



MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 511

Series of 2012

SUBJECT: REVISED PROTOCOL FOR THE EXPORT OF FRESH BANANA

Pursuant to Presidential Decree 1433 otherwise known as the "Plant Quarantine Law of 1978" and the Philippines' obligations under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Trade Organization - Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, and, upon prior consultation, this Revised Protocol is hereby issued for strict compliance by all concerned:

I. COVERAGE

This Revised Protocol shall apply to the exportation of hard green banana fruit of *Musa sp.*. No exportation shall be allowed in violation of this Protocol.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Responsibilities of the Bureau of Plant Industry - Plant Quarantine Service (BPI PQS)
 - a. Supervise and implement this Protocol;
 - b. Accredit growers, packing facilities, traders and exporters;
 - c. Assign a unique and permanent code for each grower per production site, packing facility per facility, trader and exporter;
 - d. Inform the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the importing country of the codes assigned to each grower, packing facility, trader and exporter;
 - e. Enforce and, whenever necessary, revise, the pest management program guidelines herein provided;
 - f. Conduct inspection, monitoring and audit of production areas of registered growers, packing facilities, trader and exporters, starting at the time the fruit is harvested, processed, packed and loaded for export, to verify compliance with this Protocol;
 - g. Review and maintain all forms and documents related to export activities in places of production, packing facilities, trading and shipping documents;
 - h. Conduct, in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute and/or industry associations and other concerned agencies, trainings on Good Agricultural Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices and other related trainings;
 - i. Issue Phytosanitary Certificate for each shipment.



2. Responsibilities of Banana Exporter

- a. Apply for accreditation as exporter with BPI-PQS;
- b. Submit list of accredited growers, their production sites and the contract;
- c. Submit list of accredited traders and the accredited grower(s) from which the trader sourced the bananas, production sites and the contract;
- d. Submit list of accredited packing facility operator and location of packing facility;
- e. Submit Production Manual;
- f. Ensure compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by the packing facility;
- g. Ensure compliance to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by the growers;
- h. Maintain all records in relation to banana export;
- i. Post its Accreditation Certificate prominently in the office (marker).
- j. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the exporter's facility by BPI PQS or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary;

3. Responsibilities of Banana Trader

- a. Apply for accreditation as trader with BPI-PQS;
- b. Submit list of accredited growers, their production sites and the contract;
- c. Submit list of accredited packing facility operator and location of packing facility;
- d. Submission of Production Manual;
- e. Ensure compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by the packing facility;
- f. Ensure compliance to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by the growers;
- g. Maintain all records in relation to banana export;
- h. Post its Accreditation Certificate prominently in the office (marker).
- i. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the trading facility by BPI PQS or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary;

4. Responsibilities of Banana Growers

- a. Apply for accreditation as grower per production site with BPI-PQS;
- b. Comply with the best agricultural practices based on the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP);
- c. Monitor and ensure pest level is under control;
- d. Post its Accreditation Certificate prominently at the entrance/front of the production area/farm (marker);
- e. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the production site by BPI PQS or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary.

5. Responsibilities of Packing Facilities

- a. Apply for accreditation as packing facility per facility with the BPI – PQS;
- b. Submit written standard operating procedure, including pest management and other safeguards;
- c. Ensure that the packing facility is insect-proof and its operations for export of bananas must be monitored by BPI PQS;
- d. Provide a minimum of two (2) wash tanks, with sufficient clean water supply and electricity, dryer/ blower, proper clean storage area, high pressurized water spray and conveyor lines;
- e. Have proper markings/labels on cartons for traceability, *i.e.*, exporter's accreditation code, grower's accreditation code, facility accreditation code, date of packing, destination, and any additional information as may be required by the importing country;
- f. Segregate fruits by export destination;
- g. Post its Accreditation Certificate prominently at the entrance/front of the facility (marker); and,
- h. Allow the inspection, regular or otherwise, of the packing facility by BPI PQS or any personnel of the Department of Agriculture as may be authorized by the Secretary.

III. TRACEABILITY

Harvested bananas must be placed in field cartons and containers that are properly marked to show the accreditation code of the exporter, packing facility and grower, date of packing, destination, and any additional information as may be required by the importing country. The place of production where the bananas were grown must remain identifiable when the fruit is transported from the place of production to the packing facilities and throughout the export process.

