

Based on information collected up to May 2003

1. TARIFF MEASURES

Structure of the tariff schedule

The Philippines applies an eight-digit tariff nomenclature based on the Harmonized System. The tariff schedule has one column of statutory customs duty rates.

Tariff publications

- Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, Volume 1, June 2002, Philippine Tariff Commission, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Current information on customs-related matters is available from the Commissioner of Customs, Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Metro Manila.

12 MFN Duties

The Philippines grants at least most-favoured nations treatment to all trading partners. With the MFN tariff schedule in force as of 1 of January 1999 through Executive Order 63 effective 21 January 1999, 176 tariff lines are duty free, essentially, goods such as compound chemicals, rubber and articles thereof, wood, textile yarns, laboratory and hygienic glassware, ferrous waste and scrap, machinery, plant of laboratory equipment, apparatus and equipment for photography, instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical and veterinary sciences. The largest part of tariff lines bearing the following rates of 3%, 5%, 7%, 10%, 20%, 25% and 30% are set on basic products, agricultural goods, fish and crustaceans, raw materials, and manufacturing activities of intermediate and finished goods. A limited number of tariff items subject to rates starting from 35, to 80% include sensitive agricultural products, maize, rice, sugar, meat and meat products, food preparations, beverages and spirits. Effective December 2000 the Philippine government has agreed to maintain tariffs of petrochemicals and automotive parts at current levels up to year 2004. This policy covers most MFN tariff rates levied on goods coming from countries outside ASEAN. MFN rates should go down to no more than 5% in 2004, and duties of polymers would be kept at 15% up to 2004 also. The government has agreed to keep MFN rates currently at 3% to 10% for completely knocked down units, and 20% and 30% for completely built up units, up to 2004 with an option for extension. The government has agreed to keep MFN tariffs on other goods up to 2001 with a gradual reduction until 2004. The reductions are expected to lead to a unified 5% by 2004. The tariff freeze would cover all agricultural commodities, industrial goods, and locally finished produced goods in low quantity



13 Bound rates

Bound rates are set on selected agricultural, chemical and industrial products, certain machinery and electrical equipment and measuring instruments. These rates apply to WTO members, and to non-WTO countries if they have an agreement in force with the Philippines providing

for a most-favoured nation (MFN) treatment on tariffs. i.e. Bulgaria, Iraq, China, Vietnam and the Russian Federation.

As a result of the Uruguay Round, almost all agricultural goods (rice excepted) and about half of the manufacturing tariff lines have been bound.



14 Tariff Quota Duties

With the Uruguay Round implementation, quantitative restrictions on agricultural goods have been converted into tariff quotas set mainly on live animals (HS 01.01, 01.03-01.05) except live bovine animals (HS 01.020); pork (HS 02.03); sheep or goat meat (HS 02.04) poultry meat (HS 02.07); potatoes (HS 07.1); coffee (HS 09.01); maize (HS 10.05) and sugar (HS 17.01). In addition, under the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, some agricultural products (25) are subject to both in-and out-quota tariff rates, i.e. no tariff quotas or minimum access volumes have been defined for items in the following product groups: meat and edible flours (HS 02.10) consisting of four tariff lines; onions, shallots, garlic (HS 07.0310, 07.0320) affecting two lines; cabbages under (HS 07.04.90.10) in one line; sausages and similar products (HS 16.01) covering two lines; and other prepared meat (HS affecting 16 lines).



15 Seasonal Duties

Seasonal duties are imposed on fresh, chilled or frozen fish.



16 Temporary reduced duties

Under Section 105 of the Tariff and Customs Code, duty free import is allowed for the following articles: goods for exhibition, donations for charity, aquatic products caught by Philippines registered fishing vessels, articles for official use by embassies and other agencies of foreign governments, educational books and publications, importation of goods for the purpose of repair or reconditioning, to be re-exported upon completion, as well as importation into special economic zones. Within the tariff reduction scheme reduced rates are set on raw materials for the manufacture of medicaments. Furthermore, the Tariff and Related Matters (TRM) Committee trimmed down the number of agricultural products and capital goods to be imported at the rate of 3%. In addition through the Republic Act 8509 and its implementing regulations of January 1999, also called the Jewellery Industry Development Act, suspended rates have been set on import of diamonds and precious metals and capital goods of the sector. The draft Executive Order (EO) sheltering the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) ratified in 1999 and to be implemented for five years, enumerates about 318 tariff lines covered by the duty-free provision of AFMA.

