



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**  
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## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 47  
Series of 2023

**SUBJECT: VALIDATION OF RAPID PCR ASF TEST KITS FOR TIMELY CONDUCT OF DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES AND SUBSEQUENT MONITORING AFTER INITIAL CONFIRMATION WITH RT-PCR IN ASF-INFECTED AREAS AND ASF OUTBREAKS**

**WHEREAS**, African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly infectious and fatal swine disease characterized by severe mortalities and considered to be a persistent threat to the swine industry, thereby threatening food security globally;

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Proclamation No. 1143 (Declaring a state of calamity throughout the Philippines due to the ASF outbreak) was issued by the Office of the President last 29 May 2020, to enjoin government agencies and LGUs to render full assistance and cooperation, and mobilize necessary resources to undertake timely measures to curtail further spread of ASF;

**WHEREAS**, since the incursion of ASF in the country in 2019, the disease has now progressed to seventeen (17) out of seventeen (17) regions, and sixty-nine (69) out of eighty-two (82) provinces in the country, based on the ASF updates released by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI);

**WHEREAS**, Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order (AO) No. 7, Series of 2021, also known as the Implementing Guidelines for the “Bantay ASF sa Barangay” Program, aims to elevate the production practices of local swine raisers, and empower the role of local government officials and animal health workers in the timely detection, management and prevention of ASF in their localities;

**WHEREAS**, Section 7 of DA AO No. 22, Series of 2020, entitled Guidelines on Swine Depopulation after African Swine Fever Confirmation, states 1) BAI-accredited and validated tests can be used for field screening, 2) positive reactors are to be validated using polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and 3) stamping out procedures should follow suit;

**WHEREAS**, due to the highly contagious nature of ASF and logistical challenges in the transport of samples to accredited ASF laboratories, there is a need to conduct rapid field screening test for ASF to assist in timely surveillance, monitoring and depopulation activities;

**WHEREAS**, BAI Memorandum Circular No. 21, Series of 2022, was issued to provide guidelines and technical standards on the list of registered ASF diagnostics tests and the interpretation of their test results;



\*Our organization is certified according to ISO 9001\*



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**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Paul C. Limson, Director, BAI, by virtue of the authority given to me, hereby authorize the judicious use of rapid PCR test, i.e. convective PCR (cPCR) and insulated isothermal (iiPCR), for timely conduct of disease control measures, including depopulation and animal movement restrictions, and subsequent monitoring after initial confirmation with RT-PCR, subject to the following conditions:

1. The rapid test kit is duly validated with the Bureau of Animal Industry; and
2. The rapid test is conducted by a trained technical or laboratory staff under the supervision of a trained veterinarian/government technical personnel and authorized by the BAI-ADDRL or RADDL.
3. The cPCR or iiPCR laboratory test result should be signed by the trained technical/laboratory staff that performed the test and approved by the Veterinarian or his/her duly authorized representative.

As stated on Annex B. Diagnosis of BAI MC No. 21, Series of 2022, positive results from individually tested animals through cPCR or iiPCR may already diagnose ASF in correlation with clinical signs.

In cases of an initial positive ASF virus (ASFV) detection in a suspected area, confirmation by real-time PCR (RT-PCR) is still needed. Once confirmed by RT-PCR in the suspected area, succeeding positive ASFV cPCR or iiPCR results from dead or diseased pigs in the same infected area may no longer necessitate confirmation by RT-PCR. The targeted sampling for ASFV cPCR must be dead or moribund animals, and animals showing clinical signs.

If negative but with clinical signs, validate immediately with RT-PCR. Apparently healthy animals in the surveillance zone, or animal which tested negative through cPCR should be retested within three (3) days or validated with RT-PCR should the animals exhibit clinical signs.

As such, control measures described in DA AO No. 22, Series of 2020, and DA AO No. 7, Series of 2021, should follow suit.

This Circular shall take effect immediately upon submission to the Office of the National Administrative Register and/or posting at the Bureau's website, and shall remain in effect unless revised/revoked/lifted.

For strict compliance.

Done this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

  
**PAUL C. LIMSON, DVM**  
Director



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*Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya*