



10 March 2022

(22-2174)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>PHILIPPINES</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Department of Agriculture
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Genetically modified plant and plant products derived from the use of modern biotechnology
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>All trading partners</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specific regions or countries:</b>
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular No. 01, series of 2021: Rules and Regulations for the Research and Development, Handling and Use, Transboundary Movement, Release into the Environment, and Management of Genetically Modified Plant and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Modern Biotechnology. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b> 29 <a href="https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2022/SPS/PHL/22_2022_00_e.pdf">https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2022/SPS/PHL/22_2022_00_e.pdf</a>
<b>6. Description of content:</b> The measure revised DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular (JDC) No.1, Series of 2016, previously notified as G/SPS/N/PHL/373.  Changes include the creation of a Joint Assessment Group (JAG) tasked to evaluate biosafety permit applications and make recommendations on the approval of a biosafety permit application. The Circular reiterates the function of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in the processing of biosafety application permits. In compliance to the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Law, the application procedure for securing a biosafety permit was shortened from 85 working days to 40 working days.  The new JDC provides that application for permits for regulated articles developed in other countries may be filed directly for a Biosafety Permit for Field Trial if BPI determines data set generated in other countries is applicable to the local setting. The JDC also only requires an applicant to publish a copy of the approved Public Information Sheet (PIS) in one newspaper of general circulation and in the official website of the applicant and of the Bureau of Plant Industry.  All biosafety permits for Commercial Propagation and Direct Use for Food and Feed or for Processing to be issued shall be valid unless revoked for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provision of misleading information in the Application;</li><li>2. Discovery of new, relevant, and significant information that the regulated article poses greater risks to human health and the environment compared to its conventional counterpart;</li><li>3. Non-compliance with the conditions of the permit; and</li><li>4. Other grounds that the regulatory agencies may deem necessary to protect human health and the environment.</li></ol>

<p>The JDC includes a provision stating plants produced through conventional breeding of approved genetically modified parental lines and their derived products are not considered novel. Payment of fees is possible to cover the cost of re-evaluation of the decision made on applications. The Circular also provides regulated articles with existing original and renewed Biosafety Permits under the 2016 version of the document for Commercial Propagation and Direct Use shall remain valid unless otherwise revoked under conditions enumerated in Sections 15.J and Sections 18.J.</p>
<p><b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.</p>
<p><b>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>
<p><b>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b></p>
<p><b>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> 11 February 2022</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> 8 March 2022</p>
<p><b>11. Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): Fifteen days after publication.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p><b>12. Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Office of the Director Policy Research Service Department of Agriculture Elliptical Road, Diliman Quezon City Tel: +(632) 926 7439 Fax: +(632) 928 0590 E-mail: spspilipinas@gmail.com Website: <a href="http://spsissuances.da.gov.ph/">http://spsissuances.da.gov.ph/</a></p>

**13. Text(s) available from:  National Notification Authority,  National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:**

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Policy Research Service  
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