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**BPI PLANT QUARANTINE CIRCULAR NO. 03**  
**Series of 1996**

**GUIDELINES ON THE IMPORTATION OF ONIONS**

**A. ONION BULBS FOR PLANTING**

**Application**

Any person/company intending to import onion bulbs shall file an application for Permit to Import (BPI Q Form No. 1) with the Plant Quarantine Service (PQS) prior to importation. The following information shall be provided in the application:

- a. Name, address, and telephone number of the importer;
- b. Common name;
- c. Scientific name;
- d. Quantity (in kg);
- e. Purpose of importation;
- f. Place of origin;
- g. Name and address of exporter;
- h. Means of conveyance;
- i. Port of entry in the Philippines;
- j. Final destination (including sketch of location);
- k. Expected date of arrival.

**Evaluation of Application**

Evaluation and pest risk analysis shall be conducted prior to the issuance of a Permit to Import.

1. BPI-PQS shall conduct pest risk analysis (PRA) based on --

- a. List of onion pests (insects, diseases, nematodes, weeds) which shall be obtained by BPI from the country of origin as applied for by the importer;
- b. Other information gathered from international pest data network, research institutions, scientific publications and personal communication with experts on onions.

Duration of PRA and action on the application shall depend on the availability of information for assessing the risks involved in importing the commodity.

Conditions for entry shall be based on the pest present in the country of origin and other phytosanitary measures.

2. Inspection and evaluation of field/growing area shall involve --
  - a. Inspection of the field by the BPI and Provincial Agriculturist where the onion bulbs shall be planted;
  - b. Certification by the provincial agriculturist for suitability of field for onion growing;
  - c. Seeding rate per hectare;
  - d. Sketch of location of growing area to guide post-entry team in monitoring and observing pests during the growing period.
3. Completed forms shall be assessed and the applicants shall be advised, either to return on a specific date to get their permit or to submit other requirements, for those who have not fully complied. Those who apply through a representative but with incomplete submissions shall be advised in writing or by phone.

#### **Approval of Application for Issuance of Permit to Import**

Upon approval of the application and payment of regulatory fee, the Permit to Import (BPI Q Form No. 2) is issued to the applicant-importer in four copies: The original shall be given to the Permittee for presentation to the Plant Quarantine Officer at the port of entry; the duplicate copy shall be forwarded by the Permittee to the shipper/supplier for submission to the Plant Quarantine of the source country for compliance of the terms and conditions stipulated in the permit, the third copy shall be furnished to the collector of Customs at the port of entry; and the fourth copy shall be filed with the Plant Quarantine Service.

### Application for Inspection upon Arrival

The importer shall file with the Plant Quarantine a duly accomplished Application for Inspection (Form No. 37) at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to arrival of the consignment. The following documents shall be submitted:

1. Phytosanitary Certificate (original FAO/IPPC Model) issued by the Plant Quarantine of the country of origin;
2. Permit to Import (original copy) issued by BPI-PQS;
3. Bill of lading/airway bill;
4. Inward cargo manifest and Bureau of Customs (BOC) entry of declaration (photocopy).

In the absence of a Permit to Import or Phytosanitary Certificate, the consignment shall be held under BOC custody or transferred (upon importer's request) to BPI custody until such documents are presented to the Plant Quarantine Service.

In the absence of both Permit to Import and Phytosanitary Certificate, the consignment shall either be returned to the country of origin or re-exported to another accepting country, or destroyed. All expenses shall be borne by the importer.

### Inspection

The Plant Quarantine Officer shall inspect the onion bulbs by random sampling at 10%. The process shall involve the following steps:

1. Ocular examination during opening of the ship cargo hold or cargo container;
2. Laboratory examination to determine the presence of --
  - a. insects,
  - b. diseases,
  - c. nematodes,
  - d. other pathogens;

3. Any of the following, based on the results of 1 and 2 above --
- a. apply treatment, if treatable, or
  - b. return to the country of origin, or
  - c. re-export to other accepting countries, or
  - d. destroy, or
  - e. release to importer.

In all cases, all expenses shall be borne by the importer.

### **Fees and Charges**

Payment of regulatory fees shall be collected for services rendered as follows:

Import Permit processing fee	-	P10.00/permit
Inspection fee	-	2.00/metric ton

### **Post-entry Quarantine**

Post-entry quarantine monitoring shall be conducted to observe and evaluate any occurrence of pest during the growing period. Infested plants shall either be treated, if treatable; or destroyed, if not treatable. Post-entry quarantine shall be conducted inside the greenhouse or on field or both.

