



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

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**DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

No. 17  
Series of 2007

**SUBJECT: REVISED GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES IN THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE SWINE FARM INSPECTION SYSTEM (FIS)**

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to monitor animal diseases that has affected the competitiveness of the animal industry sector;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to harmonize all procedures and safety nets to enhance the competitiveness of hog meat and meat products thereby giving access to a more profitable export market, thus appropriate quarantine animal disease control procedures should be in place to minimize and eradicate diseases affecting the animal industry sector;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, ARTHUR C. YAP**, Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to Section 3, Chapter 1, Title IV, Book IV of the Executive Order No. 292, hereby promulgate and enforce all laws, rules and regulations governing the planning, formulation, regulation and monitoring of programs and activities relating to agriculture, food production and supply and the conservation and proper utilization of agricultural and fishery resources and to the provisions of Section 15 of R.A. 8435 otherwise known as Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (AFMA) as amended by R.A. 9281, the following guidelines/procedures are hereby promulgated.

**Chapter 1**  
**Policy, Objectives and Definition of Terms**

**Section 1. Basic Policy**

The Philippine Government through the Department of Agriculture recognizes the contribution of the Hog Sector in the economy. To further boost its contribution, there is a need to harmonize all procedures, safety nets and financial support to enhance the competitiveness of hog meat and meat products thereby giving access to a more profitable export market.

**Section 2. Objectives and Scope**

This protocol is prepared as guideline in conducting farm inspection and in accrediting pig farms establishments intended for slaughter and export.

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### Section 3. Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall be used and understood to mean as follows:

**Animal Disease** means a pathological condition of a part, organ or system of an animal resulting from various causes, such as infection, genetic defect, or environmental stress and characterized by an identifiable group of signs or symptoms.

**Animal Industry Sector** means a segment of agriculture involved in animal production and health protection enterprises.

**Animal health situation** means animal health status of a country with respect to animal species concerned.

**Case** means an individual animal affected by an infectious or contagious disease

**City Veterinarian** means a licensed government veterinarian employed pursuant to RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 who is in-charge in the enforcement of regulations in disease control and food production including animal or animal-based food inspection in the city under the Office of the City Mayor.

**Competent Authority** means the Government Veterinary Services having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health measures recommended in this guideline.

**Disinfection** means thorough cleansing to destroy infectious or parasitic agents of animal disease, including zoonoses using approved chemical agents and/ or physical methods.

**Disease Prevention** means an exclusion of causative agents of disease in an animal population.

**Disease Control and Eradication** means limiting the spread of causative agents of disease in an animal population and eventual elimination of the agent.

**Establishment** means the premises or farm where animals are reared or kept and should be registered with or under the supervision of the competent authority of the area.

**Farm Inspection System (FIS)** means a set of procedures followed that shall be used to validate the condition of the participating hog farms prior to the issuance of certification/accreditation for export.

**Farm Inspection Team (FIT Team)** means the BAI Secretariat, Regional Quarantine Officer; the Provincial, City or Municipal Veterinarian; and a registered Veterinarian with the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association in-charge of farm inspection, accreditation, and submission of the FIS monthly reports.

**Free zone** means a clearly defined area or territory within a country in which no case of a disease concerned has been reported or has occurred during the specified period or period stated for such disease according to the OIE Standards and within which official veterinary control is effectively applied for animals and animal products and their transportation.

**FMD free zone** means clearly defined area or territory within the Philippines in which no case of FMD has been reported or has occurred for a specified period recognized by the OIE as a FMD free zone where vaccination is not practiced.

**Hog Export Board** means an inter-agency, multi-sectoral group tasked to review existing policies and procedures to facilitate hog export.

**Laboratory** means properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel under the control of a specialist in veterinary diagnostic methods, who is responsible for the validity of the results. The Veterinary Administration approves and monitors such laboratories with regard to diagnostic tests required for international trade.