Export producers registered firms are exempt from the payment of duties and taxes on imported raw materials, capital equipment and supplies.



17 Temporary increased duties

Temporary increased duties of more than 50% are set on certain kinds of meat, fish, and consumer durables, to offset the impact of the elimination of some quantitative restrictions, in accordance with executive Order No. 8 of July 1992.

Preferential duties under trade agreements

19.1 Interregional agreements

The Philippines participates in the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), which provides for the exchange of trade concessions among developing countries. The tariff concessions granted by the Philippines consist of four products under HS 7308.30.00, HS 7308.90.00, HS 8213.00.00, and 8301.10.00, each of which gets a 10% margin preference from its base.

The Philippines is member of the Bangkok Agreement for liberalized trade among the less developed member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific together with India, Korea, Laos, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The agreement provides for tariff concessions on some agricultural items, manufactured goods, chemicals and minerals.

19.2 Regional and sub-regional agreements

The Philippines belongs to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) together with Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. ASEAN aimed at promoting economic, social, cultural and scientific ties, as well as trade and monetary policies. Other areas of cooperation among ASEAN members, include harmonization of standards, reciprocal recognition of tests and certification of products.

In 1992, members called for the formation of an ASEAN Free Trade Area. In this regard, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, began implementing the Asean Free Trade Area on 1 of January 2002, bringing a reduction in tariff rates to 5% or less on all goods made at least with 40 percent of ASEAN goods, which tariff rates will be reduced to 0% by 2010, and quantitative restrictions and other non tariff barriers removed. As for the latecomers, Vietnam joined ASEAN in 1995, and began implementing AFTA on 1 of January 2003, Burma and Laos joined the group in 1997 and will complete tariff reduction by 2005, whereas Cambodia which joined in 1999, will complete the tariff reduction by 2007; in the year 2015, final reductions will be achieved by these 4 countries.

No common external tariff is planned; tariff rates on imports from non-ASEAN countries will continue to be determined individually.

Since 1 of January 2003, the ASEAN countries have announced the abolishment of tariffs on 60 per cent of traded goods and the introduction of a 5% on import tariffs within its six original members, i.e. the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Products affected essentially by this measure are electronic products, machinery items and petrochemicals. And goods excluded from the tariff-reduction agreement are goods of key industries in some of the member countries, for example, the Philippines and Indonesia will delay the 5% cap on sugar and petroleum, and Malaysia will shelve the cap on car imports, until 2005. As for Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam, the four ASEAN's latecomers, will introduce the 5 per cent tariff cap only in 2010.

With the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme, AICO, a final maximum 5% tariff rate is set on automotive products. In addition, unlike the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) which allows a 0-5% tariff rate on all products traded by 2004, the AICO grants an immediate tariff of between 0-5% on products enrolled under the programme.

The eight ASEAN summit was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 4 to 6 November 2002. During this meeting, several free trade plans were developed involving 14 Asian countries, i.e. the 10 Asean members such as the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The objectives of these free-trade plans are to quicken the pace of trade liberalization and foster multilateralism in the region.

In addition to intra-ASEAN trade and ties, ASEAN aims at strengthening links with other preferential trade regimes in the region, for example, the high-level task force between the AFTA and the Closer Economic Relations (CER, i.e. a trade agreement between Australia and New Zealand) established to study the feasibility of settling and AFTA-CER free-trade agreement by 2010. ASEAN is pursuing similar agreements with other regional grouping such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The Philippines is also a member of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) along with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. APEC is a multilateral forum formed in 1989 so that Asian and Pacific economies can promote economic cooperation and mutual assistance in developing key economic sectors, including trade and investment. On 15 of November 1994, member countries agreed to implement open and free trade among themselves by 2020, with advanced industrialized nations realizing the trade liberalization goal by 2010.