## **B. ONION BULBS FOR CONSUMPTION**

### **Application**

Any person/company intending to import onion bulbs shall file an application for Permit to Import (BPI Q Form No. 1) with the Plant Quarantine Service (PQS) prior to importation. The following information shall be provided in the application:

- a. Name, address, and telephone number of the importer;
- b. Common name;
- c. Scientific name;
- d. Quantity (in kg);
- e. Purpose of importation;
- f. Place of origin;
- g. Name and address of exporter;
- h. Means of conveyance;



- i. Port of entry in the Philippines;
- j. Final destination (including sketch of location);
- k. Expected date of arrival

### **Evaluation of Application**

Evaluation and pest risk analysis shall be conducted prior to the issuance of a Permit to Import.

1. BPI-PQS shall conduct pest risk analysis (PRA) based on --
  - a. List of onion pests (insects, diseases, nematodes, weeds) which shall be obtained by BPI from the country of origin as applied for by the importer;
  - b. Other information gathered from international pest data network, research institutions, scientific publications and personal communication with experts on onions.

Duration of PRA and action on the application shall depend on the availability of information for assessing the risks involved in importing the commodity.

Conditions for entry shall be based on the pest present in the country of origin and other phytosanitary measures.

2. Completed forms shall be assessed and the applicants shall be advised, either to return on a specific date to get their permits or to submit other requirements, for those who have not fully complied. Those who apply through a representative but with incomplete submissions shall be advised in writing or by phone.

### **Approval of Application for Issuance of Permit to Import**

Upon approval of the application and payment of regulatory fee, the Permit to Import (BPI Q Form No. 2) is issued to the applicant-importer in four copies: The original shall be given to the importer for presentation to the Plant Quarantine Officer at the port of entry; the duplicate copy shall be forwarded by the importer to the shipper/supplier for submission to the Plant Quarantine of the source country for compliance of the terms and conditions stipulated in the permit; the third copy shall be furnished to the collector of Customs at the port of entry; and the fourth copy shall be filed with the Plant Quarantine Service.

## Application for Inspection upon Arrival

The importer shall file with the Plant Quarantine a duly accomplished Application for Inspection (Form No. 37) at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to arrival of the consignment. The following documents shall be submitted:

1. Phytosanitary Certificate (original FAO/IPPC Model) issued by the Plant Quarantine of the country of origin;
2. Permit to Import (original copy) issued by BPI-PQS;
3. Bill of lading/airway bill;
4. Inward cargo manifest and Bureau of Customs (BOC) entry of declaration (photocopy).

In the absence of a Permit to Import or Phytosanitary Certificate, the consignment shall be held under BOC custody or transferred (upon importer's request) to BPI custody until such documents are presented to the Plant Quarantine Service.

In the absence of both Permit to Import and Phytosanitary Certificate, the consignment shall either be returned to the country of origin or re-exported to another accepting country, or destroyed. All expenses shall be borne by the importer.

## Inspection

The Plant Quarantine Officer shall inspect the seed potato tubers seeds by random sampling at 10%. The process shall involve the following steps:

1. Ocular examination and random sampling during the BOC inspection or stripping of cargo container at the importer's warehouse;
2. Laboratory examination to determine the presence of --
  - a. insects,
  - b. diseases,
  - c. nematodes,
  - d. other pathogens;

3. Any of the following, based on the results of 1 and 2 above --
- a. apply treatment, if treatable, or
  - b. return to the country of origin, or
  - c. re-export to other accepting countries, or
  - d. destroy, or
  - e. release to importer.
4. Laboratory analysis for pesticide residue level, the result of which should be within the tolerable limit.

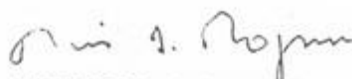
The release of the importation shall be based on the results of 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.

In all cases, all expenses shall be borne by the importer.

#### Fees and Charges

Payment of regulatory fees shall be collected for services rendered as follows:

Import Permit processing fee	-	P	10.00/permit
Inspection fee	-		2.00/metric ton
Pesticide residue analysis	-		1,500.00/sample

  
MERIUS I. ROPEROS  
Director

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