



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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OCOM Memo No. 15-2024

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MEMORANDUM

FOR : ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS
ALL SERVICE DIRECTORS AND DIVISION CHIEFS
ALL DISTRICT AND SUB-PORT COLLECTORS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Commissioner

MAR 26 2024

SUBJECT : ENSURING ALL IMPORTATIONS OF PLANT PRODUCTS ARE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN APPROVED SANITARY AND
PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT CLEARANCES

DATE : 25 March 2024

This has reference to the Letter dated 21 February 2024 from the Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI) regarding the proliferation of imported fresh onions in the market and are being sold in different online platforms. Moreover, the BPI informed the Bureau of Customs that the last issuances of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPICs) for fresh red and yellow onions were on 12 December 2023 and 21 December 2023, respectively. Furthermore, there were still small amounts of imported fresh onions being stored at the cold storage warehouses, of which the majority are from local harvest.

Relative thereto, concerned offices are hereby directed to ensure that all importations of plant products are accompanied by an approved SPICs and shall comply with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements set by the BPI.

For information and strict compliance.



Gate 3, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila 1018

+63 (02) 8705-6000, +63 (02) 8527-1968 | www.customs.gov.ph | boc.cares@customs.gov.ph



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Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
692 San Andres St., Malate, Manila, Philippines
Email Address: info@buplant.da.gov.ph
Tel. No. (02) 8521-7650, (02) 8353-6976

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IAS-ANZ



ISO 9001:2015 Certified
Quality Management System

February 21, 2024

09-46818

BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO

Commissioner

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

#1091-24

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
ASSESSMENT & OPERATIONS COORDINATING GROUP (AOCG)

RECEIVED

BY: *Almora*
DATE & TIME: 02-22 2:40

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MESSAGE CENTER

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2024

BY: G. BUNCAD
TIME: 10:06

Dear **Commissioner Rubio**:

Greetings from the Bureau of Plant Industry!

First of all, we would like to extend our gratitude for your continuous assistance and support for the implementation of plant quarantine and food safety mandate of this office at the border.

We are writing this letter in relation to reports received by our office that imported fresh onions are still proliferating in the market and are being sold in different online platforms. Please be informed that this Bureau is no longer issuing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSIC) for importation of fresh onion. Last issuance of SPSIC for fresh yellow onion was on December 21, 2023 and December 12, 2023 for fresh red onion, which were all required to arrive on December 31, 2023. Our monitoring also showed that although there were still small amounts of imported fresh onions being stored at the cold storage warehouses, the majority are from the local harvest.

In this regard, may we respectfully request your good office for assistance in disseminating this information to all BOC offices at the port of entry to ensure that all plant products that shall enter the country is accompanied by an approved SPSIC and will comply with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements set by this Bureau.

Looking forward to your usual cooperation regarding this matter. Should you have inquiries regarding this meeting, please feel free to contact our office at Tel. Nos. 8525-2987, 8521-7650 and 8332-7567.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

GN
GERALD GLENN F. PANGANIBAN, Ph.D.
Director

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OPERATIONS COORDINATION DIVISION

RECEIVED BY: *GN*
TIME: 2:03
DATE: FEB 26 2024

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OPERATIONS SERVICE
RECEIVED

FEB 26 2024

BY: *Noriel E. Ingalla*
POS AOCG
TIME: 10:11

22 FEB 2024

EFFECTIVITY DATE: AUGUST 15, 2023
FORM NO: BPI-QMS-KMT-F1
REVISION NO.: 5