At their 1997 meeting in Vancouver, APEC leaders agreed on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) to take place in 15 sectors, and the tariff elements of nine sectors were identified under the "accelerated tariff liberalization" (ATL) package i.e. chemicals, energy, environment, fish and fish products, forest products, gems and jewellery, medical equipment and instruments, and toys, as well as a mutual recognition agreement concerning telecommunications. The ATL initiative aims at achieving a zero target for almost all sectors by 2008.



19.3 Bilateral agreements

The Philippines through the framework of ASEAN, maintains a commercial and economic cooperation agreement with the European Union. The agreement provides for most favoured-nation treatment and studies to remove trade barriers, create new trade patterns, and recommend trade promotion measures.

A new trade initiative between the ASEAN and the U.S.A. has been set up as the Enterprise for Asean Initiative (EAI), which objectives aim at developing the Southeast Asian Region, and enhance close U.S. ties with ASEAN. The EAI offers bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) between the United States and individual ASEAN countries, by determining jointly the launching of FTA negotiations. ASEAN members and China leaders decided in Brunei on November 2001 to work on creating a free trade area within the next ten years.

2. PARA-TARIFF MEASURES

Additional charges

22.3 Import licence fee

Licensing fees or administrative charges are levied at different rates on import licensing request per unit on the importation of the following goods: 200.00 per permit for the importation of carabaos, buffaloes, cattle, horses, ponies, asses, mules, donkeys, swine and goats; 100.00 per permit for dogs and cats, and other domestic livestock, bull semen and other animal semen, embryo; 100.00 per permit for adult chicken, geese, turkeys, ducks, pigeons doves, quails, and other adult domesticated fowls, chicks, poults, ducklings, and other young fowls; 100.00 per head of fighting or game birds; 100.00 per permit of hatching eggs, 20.00 per egg of hatching eggs of game birds; 200.00 per permit of meat and meat products; 100.00 per permit of large-size wild animals and birds, medium-size wild animals and birds, small wild animals and birds. 1,500.00 for fresh/chilled/frozen fish and fishery aquatic products.

10.00 per firearm, 0.05%/pc for ammunition and 0.01/pc for its components such as shells, primers, 0.25/pc for gunpowder, spare parts 5.00/pc; 1.000.00 for barrel, frames, slides, reloading machine, 5.00 bullet-proof vests. The permit fee to unload explosive is 0.25/kg, its ingredients in solid or in liquid form, 0.02/l; detonating cords, 0.01/m; detonating cords, safety fuses, blasting caps, connector 0.01/pc. 300 per permit for various chemicals for the manufacture of explosives. 100.00 per permit for fish and fishery aquatic products, 5.00 per clearance of antibiotics, 30.00 per chemical of acetic anhydride.

Furthermore, a Tobacco Inspection fee at the rate of PO.50 is set on cigars per thousand or fraction thereof; PO.10 on cigarettes per thousand or fraction thereof; PO.02 on leaf tobacco per kg. or fraction thereof, and PO.03 on scrap and other manufactured tobacco per kg. or fraction thereof. In addition, various fees are also imposed on imports and include processing fees on ordinary claim for refund, registration fees for participation in public action sales, laboratory fees for services rendered by the Customs Laboratory Unit, and brokerage fees for licensed customs brokers.



22.9 Additional charges n.e.s.

The amount of 2.500.00 pesos is paid for every entry filed through the SGL, an advance processing mode of clearing import shipments to the Philippines by importers qualified for super green lane transactions, a system established by the Bureau of Customs which overtook preshipment inspection after SGS contract expiration of March 2000.



Internal taxes and charges levied on imports

23.1 General sales taxes

A value added tax of 10% of the duty paid value is imposed on all imports with the exception of non-processed agricultural, marine and forest products, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, chemicals for the formation of pesticides, seeds, seedlings, animal food, soya beans, fish meal, certain petroleum products, raw materials for the manufacture of petroleum products subject to excise taxes, and newspapers and periodicals.

