



MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 08

Series of 2025

SUBJECT : STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES IN THE DISPOSITION OF INTERCEPTED SWINE AT THE NCR CHECKPOINTS

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 8485 as amended by RA No. 10631 otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998" is promulgated in order to promote and safeguard the welfare and well-being of animals;

WHEREAS, Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Circular (AC) No. 02, Series of 2022 provides for the guidelines and requirements for the movement of swine, and swine products and by-products across different defined zones in the country;

WHEREAS, AC No. 03, Series of 2016 issued by DA reactivated the establishment and operation of checkpoint facilities to control the spread of diseases;

WHEREAS, MC No. 30, Series of 2024 was issued by BAI to improve animal disease reporting and outbreak investigation, and to strengthen the implementation of the prevention, control, and eradication programs of the emerging and re-emerging animal diseases;

WHEREAS, the resurgence of African Swine Fever (ASF) cases was recorded in Region IV-A last 2024, and new outbreaks in other previously free areas are continually reported with significant economic impacts on the local swine industry;

WHEREAS, ASF, AI and other priority animal diseases have severe impact on the livestock and poultry industry with economic implications, thus it is crucial to implement stringent disease management protocols and strategies to control spread;

WHEREAS, the DA, through BAI and NMIS, recognizes the authority of the Local Government Units (LGUs) to discharge the functions and responsibilities of national agencies and offices as necessary, appropriate or incidental to efficient and effective provision of basic services which include the prevention and control of animal pests and diseases as provided in Section 17 (3) of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 following the guidelines set forth in DA Administrative Order (AO) No. 05, series of 2019, "Guidelines on the Local Transport/Shipment of Animals, Animal Products, and By-Products".

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region (NCR) serves as a major destination and hub for livestock and poultry commodities from South Luzon provinces to the North Luzon provinces and vice-versa;

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the joint livestock, poultry and meat inspection operations of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) in the National Capital Region and adjacent cities/municipalities to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) to disease-free and recovering areas in Luzon, the following are the procedures that must be observed for the intercepted swine:

1. Animals exhibiting clinical signs consistent with African Swine Fever infection and observed mortality during shipment with or without accompanying documents shall be subjected to testing at the BAI Animal Disease Diagnostic and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL) for confirmation.





2. Animals that are apparently healthy but with incomplete or without accompanying documents shall be subjected to testing at the ADDRL for confirmation.
3. The Quarantine Inspector at the inspection site must issue a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Shipper and submit an Incident Report (IR) to the Bureau. The IR must reflect therein important details e.g., date and time of the incident, name of the shipper, valid government issued ID of the shipper etc. Kindly refer to Memorandum Order No 18 series of 2020 to ensure proper documentation.
4. Negatively tested animals intended for raising shall be released immediately and shall be endorsed to the Veterinary Quarantine Officers at the destination for 30 days monitoring; while animals intended for slaughter shall be cleared for release and recommended for emergency slaughter at an NMIS approved abattoir with the consent of the owner; the meat from slaughtered animal shall be released to the owner/shipper provided that it has no violation/s under Administrative Order No. 5 series of 2019 issued by the Department of Agriculture.
5. The release of negative tested animals shall be supported by the issuance of a Release Order signed by the BAI Director or the NVQSD Chief;
6. Positive animals shall be stamped-out at the designated burial site or at the origin following the animal welfare rules and regulations on humane culling and proper disposition and shall be issued with a Depopulation Order signed by the BAI Director or the NVQSD Chief;
7. The transport carrier shall undergo cleaning and disinfection before it is cleared to leave the burial site. It is recommended that the transport carrier undergo 30-day downtime;
8. All expenses to be incurred in the disposition of the animals shall be borne by the owner/shipper/trader;
9. Violations shall be assessed based on the following offenses:
 - 9.1 **For First Offense** - NCR Checkpoint Inspector shall issue a Notice of Violation (NOV) and submit an Incident Report to BAI Central Office. The National Veterinary Quarantine Service Division (NVQSD) shall endorse to the BAI management for the issuance of a Warning Letter to the shipper shall be required to submit an Affidavit of Undertaking;
 - 9.2 **For Second Offense** - NCR checkpoint Inspector shall issue NOV and submit an Incident Report to BAI Central Office. The NVQSD shall endorse to the BAI





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management, through the Legal Unit for suspension/ revocation/cancellation of Livestock Handlers License and BAI Transport Carriers Registration. Likewise the violator shall not be allowed to engage in any shipment of livestock, or any of its by-products for six (6) months from the date of suspension.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Done this 3rd of March, 2025


OSCAR JHAN D. CABANAYAN, DVM
Officer-In-Charge, Assistant Director



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