



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
GaBAI sa Pag-unlad ng Paghahayupan

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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 24
Series of 2022

SUBJECT: LABORATORY SUBMISSION PROTOCOL FOR IMPORTED ANIMALS DURING THE MANDATORY 30-DAY QUARANTINE PERIOD

WHEREAS, Section 6.11 of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Memorandum Circular No. 12, Series of 2017 entitled "*Importation Procedures for Lives Animals into the Philippines*", directed the National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division to conduct inspection of animals under quarantine period within 30 days upon arrival of animals, including sample collection for final laboratory testing of important transboundary diseases;

WHEREAS, DA Administrative Circular No. 8 Series of 2021 provides the lists of notifiable transboundary animal diseases in the country and guidelines on reporting to the Competent Veterinary Authority, which is the Bureau of Animal Industry;

WHEREAS, relative to the foregoing, this guideline is hereby prescribed to provide guidance to all Veterinary Quarantine Officer (VQO) or the Animal Quarantine Inspector (AQI) on the schedule, collection and submission of laboratory samples for animals during the quarantine period:

1. Sample collection and monitoring shall be conducted 7-14 days after the arrival of the animals (3rd to 4th weeks for hatching eggs and day-old chicks) in the declared quarantine site by the VQO/AQI; to allow the animals to acclimatize and fully recover from their travel to the Philippines.
2. Annex A provides reference on the types of samples to be collected per commodity, the required laboratory tests to be requested and volume of samples required.
3. Sample size required for each commodity can be calculated with the use of the Survey Calculation template (available at www.bit.ly/BAISampleLabForms). The following details shall be entered into the "Sample size to detect a disease in a population" tab: Expected Prevalence%: 2, Confidence Interval%: 95, and Sensitivity of test%: 100. Population size of the imported animals shall be entered to calculate the sample size required, accordingly.
4. All sample collection paraphernalia must be prepared in advance prior to the quarantine visit.
5. All inspectors shall observe proper downtime of at least 1-2 days prior to sample collection.



6. During sample collection, sterile technique and care shall be taken to avoid infection and injury or distress to the animal, or danger to the collecting attendants/officer. Biosafety and biosecurity measures shall be observed.
7. During transport, blood samples must be securely kept at a temperature between 4°C to 20/25°C (in coolers) to avoid hemolysis.
8. Shall there be constraints on the submission, samples may be submitted the following day provided that:
 - a. blood/serum samples are stored in the refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)
 - b. swab samples are stored in the freezer (-20°C) for viral tests and refrigerator (4°C) for bacterial tests
9. Samples shall be submitted to the Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory or Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory as soon as possible; it shall be properly labelled and sealed in prescribed transporting carriers. The following documents shall be enclosed in the submission:
 - a. Laboratory Endorsement Letter from the VQO (template available in www.bit.ly/BAISampleLabForms)
 - b. Fully accomplished and signed laboratory examination request form (template available in www.bit.ly/BAISampleLabForms)
 - c. Fully accomplished laboratory collection form (master list containing sample information; template available in www.bit.ly/BAISampleLabForms)
 - d. History of laboratory tests results from the country of origin (in duplicate copies)
 - e. Vaccination and medications records (in duplicate copies)
10. The laboratory test results shall be released to the NVQSD CO (nvqsd@bai.gov.ph) after full payment of the lab fee has been made by the owner/importer. A copy of the results shall be provided by the NVQSD CO to the regional VQO (also the owner, only if needed).
11. The Certificate of Quarantine Release shall be issued once quarantine period is completed and negative results for the prescribed laboratory tests are presented to the regional VQO.

For your information, guidance and appropriate action.

Done this 14th day of June 2022 at Quezon City.


REILDRIN G. MORALES, DVM, MVPHMgt.
Officer-in-Charge, Director

