefing

otonuay. "They probably need more people in fishery stations. We have to understand that fisheries stations or unloading, es pecially for municipal fishers, are scat pecially for municipal fishers, are scat-tered all over the country. They really have to be grounded, in fact be below the ground water where the data is," the group added. Citing reports from the ground, the group claimed that the PSA's data on

ries production are too conserva tive. For example aquaculture produ tion in Davao doesn't capture even half of the total output of the aquaculture

fishers in the region, according to Tu-gon Kabuhayan.

The group said there is no worry in the PSA's data collection for commer-cial fishing since these vessels unload in government ports. However, they pointed out that data gathering for mu-nicipal fishing would be difficult since small-scale fishermen are scattered in the course.

the country.
"How do they estimate that? And even the data for aquaculture is too low. For example, the PSA's produc-tion estimate for Taal Lake is far from

tion estimate for Taal Lake is far from the production on ground. The same is happening in Davao," it said. Tugon Kabuhayan warned that the government is running the risk of com-ing up with wrong policy decisions on importation, if they

are basing on unrealistic data.
For one, the group maintained that

the country has sufficient fish stocks since it is able to export to Europe and other countries. "That is really the implication [on

"That is really the implication for policy-making). For example, the government has no estimate on our fusheries inventory," the group said, adding that the Philippines can learn how Europe handles its fisheries data. "We believe that there is really no

shortage. But it is up to the govern

o allow importation or not," it added.

The group also urged the government to expand its value-adding programs for the fisheries sector to in-

grams for the Interies sector to in-crease employment and income. For example, the deboning of bangus alone could generate at least 7,500 jobs with an estimated additional monthly income generation of P112 million at a P15,000 per month average salary

House panel okays bill granting tax-free honoraria to poll servers

and Means on Monday approved an unnumbered substitute bill pting the honoraria of election is from income and other with-

servers from income and other with-holding taxes.
Albay Rep. Jory Salceda said the lower chamber can fast track the passage of the measure in time for the 2022 elections. Members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) and other election personnel, typically public school teach-ers, are given allowances for serving in mational and local elections under Re-public Art 10756, or the Election Service

Data from the Commission on Elec

Data from the Commission on Elec-tions (Comeles) showed tasks withheld for the 2019 National and Local Elections amounted to 76.8 million.

My mother was a teacher for 43 years, sol support this measure. The tootis very reasonable, at around 79.6 million. It's worth apprehending just one big-time tax evader. It's an easy choice," and 53.1-ced, who will be a principal sponsor of the substitute ball to the measures filed by Roy Energ. Castra and Roy 1.1-leas Rep. France Castro and Rep. Llorer

resma. "Considering both the risks election workers take, the relatively small size of their compensation for such an impor-tant function, and the reasonableness of the tax foregone, this proposal does not pose serious threats to our revenue

The law maker said the substitute bill would have a provision that amends the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, to exclude election-related honoraria and allowances from the com-

putation of gross income. The bill specifically notes "honoraria the Duspectifically notes 'honoraria, tavel allowance, and such other benefits as may be granted by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to persons rendering elections service pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act 10756, otherwise known as the Election Service Reform Act' from Section 32 of the tax code.

Mature workers'
MEANWHILE, Sale ed a said his committee will support the passage of a proposal
that would encourage businesses to hire
mature workers' or workers aged 40
and above by granting them tax cuts for
doing so.

The productivity gains to hiring
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"The productivity gains to hiring workers with life experience will be immente. Under the current culture, most employers have only freshgraduates. They are less enthurantia about taking older applicants in. This is of course a problem, especially because many older applicants have families to support," Salceda said. Salceda added that the culture waster be valuable accumulation of skills that only older employees can deliver for a firm."

if the case for it is not "well-argued and well-established."

if the case for it is not 'well-argued and well-established.'

This is not a revenue measure, to if a provision can be vetoed, the whole bill will not be approved. That is why I hope to propose some revisions to the propose so that we can push it through enactment, 'Salceda said.'

Salceda saigned Senior Vice Chairman Streillita Suanting, Vice Chairman Sharod Garin, and Rep_Jericho Jonas Nograles to recommend to him an alternative formulation of the tax provision so it would be less prone to abuse. Under the current proposal, firms that hire 'mature employees' willbe' entitled on an additional deduction from their gross income, equivalent to 15 percent of the total amount paid as slaries and wages. 'This means that 115 percent of the total amount paid as slaries and wages.' This means that 115 percent of the total amount paid as slaries and wages.' This means that 115 percent of the total amount paid as slaries and wages.' This means that 115 percent of the total amount paid as slaries and wages. This means that 115 percent of the total arcument paid as a deduction from gross income for purposes of taxation.

