



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Philippines

### Trade Policy Monitoring

### New Meat Import Rules and Regulations Released

### 2005

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**Report Highlights:**

On September 16, the Philippine Department of Agriculture issued Administrative Order No. 26 (2005) which revises Administrative Order No. 36 otherwise known as the Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines. The new regulation becomes effective October 8, 2005.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Manila [RP1]  
[RP]

On 16 September, the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) released Administrative Order No. 26 (2005), which updated its Administrative Order No. 39 or the "Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines."

DA cites recent outbreaks of highly communicable animal diseases such as Avian Influenza in Asia and North America that have claimed human lives and poultry, the detection of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Europe and North America and the paramount objective of government to protect its borders and territories from the entry and spread of animal disease as among the main principles behind the issuance of a new comprehensive and transparent set of rules, regulations and standards governing the importation of meat and meat products into the country.

The new AO once again reiterates the need for an accredited importer to obtain a Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) certificate prior to the importation of meat and meat products. A VQC will now be valid for 60 days from the date of issuance, within which the meat or meat products are to be shipped from the country of origin, and may no longer be extended beyond that. A VQC is non-transferable and can only be used by the consignee to whom it was issued. A one shipment/bill-of-lading per VQC issued policy will be strictly adhered to.

Moreover, the new order gives DA the authority to impose additional measures and temporary import bans during emergency cases, danger/occurrence of contamination (e.g., dioxin contamination), and/or other cases important to public health and safety as determined by DA.

AO#26 also addresses border control inspection, clearance and release procedures as well as confiscation and disposition of illegally imported meat.

The new meat import regulations is expected to take effect on October 8, 2005, 15 days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

The complete text of Administrative Order No. 26 may be obtained from:  
[www.nmic.da.gov.ph](http://www.nmic.da.gov.ph)