



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



16 September 2014

FDA Circular
No. 2014-021

TO : ALL FOOD DISTRIBUTORS/IMPORTERS, BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, FDA PERSONNEL, AND OTHER CONCERNED

SUBJECT: TRANSITION PERIOD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AO 2014-0029 AND APPLICATION HOLIDAY FOR CERTIFICATE OF PRODUCT REGISTRATION FOR RAW MATERIALS SUPERSEDING FDA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR (FMC) NO. 2013-032, FMC NO. 2013-035

Following the passage of Administrative Order No. 2014-0029 “*Rules and Regulations on the Licensing of Food Establishments and Registration of Processed Food, and Other Food Products, and For Other Purposes*” requiring changes on licensing and registration system, taking into account also the voluminous applications for registration of raw materials for the coming holiday season, congestion of imported products in Philippine ports, and considering that most of these raw materials shall still be used for further processing as ingredient/s to the finished product, the Food and Drug Administration hereby issues this Circular on transition period for implementation of AO 2014-0029 specifically for registration of raw materials to enable the local importers and distributors to facilitate the release of their imported raw materials from the port of entries.

All distributors/ importers of raw materials, food ingredients or food additives listed in the Codex General Standard for food Additives (GSFA) intended for distribution and sale to consumers and other food establishments shall present only a **valid License to Operate (LTO)** to the Bureau of Customs (BOC) for the immediate release of the products until 31 December 2014.

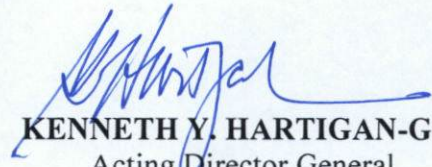
For this purpose, the period 01 October – 31 December 2014 is hereby declared as transition period and application holiday in which FDA shall not receive CPR applications for raw materials, but importers must have valid LTO to enable import and release of raw materials. The FDA will be adopting new system through electronic notification/registration. Applications for electronic notification/registration shall start on 02 January 2015. All distributors/importers are advised to initiate preparing their application documents before 02 January 2015. Processing time shall be based on the new system prescribed by FDA.

For guidance, under the new prescribed system all importers are hereby advised to import raw materials only after an approval to electronic notification/registration has been issued.



For more information and clarification, kindly send your email to info@fda.gov.ph, with a subject heading of "CFRR".

This Circular shall take effect on 01 October 2014.



KENNETH Y. HARTIGAN-GO, MD
Acting Director General