VAT is implemented by Executive Order No. 273 in the Official Gazette No. 31 of August 1987. Are exempted from the VAT the sale and importation of

certain primary products, books, newspapers and magazines, importation of certain vessels, certain services including medical, educational, and some business services, sale by certain cooperatives, and sale or lease, not exceeding P550,000 per year in general, of certain goods, properties or the performance of services in accordance with Section 109 of the Tax Reform Act of 1997 (RA 8424).

23.2 Excise taxes

Excise taxes are levied at specific rates on alcohol products, automobiles, films, jewellery, minerals, perfume, cigarettes and petroleum. Higher tax rates as P300 per proof litre are set on imported distilled spirits, whereas spirits produced from local material as coconut palm are taxed P8.

23.7 Taxes and charges for sensitive product categories

Within the framework of environmental protection under Republic Act 6969 of 1992, aircraft and watercraft used for pleasure and recreation are subject to an energy tax. In addition, a fee is charged by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for imports of hazardous material.

3. PRICE CONTROL MEASURES

34.2 Antidumping duties

Since 1994, only five cases of antidumping investigations resulted in the imposition of definitive duties on terry towelling products from China and Hong Kong; China, newsprint from Finland; magnesite-base refractory bricks from Germany; malleable coated fittings, zinc coated fittings and sodium tripolyphosphate from China. And during the period 1 January to 30 June 2000, antidumping measures have been initiated against cold rolled coils and sheets from Chinese Taipei, and electrolytic tinplates from Rep. of Korea.

Antidumping actions have been initiated on polypropylene resins from Rep. of Korea as of 16 of August 1999. In addition, following are the status of antidumping cases subject to review/appeal as of 21 January 2002; clear figured glass from China, Indonesia and Malaysia, and PVC floor coverings from Thailand.

4 FINANCE MEASURES

43.2 Licence for specified use

Exchange regulations are administered by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

45 Regulations concerning terms of payment for imports

Commercial banks are authorized to sell foreign exchange for Imports payments under letters of credit, document against acceptance (D/A), documents against payments (D/P), open account (O/A), and direct remittance. Only one letter of credit may be opened before the shipment of each import transaction, and is valid for one year. Registration of D/A and O/A imports with the Central bank is required only for monitoring purposes.

49 Finance measures n.e.s.

Within export incentives to accredited exports of the Export Development

Act of 1994, exporters are free from the advanced payment of duties for importations under letters of credit; in addition they benefit from the tax credit in the case of importation of raw materials and inputs that are not readily available for the production of export products, and tax credit for incremental export revenue.



5. AUTOMATIC LICENSING MEASURES

52 Import monitoring

All commodities originating from socialist and other centrally planned economy countries are regulated.



52.7 Prior surveillance for sensitive product categories

Imports of antibiotics are subject to monitoring of the "grades" imported. All food and food products intended for import must be registered with the bureau of Food and Drugs.

Under Republic Act 6969, the import of chemical substances is subject to their being registered with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources.



6. QUANTITY CONTROL MEASURES

Licensing under the authority of Central Bank of the Philippines, Mabini Corner, Vito Cruz, Malate, Metro Manila. The tariff and Customs Code of 1978 in Presidential Decree No. 1464 and the New Central Bank Act, Republic Act No. 7653), provide the primary legal bases for the regulation of imports in the Philippines.

61.43 Barter or counter trade

Executive Order 120 directs all government agencies to adopt countertrade as a supplemental tool to the importation of foreign capital equipment machinery products, and goods, for transactions values amounting to US\$ 1 million and above.



61.6 Licence combined with or replaced by special import authorization

Emergency importation upon prior certification of the NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority) that a rice shortage exists is issued for imports of rice, semi-milled or wholly milled, whether or not polished, glazed, parboiled or converted under HS line 042.31



61.7 Prior authorization for sensitive product categories

Import licensing measures are maintained to safeguard public health, safety, security welfare, environment and to meet international treaty obligations related to the regulation of certain products as well as medical, scientific and other needs. Therefore, these measures apply to the following goods: dangerous drugs, rice, cyanide and cyanide compounds, chlorofluorocarbons, penicillin and its derivatives, mercury and mercury compounds, colour reproduction machines, various chemicals for manufacture of explosives, firearms, ammunition and parts, pesticides including agricultural chemicals, used motor vehicles, parts and components, used truck and automobile tyres and tubes, of all sizes; all commodities originating from socialist and other centrally planned economy countries; warships of all kinds, coins, banknotes and gold; and radioactive

elements.

