



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 20

Series of 2024

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE CATTLE, MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS, BOVINE PROCESSED ANIMAL PROTEINS AND SEMEN DERIVED FROM CATTLE ORIGINATING FROM *The United Kingdom*

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, Book IV Chapter 2 Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order No. 292, s. 1987 provides the authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department, to establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government and promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;

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 of food or food product does not pose a risk to consumer health, **precautionary measures shall be adopted**;

WHEREAS, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 (Charter of BAI) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;

WHEREAS, based on the official report submitted by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the United Kingdom to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 10 May 2024, there was an outbreak of Classical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in South Ayrshire, Scotland last 26 April 2024 affecting domestic cattle as confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs);

WHEREAS, the recent cases of BSE or commonly known as Mad Cow Disease in United Kingdom as reported to the WOHAI may pose a risk to consumers due to BSE's assumed link with the variant Creutzfeldt-jakob Disease (vCJD) in humans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **FRANCISCO TIU LAUREL, JR.**, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following emergency measures for the importation of Live Cattle and their products from The United Kingdom;

1. Banning the importation of live cattle, meat and meat products, including bovine processed animal proteins and semen;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodities;
3. All shipments coming from the mentioned areas of The United Kingdom that are IN TRANSIT/LOADED/ACCEPTED UNTO PORT before the official communication of this Order to the British authorities shall be allowed **provided that the products were slaughtered/produced on or before April 10, 2024;**
4. Shipments which have not complied with the conditions set forth in Item 3 shall be dealt with as per DA AC 06 S. 2022 Article VI, Section III.;
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 and shall remain enforced unless revoked in writing. All orders inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 30th day of MAY 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, JR.
Secretary



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