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Philippines

Trade Policy Monitoring

National Meat Inspection Code Implementing Rules & Regulations Approved

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Report Highlights:

On October 8, the Philippine Department of Agriculture officially released Administrative Order 28 (2005) or the "Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR) Pursuant to Republic Act 9296 Otherwise Known as the National Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines." The recently passed IRRs provide guidelines for implementing the National Meat Inspection Code, which was passed into law in May 2004.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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On October 8, the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) officially released Administrative Order 28 (2005) or the "Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR) Pursuant to Republic Act 9296 (RA 9296) Otherwise Known as the National Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines." (see GAIN RP 4027)

In May 2004, RA 9296 entitled "An Act Strengthening the Meat Inspection System in the Country, Ordaining for this Purpose a Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines and For Other Purposes" was signed into law. However, the IRRs, which provide guidelines for implementing RA 9296, were only approved by DA on September 9, 2005.

Under RA 9296, the National Meat Inspection Commission has been renamed as the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS). The law seeks to strengthen the existing meat inspection system under NMIS, which serves as the sole national controlling authority on all matters pertaining to meat, meat product inspection and meat hygiene.

According to DA, this law was crafted to ensure food security and to provide safety and quality standards for meat and meat products. Moreover, the GRP hopes that the full implementation of RA 9296 will enable the Philippine meat processing industry to participate in global trade. In particular, the Philippines hopes to supply products to foreign markets through the establishment of modern meat processing facilities and the harmonization of Philippine regulations with international standards and procedures.

The Philippine Meat Inspection Code also requires qualified meat importers to first secure a Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC) certificate prior to the shipment of meat and meat products from the country of origin. Section 54 of the Philippine Meat Inspection Code now makes it unlawful for any shipping line or airline to ship meat and meat products from a foreign country to the Philippines without an accompanying VQC issued by DA and an International Veterinary Certificate (IVC) issued by the national controlling authority of the exporting country.

Likewise, recently passed DA Administrative Order 26 (2005) or the "Revised Rules, Regulations and Standards Governing the Importation of Meat and Meat Products into the Philippines," also requires meat importers to obtain VQCs prior to the shipment of goods to the Philippines (see GAIN RP5038). AO 26 reinforces RA 9296.

The IRRs are expected to take effect on October 22, 2005, 15 days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

The complete text of AO 28 may be obtained at: www.nmic.da.gov.ph