Certain agricultural products such as live animals, fresh and chilled beef, chilled pork, poultry meat, goat meat, potatoes, coffee, corn and sugar require import licences. In addition, following the abolishment of the National Food Authority monopoly on rice imports as of 31 of December 2002, rice importers must be licensed by the authority, and shipments are subject to quantitative restrictions.

61.71 To protect human health

Imports of fresh, frozen, and chilled fish are restricted and require import licenses, as for meat imports.

61.73 To protect plant health

An import permit is required for the importation of planting seeds and plants and specially of garlic, and white potato.

DA Administrative Order (AO) No. 8, Series of 2002, Rules and Regulations for the importation and release into the environment of plants and plant products derived from the use of modern biotechnology, due to the need of preventing the entry of harmful pest and diseases in the country.

61.74 To protect environment

Importation of Chlorofluorocarbons, asbestos, mercury and mercury compounds, pesticides including agricultural chemicals, are subject to permit/clearance from the following government agencies: DENR/EMB.

Quotas

62 Quotas

Regulations dealing with quantitative imports (or administration of the Minimum Access Volume, MAV) are set in Department of Agriculture Administrative Order (AO) 8 of 1997 as amended by AO 1 of 1998. Imports quotas established on annual basis and allocated on first-come first-served basis directly to qualified or registered importers, consist of products such as frozen meat of bovine animals, maize, rice, cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose.

62.74 Quotas linked with purchase of local goods

The release into free circulation of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) (CFCs and Halons - alone or in mixtures) and imported from a state that is a Party to the Protocol, is subject to quantitative limits.

Prohibitions

Imports of items specifically listed under section 101 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines are prohibited for security, health, sanitary and moral reasons.

63.40 Temporary prohibition

By Order (MO) No. 10, series of 2002, the Bureau Animal Industry (BAI) Department of Agriculture (DA) of the Philippines has set a temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen (HS 0105, 0207, 0407, 0408)

originating in the State of California, USA, as of 18 October 2002.

Order (MO) No. 02 Series of 2003 sets the same temporary prohibition of imports for the same goods from the State of Nevada, USA as of 20 January 2003. With the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the Netherlands, imports of above items have been set a temporary import ban as of 4 March 2003, by Order (MO) No. 10, Series of 2003.

DA Memorandum Order (MO) No. 2, series of 2002, temporary bans as of 20 February 2002, the import of fishmeal from Japan, used in the production of compound feed for cattle due to its content of meat and bone meal.

A legislation proposing a five-year moratorium on the entry of food products containing generically modified organisms, has been decided by the Chairman of the Committee on Health, and confirmed on 27 March 2000 by Philippine House of Representatives.

63.71 To protect human health

Prohibition is set on import of used clothing and rags, and any article or misbranded articles of food or any adulterated or misbranded drug in violation of the provisions of the "Food and Drugs Act". Are prohibited as well articles, instruments, drugs and substance designed, intended or adapted for producing unlawful abortion, or any printed matters giving information as how to make unlawful abortion.

In consideration of the health hazards posed by dioxin contamination of feeds utilised in EU countries, an Administrative Order (AO) No. 23, series 1999, prohibits imports of feeds, meat and meat products, milk and milk products, eggs and processed foods containing the same products from Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Germany. The Department of Health Administrative Order (AO) No. 4-A, s.200 and Department of Agriculture AO No. 1, s.2000 prohibit the introduction of anti-microbial drugs, Olaquinox and Carbadox, used in livestock and aquaculture production, and in all food producing animals.

63.72 To protect animal health and life

Ban on import permits for livestock, meat and meat products originating in Taiwan and of live pigs, and pork products from Germany and the Netherlands. A Memorandum Order (AO) No. 4, Series of 2000 from the Department of Agriculture bans the import from Japan and South Korea of Foot-and Mouth Disease susceptible animals, their meat, meat products and by-products. With the increasing cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in European Countries, the Department of Agriculture Memorandum Order (MO) No. 19, Series of 2000 bans the importation of live cattle, sheep, goats and their meat and meat products, bovine embryo, meat and bone-meal and other feed ingredients derived from the said animals from the European countries.

