



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

15 November 2018

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 36
Series of 2018

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACCREDITATION OF ALM FOOD PRODUCTS LTD (APEDA #195) AND MIRHA EXPORTS PVT LTD (APEDA #125) IN PUNJAB, INDIA AS EXPORTER OF INDIAN BUFFALO MEAT TO THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No 10611 or "Food Safety Act of 2013", the DA shall be responsible for food safety in the primary production and postharvest stages of food supply chain and foods locally produced or imported;

WHEREAS, based on an article reported in <http://indianexpress.com> on December 1, 2017, there has been Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks in Punjab sometime in September 2017;

WHEREAS, DA requested for an update on FMD situation in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Telengana thru the Chief Veterinary Officer of India last November 17, 2017 and has not received an official response;

WHEREAS, the European Union Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease (EURL FMD) <http://www.eurl-fmd.org/news/2018/02/india-punjab-ungulates-zoo-animals>, reported an outbreak of FMD in zoo animals in Punjab on February 2018;

WHEREAS, there is a need to prevent the entry of FMD-susceptible products originating from Punjab, India to protect the health of the local livestock population;

WHEREAS, there is a need for regulatory controls through Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures to protect human and animal health;

WHEREAS, ALM Food Products Ltd (APEDA #195) and Mirha Exports Pvt Ltd (APEDA #125), both DA Accredited Foreign Meat Establishments as per DA Department Order No. 09, series of 2018, are located in Punjab, India;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures for the importation of Indian Buffalo Meat from Punjab, India:

1. Temporary suspension of accreditation of ALM Food Products Ltd (APEDA #195) and Mirha Exports Pvt Ltd (APEDA #125);
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. Intensified inspection of documents and shipments of all meat importation from India by DA-BAI Veterinary Quarantine Officers at the ports of entry; and
4. 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.


EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary