



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City



14 September 2004

BUREAU CIRCULAR

No. 12 s. 2004

TO : ALL BFAD DIVISION CHIEFS
ALL FOOD MANUFACTURERS, EXPORTERS,
DISTRIBUTORS AND OTHER CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Entry of Meat-Based Food Products into the EU

Attached for information and guidance is a copy of the communication dated 07 July 2004 of Commercial Attaché John Paul B. Inigo, Philippine Trade and Investment Center, Brussels, Belgium, concerning the entry of meat-based food products into the EU.

Due to the voluminous materials, please download the information and disseminate to all concerned. The complete details of the legislations can be downloaded at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/animalproducts/personal_imports/index_en.htm


PROF. LETICIA BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, M.S.
Director IV

Dir. Fernando Cala

From: "PTIC Brussels" <dtibrussels@skynet.be>
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 Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2004 7:13 PM
 Subject: ENTRY OF MEAT-BASED FOOD PRODUCTS INTO THE EU

MEMORANDUM

FOR: DR. THOMAS G. AQUINO
UNDERSECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL TRADE GROUP/DTI

CC: DIRECTOR FERNANDO CALA, BETP → *AD Jason*
DIRECTOR RAMON VICENTE KABIGTING, BITR *P41.*
 thru: **MR. GERARDO LACSAMANA**
ED GLENN PEÑARANDA, FTSC
ALL PTICs IN THE EU
MS. ROSEMARIE CASTILLO, BRAND MANAGER - FOOD
MS. LERMA PIQUERO, BETP EUROPE
MR. AMADO EMAGUIN, BRAND MANAGER - MARINE PRODUCTS

FROM: CA JOHN PAUL B. INIGO, PTIC BRUSSELS

DATE: 07 JULY 2004

SUBJECT: ENTRY OF MEAT-BASED FOOD PRODUCTS INTO THE EU

Mr. Undersecretary,

Post respectfully forwards a copy of the Consumer Voice, a newsletter of DG SANCO on food safety, health and consumer policy. Kindly take note of the news regarding the implementation of the EU-wide regulation on the permanent ban, with exceptions, on personal imports of meat and meat products and milk and milk products into the EU market.

Details of the legislation can be downloaded at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/animalproducts/personal_imports/index_en.htm

Post reiterates its earlier recommendation that the Philippine government pursue the accreditation of the country as a meat/meat products exporter to the EU. This will facilitate the sale of domestic meat-based food products in the EU and avoid any future "incidences" faced by our travelers.

Warmest regards.

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Animal Health and Welfare

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Trade and Imports of Animal Products - Personal Imports

Introduction

Personal imports of meat and milk bought into the EU continue to present a real threat to animal health throughout the EU. It is known, for example, that dangerous pathogens that cause animal diseases such as **Foot and Mouth Disease** and **Classical swine fever** can reside in meat, meat products, milk and milk products. Hence pathogens could be introduced into the EU if meat and milk originating in third countries where such pathogens may be circulating is carried in postal packages or in the baggage of travellers arriving from outside the EU.

Following the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic within the EU, the Commission considered that the mechanisms in place to prevent personal imports should be strengthened across the EU. In the first instance, this was done by temporarily removing exemptions that had previously allowed personal imports of meat and milk to be carried into the Community without veterinary certification. These safeguard rules were laid down in Commission Decision 2002/995/EC, and were accompanied by a publicity campaign to make people aware of the new requirements. Press releases detailing the aim of these temporary rules were also produced. Press releases detailing the aim of these temporary rules were also produced:

- Tighter rules on personal imports of meat and milk into the EU, 20 September 2002 ([IP/02/1344](#))
- Stopping animal disease at the border: tighter rules on personal imports of meat and milk into the EU, 19 December 2002 ([IP/02/1927](#))

Current Rules- Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004

In view of the continuing risk of serious animal diseases being introduced into the Community via personal imports of meat, milk and their products Commission Decision 2002/995/EC has now been updated and replaced with more permanent measures. These have been laid down in **Commission Regulation (EC) No 745/2004**. The Regulation came into force on 1 May 2004, and:

- permanently prohibits all personal consignments of meat, meat products, milk and milk products from entering the EU, including packages sent to private persons, unless specifically authorised and certified as being eligible for EU entry.
- continues the existing awareness campaign to alert the travelling public to the rules at EU entry points, and place an increased onus on passenger transport operators to inform passengers prior to entry into the EU.

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- encourages MS to put in place mechanisms to search large quantities of luggage.
- sets down specific provisions that allow MS to impose penalties on those travellers that are found to be breaking the rules.

Travellers are, however, allowed to bring in limited quantities of infant or specialist food required for medical purposes from all third countries, providing that

- such products do not require refrigeration before opening,
- that they are packaged proprietary brand products for direct sale to the final consumer, and
- the packaging is unbroken unless in current use.

Personal consignments of meat, meat products, milk or milk products with a combined total weight that does not exceed 5 kg from the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland also fall outside the scope of the Regulation. The import of any other personal consignments of meat and milk will only be permitted subject to declaration of the goods on arrival together with the necessary official veterinary documentation (i.e. the same as for commercial imports).

Publicity Campaign and Enforcement

Enforcing the rules governing the personal importation of meat and milk, and ensuring that the public are made aware of their responsibilities are both vital components in preventing unauthorised meat and milk from entering the EU. The new Regulation lays down several provisions to enforce the rules and raise public awareness:

Enforcement

Provisions include:

- the organisation of controls at EU entry points to detect the presence of illegal consignments of meat and meat products and milk and milk products.
- where necessary, the deployment of appropriate detection aids such as scanning equipment and sniffer dogs to screen large quantities of baggage.
- the seizure and destruction of personal consignments that are found to be in breach of the rules.
- mechanisms to ensure that those responsible for illegal consignments may be liable for costs or penalties.

Publicity

- a requirement for transport operators to inform passengers that they carry into the Community of the rules governing personal imports of meat and milk. This includes provisions for transport operators to

make use of existing means of passenger communication, such as leaflets and in-flight magazines to publicise the rules.

- the Commission has produced full size posters in 34 languages for display at EU entry points to ensure passengers are aware of rules before they enter customs points. The posters have been printed and distributed to all 25 Member States, but all versions can be found at the **following page**.
- In addition; many of the Member States have also produced information and associated publicity that is specifically targeted at travellers arriving in their own territory.