63.73 To protect plant health

Import prohibition is set on fresh fruit from Florida and Texas because of the fruit fly.

63.74 To protect environment

As a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) and its following amendments, the Philippines operate a ban on the import of controlled substances listed in Annex A to the Protocol

(chorofluorocarbons and halons) from any State not party to this protocol.

63.76 To control drug abuse

Import prohibition on marijuana, opium, poppies, coca leaves, heroin or any other narcotics or synthetic drugs, or any compound, manufactured salt, derivative or preparations thereof, opium pipes and parts thereof of whatever material.

63.78 To ensure national security

Import ban is set on dynamite, gunpowder, ammunition and other explosives, firearms and parts thereof, toy guns and firearms, any obscene, immoral or subversive materials, devices used in gambling or the distribution of money, cigars, cigarettes, jackpot or pinball machines, lottery and sweepstake ticket, any articles manufactured in whole or part of gold, silver, or other precious metals or alloys, and imitation of stamps.

7. MONOPOLISTIC MEASURES

72.2 Compulsory national transport

Shipments to Philippine Government agencies and imports under governmental loans and credit should be loaded on Philippine flag vessels effective through Central Bank circular No. 1348 of 24 August 1992.

Shipments that cannot be loaded on national flag vessels must be accompanied by "certificates of non-availability of Philippine flag vessels".

8. TECHNICAL MEASURES

Technical measures

81.10 Product characteristics requirements

The Philippines is a signatory to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, i.e. the Standards Agreement, negotiated under the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The Agreement calls for open procedures in adopting standards and sets up a review procedure for settling disputes; its main objectives are to ensure that central government bodies comply with its provisions.

A government body known as the Bureau of Product Standards, is responsible for promoting quality through product certification and quality management system certification; it offers services to importers and manufacturers in quality mark to be affixed to products in conjunction with national or international standards, the adoption of the International Standards Organization 9000 series on quality management, and ISO 14000 that apply to both the manufacturing and services sectors. In addition it draws the attention on the compulsory use of the modern metric system for measurement, since importation of non-metric measuring devices, instrumentation and apparatus is not permitted without prior clearance from the B.P.S.

The Bureau of Product Standards has signed Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with Indonesia (DSN) on recognition of standardization, accreditation, certification, metrology, technical information and training; with Japan (JET), on factory inspection and testing, and Australia (SAQAS), on

certification.



81.11 To protect human health

Permitted levels of dairy product radiation contamination have been established by the Philippine authorities.

An affidavit of undertaking stating that the product's ingredients and additives are in compliance with the Codex Alimentarius labelling standards, is requested for non-alcoholic beverages and beverage mixes, candies and confectionery products, coffee, tea, condiments, sauces and seasonings, culinary products, gelatin, dessert preparations and dessert mixes, dairy products, dressings and spreads, flour mixes, and starch, fish and other marine products, prepared or processed fruits, vegetables and edible fungi, meat and poultry products, and noodles, pastas and pastry wrappers. Through Administrative Order (AO) No. 23, series 1999, a certification requirement is set on imports of feeds, meat and meat products, milk and milk products, eggs and processed food containing the same products from Belgium, France, the Netherlands the rest of the European Union countries.

An International Health Certificate and a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificate are required for the importation of fresh, chilled, frozen fish and fishery aquatic products into the Philippines, by Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195, series of 1999.

Specific standards must be met in the manufacture of food, drugs and cosmetics, then they receive a Certificate of Product Registration (CPR), or a Certificate of Product License (CPL) which is issued for foods, medical devices, cosmetics, hazardous household substances, drugs, and diagnostic reagents. For cosmetics that claim to be hypoallergenic and dermatologist-tested, a full report must be provided of the clinical studies undertaken to justify the claims. Imports of in vitro diagnostic reagents require a report of test procedures and expected performance specifications. HIV test systems must have an evaluation report from an internationally recognized HIV reference laboratory.