**Livestock carrier** means any form of vehicle for transporting livestock or poultry.

**Livestock Handler** means any person or entities engaged in handling, buying and selling livestock and poultry.

**Monitoring** means an organized program or set of activities directed at observing and detecting changes in the prevalence of disease in given population(s) and in its environment.

**Municipal Veterinarian** means a licensed government veterinarian employed pursuant to RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 who is in-charge in the enforcement of regulations in disease control and food inspection in the municipality under the Office of the Mayor.

**OIE Listed Diseases** means the list of transmissible diseases that are set out in the OIE International Animal Health Code.

**Private Veterinarian/Veterinary Consultant/Farm Veterinarian** means a licensed veterinary practitioner employed by the farm and who is a member of good standing of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association.

**Provincial Veterinarian** means a licensed government veterinarian employed pursuant to RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 who is in-charge in the enforcement of regulations in disease control and food production including animal or animal-based food inspection in the province under the Office of the Governor.

**Quarantine** means all measures relating to the entry and detection of animals in the quarantine establishment, including controlling their movement to and from this establishment and activities rendered to ensure the disease free status of the animals.

**Quarantine establishment** means a building or collection of building where animals are maintained in complete isolation, with no direct contact with other animals, in order to undergo observation for specified period and subjected to various control test and treatment so that the veterinary authority may assure that they are free and not affected with certain disease.

**Regional Veterinary Quarantine Officer (RVQO)** means the Chief of Veterinary Quarantine Office covering specific region as his jurisdiction.

**Surveillance** means the continuous investigation of a given population to detect the occurrence of disease for control purposes, which may involve testing of a part of the population.

**Swine Farms** means a premise or establishment where pigs or hogs are reared or kept for breeding and/or fattening purposes.

**Vehicle** means any method of transport by land, air or water.

**Veterinary Drug** means any substance, including biological products, applied or administered to food producing, companion, aquatic, laboratory and exotic animals, whether used for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic purposes or for modification of physiological functions or behaviours.

## **Chapter II Structure, Powers and Functions**

### **Section 4. Creation**

There shall be created and established a Department of Agriculture Farm Inspection System working in close coordination with the Hog Export Board to ensure standard procedures for the identification and accreditation of participating swine farms to ensure that the animal health and veterinary public health criteria for accreditation of the farm/establishment had been complied with and are monitored.

- 4.1 Composition of the Hog Export Board (It shall be private sector-led and the members chosen on the basis of their active contributions to the export initiative as recommended by the heads of BAI, NMIS and LDC and designated by the DA Secretary)

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Chair               | Private Sector (Chair of the Hog Export Committee of the Road Map)   |
| Co-Chair<br>Members | Undersecretary for Livestock and Poultry<br><br>Seven (7) from the Private Sector<br>Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)<br>Livestock Development Council (LDC)<br>National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)<br>Agricultural Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS)<br>Bureau of Agriculture & Fisheries Products<br>Standard (BAFPS)<br>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) |

### **Section 5. Powers and Function of the Hog Export Board**

1. To conduct regular consultation with the swine industry on matters that need policy formulation.
2. To recommend hog export policies as a result of the consultation to the Secretary of Agriculture.
3. To assist in the mobilization of the FIS team in the conduct of validation and accreditation.
4. To undertake related activities as directed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

## **Section 6. Composition of Farm Inspection Team**

6.1 The Farm Inspection Team (FIT) shall consist of the following:

1. BAI Secretariat
2. Regional Veterinary Quarantine Officer
3. Provincial/City/Municipal Veterinarian
4. Private Veterinarian/Veterinary Consultant/Farm Veterinarian

## **Section 7. BAI Secretariat**

### **7.1 Composition**

An office within the BAI shall be designated to serve as the FIS Secretariat. The BAI Director shall have administrative control and supervision over the FIS Secretariat.

