



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 79
Series of 2021

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE CATTLE, MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS AND BOVINE PROCESSED ANIMAL PROTEINS DERIVED FROM CATTLE ORIGINATING FROM CANADA

WHEREAS, it shall be the utmost objective of the Government to protect its borders and territories from the entry, establishment and spread of animal diseases that may be introduced by the importation of disease-carrying, contaminated, and/or adulterated meat and/or meat products, which endanger the lives and safety/health of the consuming public and which could pose risk to human and animal health and life and potentially cause serious economic consequences;

WHEREAS, Section 10 of Republic Act no. 10611, or the "Food Safety Act of 2013", provided that in specific circumstances when the available relevant information for use in risk assessment is insufficient to show that a certain type of food or food product does not pose a risk to consumer health, **precautionary measures shall be adopted**;

WHEREAS, the veterinary authorities of Canada reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) an outbreak of Atypical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the Ponoka Country, Alberta, Canada last 17 December 2021;

WHEREAS, the recent cases of Atypical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in Canada as reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) may pose a risk to consumers due to BSE's assumed link with the variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in humans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures for the importation of meat and meat by products derived from cattle from Canada:

1. Temporary suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Import Clearance of meat and meat by products derived from cattle including live cattle importation;
2. All shipments IN TRANSIT/LOADED/ACCEPTED UNTO PORT before the official communication of this Order to the Canadian authorities shall be allowed **provided the products were slaughtered/produced before November 30, 2021**;
3. All previously approved SPS Import Clearances which were not yet IN TRANSIT/LOADED/ACCEPTED UNTO PORT after the official communication of this Order to the Canadian authorities are hereby REVOKED;

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4. Shipments with ship out date after the communication of this Order to the Canadian Authorities shall be dealt with as per DA Administrative Order 9 series of 2010, Section VII.D;
5. More rigorous and tight inspection on all arrivals of meat and meat by-products derived from cattle including live animals and bovine processed animal proteins by DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers assigned at ports of entry.


This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately.

Done this 20th day of December 2021.



WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.

Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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