Salceda warned that the provision is still vague in terms of hirting procedure,

Saiceda warned that the provision is still vague in terms of hiring procedure, cap on credits, among others. Former convicts Saiceda also said his panel support the passage of a bill that would encourage businesses to hire former persons deprived of liberty (PDL) by granting them tax breaks.

Sakeda said that he believes "oppor ties to fully integrate into society lower repeat offenses and help lower

Please consider: None of the existing vaccines would have come about without an attractive innovation environment

By Henry I. Schumacher

AVING worked in the pharma-ceutical and chemical industry for 25 years, I am certainly deeply concerned about US President Biden's controversial proposal to waive intellectual protection for coronavirus The Biden administration afew days

ago threw its support behind a contro-versial proposal to waive intellectual-property protections for coronavi-rus vaccines, with liberals framing it as a necessary bid to speed the shots to billions in the developing world, while the drug industry warned of devastat-ing effects to vaccine production.

The head of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) said a remarkable sentencein a recent interview: "I think that we should concentrate on enabling innovation," said Emer Cooke, "None of the existing vaccines would have comabout without an attractive innovation environment."

The sentence is remarkable because this simple logic threatens to be forgot ten more and more. The fact that the world discussed vaccine patent revocation is just the latest example. Terms—such as progress, in-novation and entrepreneur-ship are rarely missing from a party conference speech. In fact, bureaucracy and a lack of digital administration hinder innovation. And the situa-tion has tended to deteriorate in recent years, as surveys among entrepreneurs show.

We all need an innovation agenda that includes the re-

agenta that his due to re-duction of bureaucracy, as well as better integration between science, investors and established corporations. Because it is at this interface that the great ideas of tomorrow arise. The connections have long been known. Just like the fact that particularly complex new technologies sometimes require state funding. Quanturn computers are one such case. Never before have companies in

many parts of the world spent so much money on research and development as in 2019, as current figures show. They invested almost 76 billion euros in innovations—almost 6 percent more than in the previous year. Successful economic policy should



to take risks. A climate in which new things can arise. Anyone who now withoutaneedto question patent protection, which is nothing other than the reward for successful innovation, is sending a signal in the completely

wrong direction!
Without innovation no new medi-

cines or vaccines! Without patent/ intellectual-property rights protection—no innovation. Think of another pandemic or virus

or severe illness; without patent protec-tion: no research = no new medicines

save you. And finally, President Biden should be informed that there are other ways to provide poor countries with reasonable prices for vaccines — dissolving patent protection is a bad option.

Llook forward to your feedback, contact me at his-

Oil firms adjust fuel pump prices

By LENIE LECTURA

Il. firms announced on Monday a price adjustment in petroleum products effective Tuesday morning.

They said diesel price would go upby P0.20 per liter, while gasoline prices will go downby P0.20 per liter. There is no movement for kerosene.
The price adjustment was announced by Seaoil, Cleanfuel, Pilipnas Shell, PTT Philippines, Phoenix Petroleum and Caltex Philippines.

Except for Cleanfuel, the oli firms will implement the new prices at 6 II. firms announced on Mon-

will implement the new prices at 6 a.m. of May 18

Other oil firms are expected to

The Department of Energy (DOE)

The Department of Energy (DOE)
earlier reported that the country's
net oil import bill dropped to \$5.932
billion last year from \$11 billion in
2019 brought about by the pandemic.
Total volume of petroleum products imported last year reached
136.05 billion liters, 21.4 percent
down from 173.2 billion liters in
2019

The Philippines imported 32.9 bil lion liters of crude and 103.1 billion

tion liters of crude and 103.1 billion liters of finished products in 2020. Imports of crude dropped by 45.7 percent following the decision of Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. to shut down their respective refineries in Bataan and Batangas provinces. Imports of finished products fell 83 percent was timed to the state of the s

Imports of finished products fell 8.3 percent year-on-year. Cost of total imports also declined 46.2 percent to \$6.372 billion from \$11.839 billion in 2019.
Total export earnings dropped 42.5 percent to 10,435 million liters equivalent to \$439.4 million: 2020 from 12.669 million liters in 2019 worth \$763.6 million. Of the total petroleum exports last year. 79 billion liters were prod-last year. 79 billion liters were prod-

ucts and 2.5 billion liters in crude

Solon reminds LGUs on BOSS compliance

A SENIOR lawmaker on Monday reminded local government units (LGUs) on the provisions of the Ease of Doung Business (EODB) law that they only have until June this year to put their respective electronic business one-stop shops (EOSS) implace. In a news statement, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Ray Villafuerte called on local executives to fast track the digital-atton programs of their remost true local secutions.

ration programs of their respective local government units (LGUs) to speed up the contactless delivery of front line services to the public and the shift to paperless transactions.

