



MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 59
Series of 2024

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF INDIAN BUFFALO MEAT ORIGINATING FROM THE INDIAN STATES OF *Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana*

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 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 Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on 22 August 2024, that there is an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Indian states of *Bihar and Telangana*, in addition, the Department of Agriculture inspection mission audit findings of confirmed outbreaks in *Maharashtra* affecting cattle and buffaloes;

WHEREAS, the World Organisation of Animal Health has recognised India with an endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the Terrestrial Code;

WHEREAS, there is a need to prevent the entry of FMD-susceptible animals, their products and by-products originating from Bihar, Maharashtra, and Telangana to protect the health of the local livestock population;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. 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 Indian buffalo meat from *Bihar, Maharashtra, and Telangana*;

1. Banning the importation of Indian Buffalo Meat from the abovementioned states;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above stated commodity;
3. All shipments which are already **IN TRANSIT** will be accepted provided that they **TEST NEGATIVE** for the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Virus. Intensified inspection of shipment documents shall be conducted by DA-BAI Veterinary Quarantine Officers at the port of entry;
4. All previous approved SPS Import Clearance which have not yet left India after the issuance of this Order are hereby revoked and therefore advised not to sail their shipments;
5. 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 V, Section II. E;



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6. More rigorous and tight inspection on all arrivals of Indian Buffalo Meat products from India by DA NMIS Plant Officers assigned at DA accredited cold storage warehouse.

This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately and shall remain enforced unless revoked in writing. All orders inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 17th day of DEC. 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary



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