

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** May 16, 2022

**Report Number:** RP2022-0028

**Report Name:** Comment Period Open for Draft Policy on Food Establishments and Processed Food

**Country:** Philippines

**Post:** Manila

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report, WTO Notifications

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**Report Highlights:**

On April 26, 2022, the Philippine Department of Health’s Food and Drug Administration notified the World Trade Organization of a “Draft Administrative Order Revised Rules and Regulations on the Licensing of Food Establishments and Registration of Processed Food, and Other Food Products, and for Other Purposes Repealing Administrative Order 2014-0029.” Trading partners and other stakeholders have until June 25, 2022 to submit comments.

On April 26, 2022, the Philippine Department of Health's Food and Drug Administration notified the World Trade Organization of a proposed "***Draft Administrative Order Revised Rules and Regulations on the Licensing of Food Establishments and Registration of Processed Food, and Other Food Products, and for Other Purposes Repealing Administrative Order 2014-0029.***"

Trading partners and other stakeholders have until June 25, 2022, to submit comments. The notification and draft regulation may be downloaded [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

The draft policy, which updates Administrative Order (AO) 2014-29, covers both locally manufactured and imported food products. The proposed AO amends portions of [AO 2014-29](#) to comply with adopted international standards and best practices to meet the objectives of the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000 and the Ease of Doing Business Law.

The proposed regulation would require distributors engaged in online distribution using internet-based platforms to secure the applicable License to Operate (LTO). The Guidelines in the Registration of Processed Food Products require that all product applications shall undergo pre-assessment and a maximum of 6 months shall be given to comply and file for re-application. Beyond this date, the application shall be treated as a new (initial) registration.

The draft AO also reiterates that the use of provisional sticker labels shall only be allowed for 6 months. Philippine importers have long raised concerns about the difficulty in getting U.S. manufacturers to modify product labels in order to comply with [Philippine labeling regulations](#) (AO 2014-30), which prescribe specific formatting for expiry dates or best before dates as well as nutritional facts.

For specific questions or concerns, please contact the Bureau of Philippine Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry at (632) 751-4700, (632) 791-3128, or [bps@dti.gov.ph](mailto:bps@dti.gov.ph).

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.