



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Office of the Secretary
 Elliptical Road, Alibon, Quezon City

DEPT. OF PLANT INDUSTRY
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
 No. 1
 Series of 1988

SUBJECT: Implementing Guidelines on the Importation of
 Seeds and Plant Materials

To protect the farmers from using misdeclared seeds, adopt the international quality standards and procedures on imported seeds, and support the development of the local seed industry, the Department of Agriculture is hereby prescribing the following guidelines for immediate implementation:

I. Issuance of Import Permit

- A. Prospective importers shall accomplish BPI Q. Form I application for "Permit to Import Plants/Plant Products" as indicated in (Exhibit A) in accordance with Administrative Order 1, Section 3.
- B. The Bureau of Plant Industry, Crop Production Division shall evaluate and determine the allowable volume of seeds to be imported based on the national requirement estimates of the specific crop prior to issuance of BPI Q. Form 2 "Import Permit" (Exhibit B). The allowable volume to be imported shall be based on the national requirement and 15% buffer stock minus the domestic production: $\text{Volume to be Imported} = (\text{National Requirement} + 15\% \text{ Buffer Stock}) - (\text{Domestic Production})$.
- C. The vegetables and legume seeds are classified in accordance with its utilization, with corresponding tariff rate (Exhibit C). The tariff rates of other plant species/commodities shall also be reviewed.
- D. Imported seed stocks for multiplication, the produce of which is intended for re-export, shall be required to submit a contract for that purpose.
- E. The volume of imported seeds for breeding and experimentation shall not exceed the required volume of 1/4 hectare land area per variety/species with supporting documents indicating the work plan, experimental outline, breeding facilities and exact location of the experimental site as indicated in BPI Q. Form 3 (Exhibit D) for post entry observations.

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II. Plant Quarantine Measures of Imported Seeds

- A. The Plant Quarantine Officers shall draw the required seed samples from each imported seed lot for the purpose of:
1. Seed pathological analysis
 2. Post-entry observations in accordance with Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 1981 (Exhibits E & F), and in coordination with the Institute of Plant Breeding.
 3. Importations found infested or infected by plant pests shall either be subjected to a prescribed commodity treatment or returned to the country of origin or destroyed at the Port of Entry and all fees, charges and other expenses relative to such quarantine action shall be borne by the importer.
- B. The importer shall surrender the "Permit to Import" to the Plant Quarantine Officer upon arrival of plants and/or plant products.

III. Seed Quality Control Measures

Seeds imported for commerce packed in bags, tin cans or other packaging materials shall undergo seed testing to determine planting value of the seeds apart from the quarantine requirements. Seed samples will be drawn from the same lot sampled by PQS by Representative of the Seed Testing Laboratory of the BPI. The results of seed tests shall serve as reference both by importers and farmers.

This Circular shall take effect immediately upon approval.


CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ
Secretary

11 August 1988