

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE PHILIPPINES



Embassy of the Philippines  
**Office of the Agricultural Attaché**  
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16 September 2002

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Sirs:

In connection with the Bioterrorism Act of 2002, enclosed are the comments, in two (2) copies, submitted by the agencies of the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines, namely:

- 1) Bureau of Plant Industry dated September 10, 2002; and
- 2) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources dated September 5, 2002.

This Office will continue to forward comments received from concerned parties in the Philippines.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucio C. Manghinang, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

LUCIO C. MANGHINANG, JR.  
Assistant Agriculture Attache

Enclosures:

As stated.

02N-0278

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Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY**  
 Manila



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 Malate, Manila  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR: International Relations Division  
 Department of Agriculture**

**FROM: BLO UMPAR ADIONG, CESO II  
 Director**

**DATE: 10 September 2002**

**SUBJECT: US BIOTERRORISM ACT**

We would like to forward our comments on the above subject, as follows:

**SEC. 305 Registration of Food Facilities**

**Comment:** Current export of food items to the U.S. varies from fresh to processed products. One of the fresh produce exports to the U.S. is fresh mango. The requirement is for our mango to undergo Vapor Heat Treatment in one of the USDA certified facilities. These certified facilities have submitted all the data and requirements to the USDA including those mentioned in Sec. 305. Aside from the certification requirement, a USDA pre-clearance inspector is being assigned during the export season to supervise the whole process.

Given these facts and given the intention of the ACT, do these facilities certified by USDA need to register to the US FDA?

**SEC. 307 Prior Notice of Imported Food Shipments**

**Comment:** USDA is already properly informed of any shipment of fresh produce coming from the certified facilities in the Philippines. Do the exporters need to again notify the US FDA?



Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103  
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 \* 372-50-42  
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 \* 372-50-61

RECEIVED  
SEP 10 2002  
BY: J-077

*Cervantes*

05 September 2002

FOR : ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEGFREDO R. SERRANO  
Department of Agriculture  
Diliman, Quezon City

FROM : ATTY. ROMEO B. DE SAGUN  
Officer-In-Charge

SUBJECT : Comments Re: US Bioterrorism Act

This refers to the US Bioterrorism Act which you referred to this office for comments.

Relative to this, the following are our comments:

1. This Act has created greater awareness among countries on the importance of safety of food and drugs traded not only in the US but also in the Philippines and in other countries.
2. This Office will circulate this Act to all seafood manufacturers and exporters of fish products to US for their reference and appropriate action and further instill their compliance to USFDA 21 CFR123, the Seafood HACCP Regulations, in order to ensure the safety of seafood products.
3. Although the Act has introduced additional stringent requirements for compliance by all concerned, compliance to the same is necessary.

*Romeo B. De Sagun*  
ATTY. ROMEO B. DE SAGUN  
Officer- In- Charge

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
IAA DIVISION  
RECEIVED

BY: *627*  
DATE: SEP 13 2002  
TIME: 9:06 am

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