



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100 Quezon City  
+63(2) 8928-8741 to 64 and +63(2) 8273-2474

## MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 47  
Series of 2025

**SUBJECT : GUIDELINES IN THE IMPORTATION OF THE 55,000 MT OF FROZEN FISH FOR WET MARKETS UNDER CERTIFICATE OF NECESSITY TO IMPORT (CNI) FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025**

In order to provide for an efficient and timely issuance of Sanitary Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) for the CNI 55,000 MT of frozen small pelagic fish for wet markets for the period of October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, these guidelines are hereby issued for the information and guidance of all concerned.

**Section 1. Scope and Application** – This Order covers all importation of frozen small pelagic fish and fishery/aquatic products, the CNI 55,000 MT for the closed fishing season and shall apply supplementary to other applicable rules and regulations issued for the importation of fish and fishery/aquatic products.

**Section 2. Who may import** – Registered importers under FAO 259 can import under the CNI 55,000 MT from October 2025 to December 2025.

For this purpose, a written intent and updated documentary requirements shall be submitted to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, addressed to the Director, through the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division (FIQD), within seven (7) working days from the effectivity of this Order.

Only applications with complete documentary requirements shall be accepted.

**Section 3. Disqualification** - The following importers are disqualified from applying SPSICs under the CNI:

- a) those with pending cases or investigations in relation to violations of any food safety or importation rules and regulations;
- b) those who were not able to secure BOC accreditation and/or clearance at the start of this importation period;
- c) those who were not able to submit complete and updated requirements within seven (7) working days from the date of effectivity of this Order; and
- d) those who were previously registered or endorsed by the PFDA that have not participated in the last three (3) importation activities under FAO 259.



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100 Quezon City  
+63(2) 8928-8741 to 64 and +63(2) 8273-2474

**Section 4. Maximum Importable Volume (MIV) - The Maximum Importable Volume (MIV) under a CNI shall be allocated to registered importers based on the following:**

- a. For registered importers belonging to the commercial fishing sector - 80% of the MIV shall be allocated based on the fish landings of each of the commercial fishing operators with valid Commercial Fishing Vessel and Gear License (CFVGL), has contributed to the production for the last three years, and has actively participated during the last importation period shall qualify to participate in the current importation period.

For the volume of landings outside PFDA ports, only twenty percent (20%) of said volume shall be credited for the computation of the allocation.

- b. For registered fisheries associations/ cooperatives - 20% of the MIV shall be allocated based on their performance taking into consideration the percentage arrival of fish imported from the immediately preceding importation period. Moreover, the BFAR shall assess the financial capacity of the importer under this category. Only fisheries associations and cooperatives affected by the closed fishing season and have the financial capacity to import shall be qualified to participate in this importation period.

**Section 5. Allocation to qualified importers**

- a. For importers belonging to the commercial fishing sector, 80% of the MIV shall be distributed as follows:
  - a.1. An initial volume of 112 MT shall be distributed to qualified importers belonging to the commercial fishing sector.

The BFAR shall secure fish landing data form and be certified by: the PFDA Port Manager, if landings are made in PFDA ports; or by BFAR Regional Director, if the landings are made in ports other than PFDA fish ports.

In the event that the fish are landed in different ports, all landing data shall be consolidated and totaled.

- a.2. The final volume of allocation for each importer shall be based on the sum of the initial allocated volume and their allocated volume based on the percentage share in the total volume of landings.
- b. For the fisheries associations/ cooperatives, the 20% volume shall be allocated based on their percentage arrival from the immediately preceding importation period.



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100 Quezon City  
+63(2) 8928-8741 to 64 and +63(2) 8273-2474

- b.1. An initial volume of 56 MT shall be distributed to all qualified associations/cooperatives.
- b.2. The remaining volume shall be distributed to the importers proportionately based on their percentage share from the total arrivals of imported fish under FAO 259 by association/ cooperatives from the immediately preceding importation period.
- c. For accredited importers recognized under the Kadiwa Ng Pangulo Program (KNP) 2,000 MT shall be allocated.

**Section 6. Issuance of SPSIC** - Issuance of SPSIC shall start on the 15 September 2025 to ensure the timely arrival of the imported fish at the start of the closed fishing season.

**Section 7. Validity of SPSIC** – SPSIC issued under this Order shall be valid for forty-five (45) days from the date of issuance corresponding to the must ship out by date indicated therein. Any unused SPSIC shall be considered automatically cancelled and shall be surrendered to the BFAR.

In no case shall the date of loading at the port of embarkation at the country of origin as specified in the bill of lading be earlier than the date of issuance of the SPSIC, otherwise the consignment shall be subjected to applicable confiscation procedures.

**Section 8. Use of Licensed Cold Storage Warehouse** – Only cold storage warehouse with a valid License to Operate by the BFAR shall be used as storage facility for the fish and fishery/aquatic products imported under this Order.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless revoked in writing. All previous issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby revoked.

Done this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2025.

  
**FRANCISCO P. TI LAUREL JR.**  
Secretary



JA-CO-OSEC-MO20250818-00034

**CERTIFICATE OF NECESSITY TO IMPORT 55,000 MT OF FROZEN  
FISH FOR WET MARKETS UNDER FAO 259**

**WHEREAS**, during the Special Meeting of the NFARMC held on July 25, 2025, the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) presented to the Council the 2025 Fish Supply and Demand Outlook as well as the historical data on importation;

**WHEREAS**, the NFARMC recommended the issuance of a Certificate of Necessity to Import (CNI) with a maximum importable volume of 50,000 MT of frozen fish for wet markets under the Fisheries Administrative Order No. 259, series of 2018;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the recent calamities caused by successive tropical typhoons contributed to the further decline in production, the Department deemed it necessary to import 55,000 MT of frozen fish to ensure a more stable supply of fish in wet markets;

**NOW THEREFORE**, to curb inflation, ensure food security, and diversify food choices, taking into consideration public welfare, the importation of 55,000 MT of approved importable species is hereby certified as necessary.

This certificate of necessity shall be valid from October 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025, unless earlier revoked in writing.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2025.

  
**FRANCISCO P. TIUA LAUREL JR.**  
Secretary

DA-CO-OSEC-MO20250818-00034