

10 December 2002

## **Administrative Order No. 31**

**Series of 2002**

**Subject : Supplemental Guidelines on the Importation and Utilization of Buffalo Meat from India**

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**Whereas,** the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code provides standards on the importation of fresh frozen bovine meat from countries not free from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

**Whereas,** there is a need to institute measures to ensure that these conditions stipulated in the OIE Code are strictly complied by the exporter of buffalo meat from India;

**Whereas,** importation of buffalo meat shall be used mainly for meat processing to reduce risk of possible introduction of FMD virus.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.** Secretary of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following supplemental guidelines on the importation of fresh frozen buffalo meat from India.

1. All export of fresh buffalo meat from India must be accompanied by a third party inspection certificate stating that:

1.1 The Meat comes from animals which:

**a.** have remained in the exporting country for at least 3 months prior to slaughter;

**b.** have remained, during this period, in a part of the country where buffalo are regularly vaccinated against FMD and where official controls are in operation;

**c.** have been vaccinated at least twice with the last vaccination not more than 12 months and not less than one month prior to slaughter;

**d.** were kept for the past 30 days in an establishment; and that FMD has not occurred within 10 kilometers during that period;

**e.** have been transported, in a vehicle which was cleansed and disinfected before the buffalo were loaded, directly from the establishment of origin to the approved abattoir without coming into contact with other animals which do not fulfill the required conditions for export;

**f.** have been slaughtered in an approved abattoir.

**i.)** which is officially designated for export;

**ii.)** in which no FMD has been detected during the period between the last disinfection carried out before slaughter and the shipment for export has been dispatched;

**g.** have been subjected to ante-mortem inspection and post-mortem examinations immediately after slaughter for FMD with favorable results. No more than 6 hours before entering before entering the killing floor.

1.2 comes from deboned carcasses:

**a.** from which the major lymphatic glands have been removed;

**b.** which, prior to deboning, have been submitted to maturation at a chilling temperature above + 20C for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter and in which the pH value was below 6.0 when tested in the middle of both the logissimus dorsi.

2. The label on the box shall indicate the batch number and date of production and the name of the importer-processing company, in addition to the existing requirements on labeling indicated under A.O. 39, series of 2000.

3. All imported fresh frozen buffalo meat shall be used solely for meat processing, using the standards indicated in the OIE Code.

### 3.1 Canning

Meat is subjected to heat treatment in a hermetically sealed container to reach an internal core temperature of at least 70oC for a minimum of 30 minutes or to any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate the FMD virus.

### 3.2 Thorough cooking

Meat, previously deboned and deglanded, shall be subjected to thorough cooking by heating so that an internal temperature of 70oC or greater is maintained for a minimum of 30 minutes or to any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate the FMD virus.

4. Only NMIC-accredited "AAA" and "AA" (Triple and Double A) meat processors shall be allowed to import according to their rated capacity. A DA inter-agency team shall monitor the capacity of the meat processors to utilize buffalo meat.

5. Any violation will be subject to revocation of accreditation.

All orders, rules and regulation inconsistent hereto is hereby revoked or amended accordingly.

This ORDER shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its filing at the UP Law Center.

**(Signed)**  
**LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.**  
**Secretary**