DA Administrative Order No. 56, Series of 2000, Amendments to Administrative Order 39 Series of 2000 providing guidelines on the importation of meat and meat products upon the standard recommendation of the Codex Alimentarius and the Office International des Epizooties.

Da Administrative Order (AO) No. 25, Series of 2001, issuance of a safety compliance certificate for, and a chain of custody certification check-list on, imports of meat and meat products, and additional requirement governing imports of these products to the Philippines.



81.11 To protect human health

81.17 To ensure human safety

Health and safety standard requirements are set on food products, electrical machinery, apparatus and parts thereof, semi-manufactured goods, metal manufactures, chemicals, and mineral manufactures except glass.



81.12 To protect animal health and life

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Department of Agriculture, in a Memorandum Circular No. 10, series of 1998, has subjected the importation of smoked pork products (HS 1602.41, 1602.42 and 1602.49 to the requirement of Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VCQ) for imports of the said products from Malaysia.

An International Health Certificate and a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificate are required for the importation of fresh, chilled, frozen fish and fishery aquatic products into the Philippines, by Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195, series of 1999.



81.13 To protect plant health

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) requires phytosanitary certification that covers fresh fruit and vegetables, live insects, seeds and nuts for planting and consumption, spices, and medicinal herbs. A sanitary certificate is required for imports of all agricultural products.



81.17 To ensure human safety

An Amendment was made to Philippine National Standard (PNS) 1892:2000 by 0:2002/ PNS 1892:2000 applied to road vehicles, safety, safety-belts and restraint system specification; and standard 0:1 2002/ PNS 1893:2000 on Road vehicles, safety-belts anchorages considered as compliance with the requirements of ECE Regulation 14, ADR5, JIS D 4609 and FMVSS 210, all in force as of May 2002.

Upon international commission standards on non-ionizing radiation protection, the Bureau of Health Devices and Technology has proposed rules and regulations for the control of hazards from exposure to radio frequency radiation in the frequency range 3 kHz to 300 GHz.

National standard (DPNS) 1961:2000-liquefied petroleum gas regulators for domestic use (ICS 75.200), specifies requirements for materials, construction, performance and testing of liquefied petroleum gas pressure regulator for domestic use with a maximum capacity of 2kg/hr. This standard does not include regulators for outdoor use (equipped with relief device), commercial and industrial with high pressure multi-stage application.

The Bureau of Products Standards, has issued a national standard (DPNS) xxx:2000 that specifies requirements for lead-acid batteries for motorcycles used for the starting, lighting and ignition of motorcycles, with the objective of ensuring users safety and protection.



81.19 For purposes n.e.s.

Philippine National Standard (DPNS) 63:2001, which specifies the requirements for blended hydraulic cements for use in general concrete construction.

Standard DPNS 1952:2002 specifying requirements for plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewage, unplasticized poly (vinyl chloride) (PVC-U).

National standard DPNS 166.2002 specifies requirements for paper, board and pulps, corrugating medium used in forming the fluted portions of the corrugated fibreboard.

National Standard (DPNS) 126:2002 applicable to paper, board and pulps, which specifies the requirements for newsprint used generally for newspaper and other printing and writing purposes.

National standard (DPNS) 1993:2002 specifying the characteristics of steel

of commercial, lock-forming and structural qualities coated by continuous hot-dip aluminium/zinc alloy coating process. The aluminium/zinc alloy composition by mass in nominally 55% aluminium, 1.6% silicon and the balance zinc. The product is intended for applications where the corrosion characteristics of aluminium coupled with those of zinc are desired. National Standard (DPNS) 1990:2002 - hot dip zinc coated carbon steel sheets and National Standard (DPNS) 2003:2002 - continuous hot-dip zinc/5% aluminium alloy coated steel sheets.



81.2 Marking requirements

Imports are required to be marked clearly in English, with details such as the name of the product, the name and address of the manufacturer, the size in metric units and the country of origin.



81.2 Marking requirements

81.3 Labelling requirements

Marking and labelling requirement for the importation of garments, textiles and raw materials for the manufacture of garments, and other textile products require an invoice containing name and address of manufacture or supplier, importer or consignee, description of the goods, quantity.