IV. PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Pre-harvest and Post-harvest Application

- a. Pseudostem sanitation to eliminate refuse and breeding sites of insect pests.
- b. Fruit obstruction removal (FOR) to prevent fruit damage as well as eliminate bridges that may be utilized by the pest to infest the fruit.
- c. Application of insecticide to prevent pest infestation for fruit care protection.
- d. Chlorpyrifos-impregnated polyethylene (PE) bags are used to cover the fruit bunches after bunch spray to prevent infestation of insects. When needed additional Chlorpyrifos-impregnated (PE) material (in form of "strip" or "square") is installed on the fruits as additional control against insect pest.
- e. Harvestable bunches are inspected for the presence of insect pests. Bunches with mealy bugs, scale and other insects are rejected/ discarded during harvest.
- f. Upon arrival of fruit at the packing plant, fruit bunches are sprayed with high-pressure water to eliminate any possible insect infestation. While bunches are waiting to be de-handled, the "fruit inspector" in

the packing plant will check for insect damage, particularly mealy bug infestation, on individual bunches.

- g. During de-handing, individual hands are thoroughly inspected for possible mealy bug, scale insect infestation and any other evidence of insect damage.
- h. After de-handing, individual hands are thoroughly cleaned (by brushing/foaming) by the fruit selector and further cleaned with high-pressure water to eliminate possible infestation of mealy bugs.
- i. The individual hands are kept dried (using dryer/blower) and again inspected to confirm that fruits are free from mealy bugs and other insect during weighing and immediately before packing inside the box.
- j. Unused pallets and those that are clean, dry and free from trash, soil, weed seeds and non-weeds contaminants are utilized by the industry.
- k. Packed fruits are stored in a clean, insect-proof storage/container van or at cold storage. Wharf areas are maintained, kept clean and are situated away from population areas and farms.
- l. Vessels and container vans are cleaned with the recommended disinfectant before loading.

V. BANANAS FOR HARVEST AND EXPORT

The bananas must be harvested at a hard green state. No banana that is at or past color break (turning yellow) may be harvested and exported. Damaged banana must not be included for export.

VI. SAFEGUARDING

Bananas must be safeguarded from exposure to pest from harvest throughout the entire post-harvest process up to export. Transport of these packed fruits from the packing facilities to the wharf shall be properly secured.

VII. POST-HARVEST PROCESSING

After harvest, all damaged or diseased or rejected fruits must be properly disposed.

All quality bananas shall be washed at the packing facility with a high-pressure water spray, de-handled and washed with chlorinated water. Bananas must be packed into new, clean boxes, crates or other packing materials.

VIII. FINAL BPI PQS INSPECTION

Bananas must be inspected in the Philippines under the direction and supervision of BPI PQS inspectors before exportation. A sample equivalent to 5% of the total number of boxes from each consignment shall be randomly selected by BPI PQS for inspection for quarantine pests. Notwithstanding that even a single pest is found, the Plant Quarantine Officer on duty shall automatically deny issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate (zero tolerance).

IX. ISSUANCE OF PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Each consignment of fruits must be accompanied and covered by a phytosanitary certificate issued by BPI PQS.

X. SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Upon notice by the importing country of any non-compliance and/or violation by the exporter of the conditions of import, the exporter shall be deemed suspended from exporting to the same importing country until the corrective measures imposed by the importing country shall have been implemented to the satisfaction of BPI for purposes of requesting for the lifting of the said suspension.

As for any audit failure on the part of the exporters, traders, growers and/or packing facilities, the following sanctions shall be imposed:

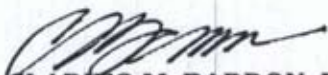
First offense - warning with the obligation to undertake corrective measures within the period prescribed by BPI PQS. Failure to undertake corrective measures within the prescribed period shall merit suspension of accreditation.

Second offense - suspension of accreditation until the corrective measures shall have been implemented within the prescribed period by BPI PQS. Failure to undertake corrective measures within the prescribed period shall merit revocation of accreditation.

Third offense - revocation of accreditation with BPI-PQS and blacklisting

This Memorandum Order takes effect immediately and repeals and/or amends all other issuances inconsistent hereof.

07 June 2012, Quezon City



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Director

Bureau of Plant Industry