



January 7, 2021

Fisheries General Memorandum

Order No. 2021-001

Series of 2021

**SUBJECT : Additional Requirements on Allowing Importation of
Fresh/Chilled/Frozen *P. monodon* and *P. vannamei***

Whereas, Republic Act No. 8550, as amended by RA 10654 stipulates that DA-BFAR is mandated to regulate importation of fishery product for food security in response to the emerging trends in the trade of fish and other aquatic products in domestic and international market.

Whereas, in recognition of the need to ensure food safety on imported fish and fishery aquatic products, RA 10611 provides the need to protect the public from food-borne and water-borne illnesses and unsanitary, unwholesome, misbranded or adulterated foods; enhance industry and consumer confidence in the food regulatory system; and achieve economic growth and development by promoting fair trade practices and sound regulatory foundation for domestic and international trade.

Whereas, under Section 2 of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195, series of 1999 the importation of fresh/chilled/frozen fish, and fishery/aquatic products for processing and canning is allowed provided that all regulatory requirements imposed under said FAO and other related rules and regulations are complied with.

Whereas, in consideration of allowing importation of fresh/chilled/frozen *P. monodon* and *P. vannamei* shrimp in accordance with FAO 195 series of 1999 the following additional requirements shall be imposed for the granting of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) to shrimp importers:

1. Weight should not be more than 20 grams per piece and should be indicated in the SPSIC application;
2. Peeled, deveined and tail-on are allowed for importation. Head-on and/or Shell-on is not allowed for importation;
3. Cooked shrimps are highly recommended;
4. Assurance of no diversion to wet markets through an Affidavit of Undertaking;

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5. Submission of Contract with Institutional Buyers;
6. Upon application of SPSIC, the importer shall submit Health Certificate issued by the Competent Authority from the country of origin indicating the following:
 - (a) Commodity originated from a production area under the official control of the Competent Authority.
 - (b) Are not sourced from a production area with any unusual or substantial shrimp disease outbreaks and not harvested due to disease outbreaks.
 - (c) Free from banned antibiotic residue (Chloramphenicol and Nitrofurans) and within Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for regulated antibiotics.
 - (d) Fit for human consumption.
7. Sample/s may be taken for laboratory analysis for verification as necessary, based on risk;
8. Submission of Pro-forma Invoice to be attached upon application of SPSIC. Original actual/Commercial Invoice shall be submitted to BFAR Quarantine/Border Control Officers upon arrival of the stocks; and
9. Submission of Disposition Report of previous importation upon application of succeeding SPSICs.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked in writing. All other orders and memoranda inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Recommending Approval:


EDUARDO B. GONGONA
BFAR National Director

Approved by:


CHERYL MARIE NATIVIDAD-CABALLERO
Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and
for Fisheries

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