

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Philippine FDA to Regulate Processed Food Products

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Philippine Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) issued Memorandum Circular No. 4, which announced effective July 1, 2017 it will no longer issue Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSIC) for processed food products of animal origin intended for human consumption. The Department of Health (DOH) through its Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be responsible for the regulation of processed food products of animal origin.

General Information:

On May 4, 2017, BAI issued Memorandum Circular No. 4, which announced effective July 1, 2017 it will no longer issue SPSICs for processed food products of animal origin intended for human consumption such as but not limited to the following:

- Processed food which may contain products derived from animals and other substances that are intentionally incorporated into the food during the manufacture or preparation of the food products such as milk and milk by-products (ice creams, chocolates, chocolate drinks, pasteurized milk, marshmallows, cheese, cheddars, butter, cereals, cakes, tarts, pastries, candies, sauce with milk, soya milk, cocoa spread, coffee with milk, mayonnaise, whipping creams, egg powder, royal jelly, and pasteurized eggs).

This is pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Food Safety Act of 2013 or Republic Act 10611 which states that the DOH through its FDA will be responsible for the overall regulation of all activities pertaining to processed foods (including but not limited to manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, sale, promotion of all processed and prepackaged food products, and food and dietary supplements).

The Memorandum Circular is available at <http://www.bai.da.gov.ph/index.php/news-and-events/item/431-memorandum-circular-no-4-sanitary-phytosanitary-import-clearance-non-coverage>

Exporters should note that the FDA requires a License to Operate (LTO) and a Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) to be presented for the release of the aforementioned products at the Port (seaport and airport).

Only accredited individuals or businesses may import food products into the Philippines. Importers must obtain accreditation (i.e., an LTO) from the FDA. Additionally, registration of imported products (i.e., a CPR) is done with the FDA, and may only be undertaken by an accredited Philippine entity with an LTO. Established and reputable importers operating with an LTO will know how to obtain the CPR for your processed food products.