

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 12/1/2016

**GAIN Report Number:** 1621

## Philippines

**Post:** Manila

### **Invalidation of Import Permits Disrupts Imports of All Agricultural Products**

**Report Categories:**

Trade Policy Monitoring

**Approved By:**

Ralph Bean

**Prepared By:**

Maria Ramona C. Singian

**Report Highlights:**

The Philippine Department of Agriculture has required re-validation of the import certificates for agricultural products. No official procedure was posted for the process however, creating confusion for importers. It appears that the online system to apply for new permits has been restored, although no new permits are confirmed as being issued. Import permits must be issued prior to shipping a cargo. Exporters are advised to allow for delays in issuance, and in clearance of cargoes upon arrival.

#### **General Information**

Beginning on November 23, the Philippine Department of Agriculture announced the cancellation of existing import permits, to be re-issued through direct application to the Department of Agriculture (DA) offices in Quezon City, NCR. At the same time, processing of new import permits was suspended. In subsequent days, the process was refined to a re-validation process, with paperwork delivered to DA, and picked up when processing was complete. Only upon revalidation, are importers allowed to clear their cargoes.

Official procedures for the new process have not been published, and have been changing in their details almost daily. Initially, meat and meat products were the primary affected cargoes. However, trade reports that all agricultural cargoes are now affected, including feed ingredients, dairy products, frozen potatoes, and fresh and highly perishable cargoes.

The revised process has introduced delays ranging from two to five days for clearance, and a number of sensitive cargoes have been lost. Revalidation should come to an end once the population of existing import permits (estimated at 1,700) has been processed.

Industry sources report that new import permit applications are being processed; however, no new permits have yet been issued.

### **Advisory**

Exporters are advised to exercise caution in planning their shipments to the Philippines. Although the process is becoming more refined, further changes and consequent disruptions are likely. Specifically, exporters should expect longer lag times for issuance of new permits, and expect additional delays upon arrival. Port congestion has been reported, and is likely to introduce additional delays until the end of the holiday season.

For further information or assistance, please contact:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
Embassy of the United States of America  
1201 Roxas Boulevard  
Manila, Philippines  
Trunk Line: (632) 301-2000  
Email: [AgManila@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgManila@fas.usda.gov)