### **7.2 Functions**

The FIS Secretariat shall be primarily responsible for facilitating the smooth implementation of the national approval process for the FIS activities. The FIS Secretariat shall exercise the following functions:

- a. Verify the completeness of application documents
- b. Identify and refer to appropriate FIS team
- c. Forward the evaluation report of appropriate FIS Team to the BAI Director
- ✓ d. Provide administrative and technical support to the Hog Export Board and facilitate the transmission of the Endorsement Reports to the Secretary
- e. Serve as the focal point for information on the status of FIS activities
- f. Facilitate the dissemination of international and national requirements relating to FIS among stakeholders
- g. Perform such other functions as are necessary for the implementation of this Order

## **Section 8. Powers and Functions of the Regional Veterinary Quarantine Officers (RVQO)**

The Regional Veterinary Quarantine Officers shall oversee the process of identification, documentation, inspection, evaluation and accreditation of integrated and small-scale hog farms. They shall recommend the accreditation of pertinent laboratories and the deputation of local government and private veterinarians who are directly involved in the program to issue shipping permits from accredited farms to designated abattoir and meat plants with an attached certification from the farm origin by the owner and farm veterinarian or his or her authorized representative.

## **Section 9. Powers and Functions of the Provincial/City/ Municipal Veterinarian**

Shall conduct the regular inspection of the farm consistent with its duties as mandated by RA No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991. They shall provide the support staff implementing the monitoring and reporting system and the collection of laboratory and diagnostic samples from the concerned farms in their area of jurisdiction. They shall be responsible for the validation of information arising from disease surveillance. In the absence of VQO in the province, the PVO maybe deputized as VQO.

## **Section 10. Powers and Functions of Veterinary Consultant and Farm Veterinarian**

Shall ensure the implementation of Good Agriculture Practice, maintenance of biosecurity measures and an effective and efficient animal health/welfare and environmental friendly program of the farm. Issue appropriate certification as may be required.

## **Section 11. Accreditation and Submission of the Monthly Reports**

1. All participating farms shall be evaluated by the FIT prior to accreditation.
2. The accredited participating farms shall allow the FIT to conduct regular inspection. They shall provide all the required information in a timely manner.
3. The FIT shall submit a regular monthly report to the BAI Director as basis for continuation of accreditation.
4. The accreditation is valid for one (1) year unless earlier cancelled for just cause but subject to verification/inspection within the period.

### **Chapter III**

#### **Guidelines in Conducting Farm Inspection and Accreditation**

## **Section 12. The establishment shall fulfill the following criteria on animal health status.**

- 12.1 The farm is located in a zone where there is no other pig farm in the vicinity or shall have at least one (1) kilometer distance from the other pig farms as per AO No. 4 Series of 2004.
- 12.2 The farm is located in a zone that is free from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) for the past six (6) months.
- 12.3 The farm is located in an area, within 10km radius where no case of Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera) has been found during the last 12 months prior to export.
- 12.4 During the 12 months prior to export, there must be no clinical signs of other diseases like Porcine Parvovirus, Transmissible Gastroenteritis and Atrophic Rhinitis in pigs on the farm.

## **Section 13. Veterinary Public Health Status and Usage of Antimicrobial Growth Promotants**

- 13.1 During the 12 months prior to export, there must be no case of Tuberculosis, Brucellosis and Leptospirosis in pigs on the farm.
- 13.2 An approved Residues Surveillance Plan should be implemented to continually detect violations of antimicrobial and illegal growth promotants, in particular beta-agonist residues, and action taken to reduce the violations.
- 13.3 The farm is required to submit a quarterly report to BAI through the FIT on the types, quantities and methods of anti-microbial administration on the farm.

## **Section 14. Farm's Internal Inspection System**

- 14.1 The farm must implement a documented inspection system to monitor the pig diseases to ensure that the animal health and veterinary public health criteria for accreditation of the farm are maintained.
- 14.2 The documented inspection system is implemented under the supervision of a registered veterinarian with qualifications specified at Section 21 of this guideline.

