



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #RP3021

Philippines

Trade Policy Monitoring

RP Issues New Guidelines for Produce Imports

2003

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Report Highlights:

In reponse to reports of rampant vegetable smuggling, the Philippine Bureau of Plant Industry has issued Memorandum Order No. 18 imposing additional requirements for all Import Permit applications covering fresh fruits and vegetables.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report

Manila [RP1], RP

In the line with ongoing government efforts to curb illegal importation, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) recently issued Memorandum Order No. 18, revising the guidelines and requirements for all Import Permit applications covering fresh fruits and vegetables. These include:

1. Duly accomplished application form that specifies the buyer of the goods (local buyer) and the exact date of arrival, with the following attachments:
 - a) proforma invoice from the supplier (Country of Origin)
 - b) purchase orders from the buyer (local buyer)
2. Importer/ broker or representative must proceed to the Plant Quarantine Service office for the evaluation of the application
3. Payment of corresponding fees at the Cashier's office for all evaluated and approved application
4. Only one broker will be allowed for every exporter

In addition, the following documents must be updated yearly for all accredited Importers at the Plant Quarantine Service Office: (a) Mayor's Permit; (b) Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) registration, and; (c) 2x2 photo of the owner or authorized representative.

Prior to the new guidelines, a vegetable import ban was imposed by the President after receiving complaints from the domestic vegetable industry about the surge of low priced vegetables from China and Taiwan. (See GAIN #RP2083).

This order was issued on February 14, 2003 and is effective immediately. To date we have not been made aware of any problem by US exporters or local importers with these new guidelines.