

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 08, 2021

**Report Number:** RP2021-0066

**Report Name:** Philippines Extends Meat and Poultry Labeling Flexibilities Indefinitely

**Country:** Philippines

**Post:** Manila

**Report Category:** Trade Policy Monitoring, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

On November 4, 2021, the Philippine Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) issued Joint BAI-NMIS Memorandum Circular No. 3. The Joint Memo Circular indefinitely extends the moratorium on the strict implementation of minimum labeling requirements for imported meat and poultry until existing guidelines and regulations are reviewed and amended.

On November 4, 2021, the Philippine Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) issued Joint BAI-NMIS Memorandum Circular No. 3 (JMC No. 3). The Joint Memo Circular indefinitely extends the moratorium on the strict implementation of minimum labeling requirements for imported meat and poultry until existing guidelines and regulations are reviewed and amended.

JMC No. 3 reiterates that all meat and poultry imports are to be guided by NMIS Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 08-2021-024 (attached), which allows importers to rectify labels upon arrival. This flexibility, however, is already noted in Section XI.B of [Administrative Order No. 26](#) (2005). The Philippine government issued JMC No. 3 shortly after publishing NMIS MC No. 11-2021-039, which canceled the Supplemental Guide to the Minimum Labeling Requirements for Imported Meat. (both attached)

NMIS had issued the Supplemental Guide, entitled Memorandum Circular No. 10-2021-038, on October 26, 2021. The guide provided examples of acceptable date formatting, expiration date information, and other labeling clarifications to importers. It added, however, a new requirement to include both the date of manufacture (defined as the manufacture, production, or slaughter date) and packaging on labels, when previously only one of the two dates was required. Multiple stakeholders had raised concerns with both the additional labeling requirement included in Memo Circular No. 10-2021-038 and the upcoming expiry of labeling flexibilities on January 1, 2022.

**Attachments:**

Memorandum Circular No. 10-2021-038: [NMIS Supplemental Guidelines.pdf](#)

[NMIS MC 08-2021-024.docx](#)

[BAI-NMIS JMC No. 3.pdf](#)

[NMIS MC 11-2021-039.pdf](#)