For finished textile fabrics in rolls or in folds, the label or the required information must be stamped, printed or woven on the selvedge or on an edge of the fabric roll. For textile piece goods, a tag must be attached to the goods when there is no label on the selvedge.



81.3 Labelling requirements

With certain exceptions, all imported or locally manufactured products must be labelled to indicate the brand name, trademark or trade name, country of manufacture, physical or chemical composition and active ingredients, net weight and measure; the country of origin lettering must be permanent, and written in Pilipino, English, or Spanish. If a consumer product is manufactured, refilled or repacked under license from a principal, the label must state that fact. Other information such as flammability of the product, directions for use if necessary, warning and toxicity, the process of manufacture used, and wattage, voltage or amperes must be indicated.

The Department of Health sets compulsory labelling requirements for medical and pharmaceutical products in accordance with Republic Act 7765 of 1988. Mandatory labelling information required on pharmaceutical products consists of readable labels in English or Pilipino, with normal vision without straining. On the display panel of the product must appear the name of the product generic name alone or with brand name, dosage form and strength, pharmacological category, symbols of prescription of drugs, name and complete address of the manufacturer and trader, net contents, formulation, indications, contraindication, precaution and warning, mode of administration and directions for use, batch and lot number, date of manufacture and date of expiration, registration number and storage conditions. The same requirements are set on biological products; in addition the labels of these products must also include the name of any adjuvant in the product or any substance which, when administered with an antigen, modifies the immune response to that antigen; and the name of the species of animal or organism from which the product has been prepared.

In addition to pharmaceuticals general labelling requirements, a special information regarding injections is compulsory, such as the name and

quantity of all excipients in the product, unless excepted, statement of recommended route of administration whether intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous, words such "single use" or "single dose".

Labels for food products must contain the name and true nature of the food, list of ingredient in decreasing order of proportion, net contents and or drained weight, name and address of manufacturer, packer and or distributor, lot identification code and manufacturing and expiration dates. Food supplements must be labelled with the name and quantity of the fortifying ingredients of the products composition in percentages, and the statements such as "Food Supplement" and "no Approved therapeutic Claim" must appear on the label. Bottled drinking water must be labelled "Spring Water", "Mineral Water", "Purified Water", "Distilled Water" or Carbonated Water" as appropriate, with the geographic location of the source, total dissolved solids expressed as mg/L or ppm, and composition indicating the levels of bicarbonates, calcium, magnesium, chloride, and sulfate.



81.5 Testing, inspection and quarantine requirements

Imports of used vessels are subject to quality checking.

All import shipments are subject to inspection and testing by the bureau of Philippine Standards, prior to their release from customs.

Inspection for standard compliance applies to a number of products such as cosmetics, medical equipment, lighting fixtures, electrical wires and cables, cement, pneumatic tires, sanitary wares, and household appliances.

Food and drug products, cosmetics are liable to certificate of analysis and a certificate of brand name clearance.

Since 27 of September 2000, a veterinary quarantine clearance issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry is required for meat imports, and is valid for 30 to 60 days depending on the origin of the shipments; the imports must not be dated earlier than the date of issuance of the VQC.

Under administrative Order that took effect on 31 of October 1999, quarantine certificate issued by the bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is required for fish and fishery products imports.

Quarantine regulations or veterinary quarantine clearance are required for the importation of fish and fishery products, kangaroo meat from Australia, pork products (pork belly, pork trimmings, pork legs, and pork fat from swine) from Indonesia for the purpose of further processing, from Singapore, heat treated egg-based products from India, and smoked pork products from Malaysia.

Quarantine and inspection requirements for the importation of garlic cloves, white potatoes and onions, to prevent pest risk.



81.9 Technical regulations n.e.s.

A certificate of free sale is required for imports of in vitro diagnostic reagents, drugs, and cosmetics.



82 Pre-shipment inspection

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) took over all customs clearance functions

through a Customs Administrative Order (No.2-2000 of 24 March 2000 after the expiration of the SGS, Société Générale de Surveillance contract expiration; it then established a "Super Green Lane (SGL), an advance processing mode of clearing import shipments.

