Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
5 Visayas Avenue, Barangay Vasra, Quezon City 1128
(+632)8528-2240 director@bai.gov.ph www.bai.gov.ph @bai.gov.ph

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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 14
Series of 2025

SUBJECT : SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES TO BAI MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 24, SERIES OF 2022, RE: THE LABORATORY TESTING FOR IMPORTED LIVESTOCK ANIMALS

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 24, Series of 2022, on June 14, 2022, to provide guidance to all Veterinary Quarantine Officers (VQO) or Animal Quarantine Inspectors (AQI) on the schedule, collection and submission of laboratory samples for animals during the 30-day mandatory quarantine period;

WHEREAS, to enhance the efficiency of import procedures and avoid redundant laboratory testing of imported livestock animals, while adhering to strict animal health standards, and in recognition of advancements in diagnostic technologies and international standards;

WHEREAS, molecular diagnostic techniques, such as but not limited to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) are tests assays recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as a highly sensitive and specific confirmatory diagnostic tests for certain animal diseases due to its ability to directly detect the genetic material of the specific pathogen;

WHEREAS, serological assays, such as Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) are primarily screening test that detects antibodies, which may indicate prior exposure to a disease agent or vaccination, rather than active infection which is crucial for disease control programs. Consequently, retesting with serological assays following a confirmed negative result using molecular diagnostic technique may not provide additional diagnostic value and could potentially yield false positive results;

WHEREAS, the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) advocates for the avoidance of unnecessary trade barriers, particularly when reliable pre-export testing has been conducted. Requiring repetitive testing with less definitive assays, such as ELISA or other less sensitive assay, on animals that have already tested negative using a highly specific molecular diagnostic technique prior to export, is inconsistent with international best practices and may constitute a redundant and technically unjustified procedure;

WHEREAS, in light of the scientific validity and reliability of pre-export molecular diagnostic testing as a definitive diagnostic tool, and consistent with WOAH recommendations for a single-test strategy for certain diseases, requiring further testing upon arrival for livestock with documented negative test results using a WOAH recognized accepted molecular diagnostic technique for the diseases stipulated in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Import Clearance is deemed unnecessary;

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ANTONIA C. MAYRAN
OIC, Head Records Unit

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WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018," mandates government agencies to streamline their processes and eliminate redundant procedures to enhance efficiency and reduce regulatory burdens;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, the Bureau of Animal Industry hereby issues the following guidelines:

1. All incoming animal livestock importations for which pre-export testing has been conducted using WOAH-recognized molecular diagnostic techniques for the specific diseases stipulated in the Import Terms and Conditions of the corresponding Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Import Clearance, and for which official documentation of negative molecular diagnostic test results, conducted by a laboratory recognized by the exporting country's competent authority, presented and duly verified, shall be **exempt from further mandatory testing for the same diseases during the prescribed thirty (30)-day mandatory quarantine period upon arrival in the Philippines.**

2. This exemption shall not apply if the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, based on emerging epidemiological situations such as disease outbreaks, risk assessments, or other justifiable reasons, deemed that testing be conducted notwithstanding the pre-export negative molecular test results.

All other provisions not stated in this Memorandum shall still follow the guidelines of BAI MC nos. 24 and 46, Series of 2022 and MC no. 44 s. 2024.

This MC shall take effect immediately after filing of a copy to the Office of the National Administrative Registrar (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

Done this 7th day of MAY 2025.

CHRISTIAN P. DAQUIGAN, DVM
Officer-In-Charge/ Director

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ANTONIA C. MAYRAN
OIC, Head Records Unit

N°25-0504