



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

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January 28, 2019

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 35-2020

To: The Assistant Commissioner
All Deputy Commissioner
All Directors and Division Chiefs
All District/Port Collectors
All Others Concerned

**SUBJECT: Grain Quality Testing be sent to National Food Authority –
Technical Research and Services Division (NFA-TRSD)**

With reference to the letter dated January 14, 2020 from Secretary William D. Dar, Department of Agriculture, all concerned are informed that all rice grain samples for quality testing be sent to National Food Authority – Technical Research and Services Division (NFA-TRSD).

The BOC normally sends the grain samples to Bureau of Plant industry through the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) for quality testing to determine the percentage grain broken. NSQCS is currently focused on the application for seed certification since the implementation of the rice seed component program under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, a provision of RA No. 11203 or Rice Trade Liberalization Act.

Furthermore, the BPI-NSQCS does not have a legal mandate to conduct such test while the NFA-TRSD does have as provided for in Section 6(a) item viii of Presidential Decree No.04.

For your information and guidance.

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


REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO
Commissioner FEB 04 2020





Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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 Quezon City 1100, Philippines

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January 14, 2020

COMM. REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO

Bureau of Customs
 G/F OCOM Building
 16th Street, South Harbor
 Port Area, Manila



Dear **Commissioner Guerrero:**

This has reference to the rice grain samples being sent by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) for grain quality testing to determine the percentage grain broken. The BPI through the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) has received more than 200 rice grain samples for grain quality tests since the effectivity of RA No. 11203 or the Rice Trade Liberalization Act on March 5, 2019.

While the BPI-NSQCS has the technical capacity to perform such task, it is currently focused on the application for seed certification in line with the implementation of the rice seed component program under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) provision of RA 11203, and thus, could no longer perform grain quality testing given its limited resources. Furthermore, BPI does not have the legal mandate to conduct such test, as RA 11203 only transfers the food safety regulatory functions of the NFA to the BPI, and grain quality testing is not food safety.

The National Food Authority (NFA), through its Technical Research and Services Division (TRSD), remains to be capable of conducting grain quality testing, with 15 laboratories strategically located around the country. It also has the legal mandate to conduct such test as provided for in Section 6(a) item viii of Presidential Decree No. 04, as amended. In this regard, we would like to inform you that you may send your rice grain samples for quality testing to NFA-TRSD instead of BPI. Moreover, NFA-TRSD is mandated for quality assurance, metrology, technical research and laboratory, and engineering services.

Thank you and we look forward to your usual cooperation.

Very truly yours,

William D. Dar
WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
 Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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