- 14.3 Accredited farms are assigned a farm accreditation code by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

#### **Section 15. Infrastructure and Facilities**

- 15.1 The farm must be completely fenced with chain-linked or equivalent fencing.
- 15.2 The farm has only one main entry point and measures for restricting entry of visitors and vehicles are implemented at the entry point.
- 15.3 The farm has access to a continuous supply of adequate electrical power, potable water, proper drainage and good access roads within the farm.
- 15.4 The farm has:
  - 15.4.1 A reception area to receive visitors and vehicles. The production area is not accessible to visitors or outside vehicles without going through appropriate biosanitation measures.
  - 15.4.2 Proper facilities for storage and delivery of feed.
  - 15.4.3 Supply of potable water for the pigs.
  - 15.4.4 Facilities to allow the proper disposal of solid and liquid waste.
  - 15.4.5 Proper loading/unloading ramp that allows loading/unloading of pigs across the perimeter fencing to restrict entry of non-farm vehicles into the production area.

#### **Section 16. Biosecurity Measures**

- 16.1 The farm has vehicle and personnel disinfection at critical points of entry into the farm and production area
- 16.2 Showers, farm apparels, footwear and disinfection footbath shall be provided for authorized personnel and farm workers to the production areas.
- 16.3 There should not be any fruit trees in between the pig houses.
- 16.4 No animals other than farmed pigs are permitted in the production area.
- 16.5 Pigs are kept entirely in roofed houses and all entrances to the house are provided with a covered disinfection footbath.
- 16.6 The houses are designed to prevent access by vectors of diseases including bats and birds, and there must be effective pest control program on the farm against pests such as rodents.
- 16.7 The feed storage premises/equipment are designed to prevent access by vectors of diseases, including bats and birds.

#### **Section 17. Monitoring and Surveillance Programmes For Disease Control**

- 17.1 The farm has implemented a documented vaccination and other disease monitoring programme enforced by the BAI.
- 17.2 The farm uses serological and/or microbiological tests that are in accordance with international standards, to determine whether an infection is present.

#### **Section 18. Good Husbandry Practices**

- 18.1 The farm follows the Guidelines of Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) as determined by the Bureau of Animal Industry.
- 18.2 Personnel wears appropriate working clothing and visitors are provided with protective clothing.
- 18.3 Proper and comprehensive records must be maintained.
  - 18.3.1 It must have a farm recording system which shows.



- 18.3.1.2 Production performance
- 18.3.1.3 Morbidity and mortality and causes
- 18.3.1.4 Drugs and vaccine used
- 18.3.1.5 Laboratory tests conducted and the results thereof
- 18.3.1.6 Place of origin of weaned piglets
- 18.3.1.7 Destination of the finished pigs

- 18.4 Each farm has a documented vaccination programme using only approved vaccines.
- 18.5 A system for immediate removal of dead pigs from a pig house for proper disposal in an acceptable manner to the competent authority.
- 18.6 The farm has a system for immediate removal of sick animals from the house for treatment or slaughter and properly disposed of in an acceptable manner to the Competent Authority.
- 18.7 The farm must isolate each batch of pigs for a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to being moved for slaughter. Each house must be operated on an all-in-all-out basis and there should be no introduction of pigs following the entry of the last batch of pigs into the house.
- 18.8 The replacement breeder animals must be derived from farms which are located in countries or areas in the Philippines free from FMD. These breeder animals should be isolated for at least four (4) weeks on the accredited farm before being introduced into the current pig population on the farm.
- 18.9 Only pigs shall be reared in the farm. No other types of animals are allowed to be kept on the farm.
- 18.10 Compounded animal feed is derived from approved sources. Feed ration used shall comply with the guidelines of the BAI for feeding pigs. No swill feeding is allowed.
- 18.11 Pigs shall be stocked at the density appropriate for the rearing system used.
- 18.12 The owner and/or manager of the farm must notify the Competent Authority of any variation in production performance or any other signs suggestive of the presence of an infectious swine disease. As soon as a disease is suspected, the farm must send the samples needed for making or confirming the diagnosis to an approved laboratory.
- 18.13 The farm should have a system for immediate notification to the Competent Authority where any infectious swine diseases as specified in sections 12 and 13 is confirmed in the farm.
- 18.14 Buildings, facilities and equipment shall be well-maintained and kept in good condition.

