



FISHERIES GENERAL MEMORANDUM

ORDER NO. 003

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE STORAGE AND USE OF PLUG-IN FACILITIES FOR DIRECT TRADING OF IMPORTED FISHERY PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR WET MARKETS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2 of Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 259 and in order to facilitate monitoring of imported fishery products, all imported fish destined for wet markets shall be coursed through and traded at Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) government fish ports and market areas designated by PFDA;

WHEREAS, without prejudice to Section 9 of FAO 259, upon the arrival of frozen fish at the cold storage, the 2nd border inspectors will conduct a thorough inspection to check out the possibility of the following: co-mingling, signs of thawing, violation of the labeling requirement, tampering with the seal, presence of prohibited commodities, misdeclaration of product and/or volume, and technical smuggling;

WHEREAS, considering the importation of other frozen agricultural products (meat and poultry) is in its peak for the upcoming holiday season, capacity of cold storages is on full utilization.

NOW, WHEREFORE, in view of recommendation on exemption from cold storage for imported fishery products intended for wet market and considering the urgency of demand in the domestic fish trade during this closed fishing season, the use of plug-in facility may be permitted during trading if the following conditions are met:

1. Plug-ins shall only be within the area of Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) - Navotas Fish Port Complex (NFPC) market halls designated as trading area for imported fishery products for wet markets;
2. The importer shall inform BFAR and PFDA in writing on the use of plug-in facility stating the reason thereof and the identification number of the container to be plugged in for the purpose of trading;
3. The importer shall ensure that there is an available buyer for the frozen fish stored in plug-in facility;
4. In the event the reason indicated for the use of plug-in is due to the fact that the designated cold storage could no longer accommodate the imported fish, the BFAR inspector shall verify the cold storage to ensure that is in full capacity; and

5. Plug-ins shall only be implemented during the importation period of CNI 35,000 MT and shall be removed from the NFPC after the validity of the said CNI.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

All Orders and/or memorandum inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked.

Issued this 24th day of November 2023 at BFAR Central Office, Quezon City.


ATTY DEMOSTHENES R. ESCOTO
Director

