

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Philippines Issues the Implementing Guidelines of the Pre-Border Technical Verification and Cross-Border Electronic Invoicing of All Imported Commodities

Country: Philippines

Post: Manila

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report, Grain and Feed, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On January 24, 2025, the Philippine Department of Finance announced the issuance of Joint Administrative Order (JAO) No. 001-2025, which provides the implementing guidelines of the pre-border technical verification (PTV) and cross-border electronic invoicing (CEI) of all imported commodities. All containerized agricultural products and non-agricultural products with health and safety issues are subject to PTV. The JAO stipulates that the PTV and CEI shall be implemented thirty days after the Bureau of Customs publishes the Customs Administrative Order, specifying the rules on PTV and CEI. The Philippine Government has not notified the World Trade Organization on the issuance of Administrative Order No. 23 (2024) and JAO No. 001-2025.

On January 24, 2025, the Philippine Department of Finance (DOF) announced the issuance of [Joint Administrative Order \(JAO\) No. 001-2025](#), providing the implementing guidelines for the pre-border technical verification (PTV) and cross-border electronic invoicing (CEI) of all imported commodities. The newly-issued JAO is pursuant to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive under [Administrative Order \(AO\) No. 23](#), which was signed on May 13, 2024. The [DOF](#), which chairs the Committee on PTV and CEI, contends that the JAO is part of the collective efforts to stop smuggling, misdeclaration, and undervaluation, helping the government boost its revenue.

Coverage of PTV and CEI System

Section 4 of the JAO enumerates the imported goods subject to PTV and CEI, as well as products exempted from these procedures. Based on the JAO, all containerized agricultural products, non-agricultural products with health and safety issues, and other goods susceptible to misdeclaration are subject to PTV. These imported goods include poultry meat, pork, fish, dairy, fruits, vegetables, cereals, and processed foods, among others. Appendices 1 and 2 of the JAO provides the detailed lists of covered agricultural and non-agricultural products with corresponding HS Chapters.

Appendices 1 and 2 likewise indicated the mandatory verification requirements for agricultural and non-agricultural products to be exported to the Philippines. For agricultural products regulated by the Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Plant Industry, and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the common mandatory verification requirements include sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance, international health or veterinary or plant protection certificate. These verification requirements are among the documents that Philippine importers must obtain to import food and agricultural products (See also: [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report](#)).

The JAO stipulates that penalties shall be imposed on shipments that fail to comply with the PTV or CEI procedure. According to Section 6 of the JAO, penalties shall be equivalent to 30 percent and 50 percent of the dutiable value of the imported goods for first and second offense, respectively. Meanwhile, an importer's accreditation will be revoked for third offense.

Implementation Period

The JAO indicates that the implementation period of PTV and CEI will commence 30 days after the Bureau of Customs (BOC) issues the Customs Administrative Order (CAO) on the specific procedures for PTV and CEI. Further, the PTV shall be implemented in phases, starting with agricultural goods identified under Appendix 1 of the JAO. The phased implementation of PTV is shown in Table 1. Meanwhile, Table 2 presents the key activities for the CEI system and corresponding implementation period, including the mandatory registration of exporters of goods to the Philippines. All exporters are likewise required to register in the CEI system annually, based on Section 4 of the JAO. As of February 12, 2025, the BOC has yet to publish the CAO providing the specific procedures for PTV and CEI. FAS-Manila will publish a follow up GAIN report concerning the CAO publication.

On January 11, 2025, prior to the issuance of the JAO, the [DOF](#) invited companies to become PTV Accredited Testing, Inspection, and Certification Companies (ATICC). Rule III of the JAO enumerates an ATICC's functions, which include inspecting the goods to be exported to the Philippines, verifying pertinent documents, issuing the Certificate of Conformity or Discrepancy Report to BOC, and

conducting information campaigns on relevant information and processes for stakeholders. The PTV ATICC should also be able to conduct applicable testing, on a case-to-case basis, such as during disease or pest outbreaks in the exporting country. The Committee on PTV and CEI shall approve or disapprove an application for PTV ATTIC within 30 working days from receipt of complete supporting documents.

Table 1. PTV Implementation

Phase	Imported Goods	Commencement
Phase 1	Agricultural goods under Appendix 1	Thirty (30) days after the publication of the CAO providing for the specific procedures for the PTV
Phase 2	Non-agricultural products with health and safety issues under Appendix 2	Sixty (60) days after the publication of the above CAO
Phase 3	Other goods susceptible to misdeclaration to avoid duties and taxes under Appendix 3	Ninety (90) days after the publication of the above CAO

Source: JAO 001-2025

Table 2. CEI System Implementation

Activity	Commencement
Mandatory registration of exporters abroad	Thirty (30) days after the publication of the CAO providing the specific procedures for the CEI
Mandatory use of the CEI System for all imports covered by the BOC Bulk and Break-Bulk Cargo Clearance Enhancement Program	Sixty (60) days after the publication of the above CAO
Mandatory use of the CEI System for all other imports	Ninety (90) days after the publication of the above CAO

Source: JAO 001-2025

The Philippines has not notified the WTO about the implementation of PTV, since the issuance of AO 23 in May 2024.

Responsibilities of Exporters

Additionally, Rule IV of the JAO enumerates the responsibilities of parties, such as the Committee on PTV and CEI, BOC, importers, and exporters. Exporters of goods to the Philippines shall (a) register with the CEI system; (b) create e-invoices for goods exported to the Philippines in the CEI system; (c) ensure that imported goods have undergone PTV, when required; (d) contact the overseas office of the ATICC to arrange the PTV of goods to be exported to the Philippines; and (e) submit necessary pre-border mandatory verification requirements through the CEI system.

U.S. exporters or trade associations can contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service office in Manila (AgManila@usda.gov) with questions on the Philippines' PTV and CEI implementation.

Attachments:

No Attachments.