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Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
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Memorandum Circular No. 01
Series of 2005

SUBJECT: Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Requirements for Exportation of Aquaculture Products for Food Safety and Quality Assurance

To reinforce the implementation of Sections 61 and 67 of Republic Act 8550 on the *Importation and Exportation of Fishery Products* and the *Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Service* respectively, the following and are hereby promulgated:

a. Accreditation of Aquaculture Farms

All producers of aquaculture animals supplying raw materials to exporters must be accredited under the Residue and Disease Monitoring and Surveillance Program with the Fish Health Section of this Bureau.

The Fish Health Officers shall conduct on farm residue monitoring and disease surveillance.

b. Registration of Exporters of Aquaculture Products

All exporters of aquaculture products should be registered with the Fish Health Section of this Bureau.

Establishments processing aquatic products are required to acquire raw materials only from the list of accredited farms/suppliers of this Bureau.

For traceability exporters have the responsibility to identify and register the source of their raw materials. Records should be made available upon monitoring inspections.

No export permit and health certificate shall be issued to exporters who do not comply.

c. Residue Monitoring Program for Aquacultured Products

Conduct quarterly monitoring and sampling of registered farms supplying raw materials to establishments exporting aquatic products. Sample for laboratory analysis should be properly preserved. Minimum number of samples to be collected will be at least 1 per 100 tones of annual production. Samples taken at the farm level will be from a minimum of 10% of the accredited sites of production.

Non-targeted

Group A: Sample one third of the total sample: All samples will be taken at the farm level, on fish at all stages of farming, including fish which are ready to be placed on the market for consumption.

Group B: Two thirds of the total samples:

The sampling will be carried out either in the farm or on fish ready to be placed on the market for consumption, processing plant on fresh fish prior to blast freezing.

Targeted

If there is reason to believe that veterinary medicine or chemical are being applied, or when environmental contamination is suspected.

For mariculture farm, feed samples will be taken for laboratory analysis.

The residue monitoring ensures absence of the following harmful substances of exported aquaculture products:

Banned Antibiotics	Pesticides	Mycotoxin	Dyes	Anthelmintic
Chloramphenicol Nitrofurans metabolites: furazolidone, furaladone Nitrofurantoin nitrofurazone	Organo chlorine compounds including PCBs Organophosphorus compounds	Aflatoxin	Malachite Green	Ivermectin

Aquaculture products that are found to be contaminated with harmful substances shall not be issued health certificate and export permit.

d. Disease Monitoring and Surveillance

Implement disease monitoring and surveillance on aquatic products for export to ensure that the product are free from notifiable disease listed in the Office Internationale des Epizooties.

Aquatic products infected with notifiable diseases will not be allowed for export or move from its original location.

This circular will be enforced immediately and for strict compliance of all concerned.

(SIGNED)

MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.

Director

(Signed)

Malcolm I. Sarmiento, Jr.

Director