



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SPECIAL ORDER
No. 875
Series of 2024

SUBJECT: RECONSTITUTION OF THE INTER-AGENCY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (IATC) AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) ON INDIAN BUFFALO MEAT (IBM) IMPORTATION AND UTILIZATION

In the exigency of service, the Inter-agency Technical Committee (IATC) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Indian Buffalo Meat (IBM) Importation and Utilization are hereby reconstituted:

Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC)

- Chairman : **UNDERSECRETARY FOR LIVESTOCK**
- Vice Chairman : **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE (NMIS)**
- : **DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY (BAI)**
- Members : **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NMIS**
- : **CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL VETERINARY QUARANTINE SERVICES DIVISION (NVQSD)- BAI**
- : **CHIEF OF THE MEAT IMPORT EXPORT DIVISION (MIED)- NMIS**

Functions:

The IATC and its members shall :

1. Review the IBM importation data provided by the BAI such as volume of IBM arrival from licensed Meat Importer Processors (MIPs) and other IBM related information;
2. Review Resolutions for Indian Buffalo Meat (IBM) Allocation of Meat Importer Processors (MIPs) submitted by the Technical Working Group (TWG) evaluators;
3. Convene regular (bi-annual) and/or emergency meetings when deemed necessary;
4. Submit IATC Resolutions and Eligibility Certification for IBM Allocation of MIPs to the Department of Agriculture (DA) Office of the Secretary (OSEC) for approval;
5. Review the recommendation of the Policy Research Group (PRG) on the amendments/strengthening and/or improvement of the existing rules and

regulations on IBM importation and utilization for the consideration and approval of the Secretary; and

6. Provides oversight on TWGs responsibilities and activities.

Technical Working Groups (TWG)

There will be two (2) Technical Working Groups (TWGs), the IBM Allocation Evaluation Group) and Policy Research Group (PRG). The composition of the TWGs are:

Overall Chairperson : **DR. ROIE LEE N. CATALUÑA** - NMIS

A. IBM Allocation Evaluation Group (IBM-EG)

Members : **DR. LOTA M. LABONITE** - NMIS
DR. MARIEL R. REBOSURA - NMIS
DR. MARIA FATIMA P. AMPARO - NMIS
DR. ALFREDO T. GARCIA, JR. - NMIS
MR. JOSEPH BRYAN DEFEO - NMIS
MS. MARILYN D. BITONG - NMIS
MR. ED GEROME A. BORJA - NMIS

Functions:

1. Review documentary requirements of MIP applicants endorsed by the IBM Secretariat;
2. Conduct an onsite evaluation of meat processing plant (MPP) to assess MIPs eligibility for IBM allocation. In the event of an emergency or public health concern, remote or online evaluation can be an option;
3. Submit evaluation report with recommended IBM allocation and TWG Resolution on time to the TWG Overall Chairperson;
4. Conduct monitoring activities to determine IBM utilization rate of respective MIPs; and
5. Attend during IATC and TWG meetings when necessary.

B. Policy Research Group (PRG)

Members : **DR. JOYETHRINE A. ANDAL** - BAI
DR. MARY JOY B. CHAVEZ - BAI
DR. PAULO Q. SILARDE - NMIS
DR. KARL PHILBERT S. OCAMPO - NMIS
DR. BETA BIANCA B. CASTILLO, MPM - NMIS
MS. LAARNIE S. ABRAGAN - NMIS
MR. LEONARD PAUL P. BAYOG - NMIS



Functions:

1. The Policy Research Group shall revisit existing rules and regulations pertaining to buffalo meat importation and utilization and recommend amendments and/or improvements to the IATC; and
2. Attend during IATC and TWG meetings when necessary.

C. Secretariat

Members : **DR. MARIEL R. REBOSURA - NMIS**
MR. JOSEPH BRYAN DEFEO - NMIS
MR. EUGENE MARK S. TACLAS - NMIS
MS. ERICA E. GABUAN - NMIS


Functions:

1. Receive and perform the initial evaluation of submitted documentary requirements of IBM applicants and endorses documents to the TWG on IBM allocation evaluators;
2. Coordinate communications among involved stakeholders;
3. Responsible for sending out notice of the meeting and memorandum regarding IBM;
4. Responsible for taking and/or recording minutes of the meeting (IATC and TWG) and other meetings such as public consultations related to IBM importation and utilization;
5. Assist in facilitating meetings and/or events regarding IBM;
6. Collate and act as a repository of related documents and reports regarding IBM; and
7. Perform other tasks as required by the IATC and TWGs.

All expenses related to the performance of duties and responsibilities of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee and Technical Working Groups shall be charged against the funds from their respective agencies subject to existing government accounting rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked in writing. Special Order No. 587 and other issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 24th day of June 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary



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