## **Section 19. Laboratory Testing**

- 19.1 The farm has access to an approved laboratory to undertake diagnostic tests for pig diseases specified in sections 13 and 14 in accordance to OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, or any other international standards where available and approved by the BAI.
- 19.2 Test for contaminants and residues must follow internationally accepted standards and consistent with the national drug residue program.

## **Section 20. Quality Assurance Programme**

- 20.1 The farm has a documented quality assurance programme which has been evaluated and approved by the Competent Authority to ensure the production of good quality and healthy, wholesome and safe fattening pigs.
- 20.2 The farm keeps accurate records and should be made available when required.



- 20.3 The farm uses only legally available and properly labelled veterinary drugs, chemicals, hormones and biologics. Accurate record shall be maintained of all chemicals, veterinary drugs, hormones and biologics used and where and how they were disposed of.
- 20.4 Each batch of pigs must be inspected by a registered veterinarian with the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association, prior to being moved from the farm to slaughterhouse dedicated for the slaughter of pigs from accredited farms for export.

## **Section 21. Staff competence**

- 21.1 The farm employs full-time, licensed and qualified veterinarians.
- 21.2 The farm provides a documented training programme/schedule for staff on pig production and disease prevention and control.

## **Section 22. Product Identification and Traceback Mechanism**

- 22.1 The farm implements a product identification system which would identify:
- 22.1.1 Individual pigs by serially numbered ear tags or other identification system unique to the farm for all pigs older than weaning age. The farm must maintain an inventory system to account for the location of all pigs on the farm by their ear tag numbers or other identification system.
- 22.1.2 Origin of Animal
- 22.1.2.1 Name and address of exporter
- 22.1.2.2 Exact address of farms where the animals originated
- 22.1.2.3 Establishment code or Farm code
- 22.1.3 Destination of animals
- 22.1.3.1 Country of destination
- 22.1.3.2 Name and address of consignee
- 22.1.3.3 Means of transport
- 22.1.3.4 Date of shipment

## **Section 23. Declaration of Interest**

- 23.1 The owner, any shareholder, or director of the farm must declare their interest in any non-DA-BAI accredited pig farm in the country and will undertake not to introduce pigs into the farm other than breeding animals subject to the conditions of Section 18.8 of this guideline.

## **Section IV FIS Approval Process**

### **Section 24. Application and Approval Procedure**

- 24.1 The proponent or farm applicant shall duly accomplish and submit Farm Inspection Application Document to the BAI Secretariat. The application can be done using the internet.
- 24.2 The applicant shall submit the necessary documents at respective regional offices.

- 24.3 The BAI Secretariat shall then verify or confirm the completeness of the documents submitted. Applications with incomplete documents shall be returned to the applicant.
- 24.4 The application is referred to appropriate FIT regional team for evaluation and inspection.
- 24.5 The FIT shall conduct the evaluation and inspection based on Chapter III of this guideline.
- 24.6 The Regional Veterinary Quarantine Officer (RQVO) shall prepare the evaluation report containing the finding of the FIT evaluation including list of recommendation, if any.
- 24.7 The BAI Director shall immediately act on the Evaluation Report and decide to either approve or disapprove the application.
- 24.8 If the application is approved, a Certificate of Accreditation will be issued indicating among others, the farm accreditation code.
- 24.9 If the application is disapproved, the BAI Director will inform the applicant stating the basis of disapproval.
- 24.10 The letter of approval/non-approval shall be issued to the applicant through the FIT Secretariat

#### **Section 25. Supplementary Guidelines**


The DA may from time to time issue supplementary guidelines as necessary in order to continually improve the country's FIS.

#### **Section 26. Repealing Clause**


All existing rules, regulations, circulars, instructions, memoranda which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

#### **Section 27. Effectivity**

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
**ARTHUR C. YAP**  
Secretary  
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Recommended by:

  
**DAVINIO P. CATBAGAN, DVM**  
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