The Covid-19 pandemic has acceler ated our transation to electronic-based transactions. The LGUs should step up their efforts in putting up their respec-tive online business registration processes to stay ahead of the game and make their localities more conducive to

make their localities more conductive to business, especially smidthe pandemic, and Villafuerte, an author of Republic Act (RA) 11032 or the EODB law. According to the Anth-Red Tape Authority (Arta), LGUs will be required to move their entire business permit application processes online by mid-June. The Artandorther government agencies recently signed ajoint memorandum circular UMC) toxtandardize the online business registration process that would cut the number of required application forms to just one.

cut the number of required application forms to just of forms to find forms to find forms to find for the first price and LGUs could help Malacanang improve the Philippines's global competitiveness inattracting foreign direct investments (PDI) by putting up their respective BOSS centers in support of RA 11032 and Administrative Order MO 23, which directed all government offices to eliminate cumbersome official processes that impact businesses and investments.

In AO 23, President Duterte souths

In AO 23. President Duterte sought the elimination or reduction of exces-sive regulations at all levels of govern-ment, which are more than necessary to implement their respective mandates, create high costs on businesses, inhibit job creation and discourage private sec-tor investment." Inves Marie N. Dela Cruz



MALACARAN BALACE

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 134

FURTHER MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN MEAT OF SWINE UNDER SECTION 1611 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10863, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CUSTOMS MODIERNIZATION AND TARREP ACT," REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 128 (S. 2021) FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 128 (s. 2021) temporarily reduced the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tantif rates on freely, chilled, or frozan mest of swine under AHTN 2017 feeding No. 02:03 from 30% (in-quota) and 40% (out-quota), to 5% (in-quota) and 15% (out-quota) for the first three (3) months of affectivity, and 10% (in-quota) and 20% (out-quota) from the 4% until the 12% month. to address the existing pork supply shortage, stabilize prices of pork mest, and misimize inflation.

WHEREAS, while it remains imperative to reduce the tartif rates for pork products to achieve the objectives of EO No. 128, the government recognizes the pright of all concerned sectors and statesholders, including the local hog industry, who will be affected by the tartiff reduction.

WHEREAS, Section 1806 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10863 empowers the President, in the interest of general welfare and national security, and upon recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), to increase, reduce or remove esisting rates of import duty, and

WHEREAS, on 06 May 2021, the NEDA Board endorsed ad referendum the further adjustment of the reduced teriff rates on pork meat under EO No. 128;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE. President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order.

SECTION 1. Rates of Import Duty. The articles specifically listed in Annex A hereof, as classified in compliance with Section 1611 of RA No. 10863, shall be subject to the temporary MFN rates of duty, in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite the article.

Upon the effectivity of this Order, all articles specifically listed in Annex A hiereof, which are entered into or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippanes for consumption, shall be levted the temporary MFN rates of duty as prescribed therein.

SECTION 2. Repeat. EO No. 126 is hereby repealed. All other issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Order are thewise repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. Separability. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. Effectivity. This Order shall take affect immediately upon its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, and shall be effective for a period of one (1) year from such date.

DONE, in the City of Marsia, this 15th day of year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty One.

in th

Philips

By the President

SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA Executive Secretary



ANNEX A

Hdg. No.	AHTN Code 2017	DESCRIPTION	MFN Rates of Duty (%)		
			First 3 months' upon effectivity	4 th to 12 th month	After the 12 th month
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
02.03		Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frezen. Fresh or chilled			
	0203.11.00	Cercesses and hat- carcasses			
	0203 11 00A	In-Queta	10	15	30
	0203 11 008	Out-Quota	20	25	40
	0203 12 00	 Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone in. 			
	0203.12.00A	· · · In-Quota	10	15	30
	0203.12.008	Out-Quota	20	25	40
	0203.19.00	Other :			
	0203.19.00A	· · · In-Quota	50	15	30
	0203 19.008	Out-Quota	20	25	40
		- Frozen			
	0203.21.00	Carcasses and helf carcasses			
	0203.21 00A	In-Quota	10	15	30
	0203.21.008	Out-Quots	253	25	40
	6203.22.00	 Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone in. 			
	0203 22 00A	In-Quota	10	15	30
	0203.22.00B	Out-Quota	20	25	40
	0203 29 00	- Other	4		
	0203.29.00A	· · · In-Crupta	10	15	30
	0203.29.008	Out-Quota	20	25	40

¹ First nitratly (905) days upon offschildship