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Department of Agriculture
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MEMORANDUM ORDER

No: 22
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**SUBJECT : REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPORTATION OF OIL
PALM PLANTING MATERIALS**

In order to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests particularly *Brontispa*, *Chlorotic Ringspot* and *Lethal Yellowing* into the country and to be able to protect the oil palm industry, the Bureau of Plant Industry hereby issue the Guidelines on the importation of Oil Palm Planting Materials.

I. APPLICATION FOR IMPORTATION

1. Would be importers shall submit the oil palm supplier's profile and the technical documents adopted in seed production and maintenance from accredited seed producers in the country of origin.
2. Importer shall submit upon application the suppliers' certification that the oil palm materials to be exported are free from *chlorotic ringspot virus*, *lethal yellowing* and other diseases with copies of the result of such analysis conducted by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) or by any NPPO authorized laboratory at the country of origin.
3. Importer shall submit upon application the certification from the NPPO of country source that the oil palm material to be exported is free from *Brontispa longissima* Gestro.
4. Only NPPO certified pre-germinated oil palm seeds shall be allowed to be imported.
5. The BPI-PQS shall inspect and certify the plant nursery where the materials are to be planted.
6. Entry shall be at Manila Ports only.

II. UPON ISSUANCE OF PLANT QUARANTINE CLEARANCE

1. The importer shall provide a copy of the Plant Quarantine Clearance (import permit) to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country before export.
2. The NPPO shall comply with the pre-entry conditions stipulated in the Plant Quarantine Clearance and issue a Phytosanitary Certificate before exporting the materials.

III. UPON ARRIVAL OF THE MATERIALS

1. Accompanying documents shall be evaluated. Oil palm planting materials shall be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the NPPO from the country of origin and the original copy of the Plant Quarantine Clearance should be presented. Shipments without the required documents shall be subject to either of the following: destruction of materials or return to the country of origin. All expenses incurred in the implementation of these activities shall be borne by the importer.
2. Inspection at the Port of Entry. And samples shall be taken for laboratory analysis at the following rates:
 - 100 seeds - for every 50,000 or less of the imported seeds
 - 200 seeds - for 50,000 - 100,000 imported seeds and so on.
4. Laboratory analysis shall be conducted on the samples taken. Detection of quarantine pest or unknown pest shall mean destruction of the said materials.
5. Seed samples shall be subjected to grow-in testing at the Post Entry Quarantine Station, Los Banos. The rest of the imported seeds shall be brought, planted and maintained at BPI certified nursery only.
6. Regular monitoring and inspection of the plants at the certified nursery for presence of quarantine pests shall be conducted. The PQS monitoring will be carried-out every month for ten (10) months starting from two (2) months after planting.
7. Plants shall be released for planting in the field only after laboratory testing and the post entry monitoring shows no signs of infection/infestation of quarantine pest.
8. Other Phytosanitary measures may be implemented during the growing period if necessary.
9. Planting materials shall be treated with appropriate insecticide for Brontispa before distribution or movement from the nursery to the field.

For strict compliance.


JOEL S. RUDINAS, CESO IV
DIRECTOR 

February 14, 2008