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Philippines

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Philippines Bans/Phases-Out Nitrofurans 2001

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Report Highlights:

The Secretaries of Agriculture and Health issued a Joint Administrative Order imposing a ban and the gradual phase-out of the use of nitrofurans in food-producing animals. The ban took effect 2 January 2001.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Manila [RP1], RP

Secretary of Agriculture Edgardo J. Angara and Secretary of Health Dr. Alberto R. Romualdez jointly issued Administrative Order no.2 s. 2000 last August 17, 2000 declaring a ban and the phasing-out of the use of veterinary products containing nitrofurans in food-producing animals. According to the order, nitrofurans is used mainly on topical preparations for the eye, ear, mucous membranes and skin; with a limited use in treating bacterial gastro-intestinal and urinary tract disorders. The order also noted that nitrofurans has been recognized by the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. (USFDA) as both a mutagen and a carcinogen since 1991. Because of this, the Subcommittee on Veterinary Drugs of the National Drug Committee of the Department of Health has concluded that nitrofurans should no longer be used as feed additives.

Both Secretaries ordered the following:

1. Nitrofurans should be banned for use in all food-producing animals, including aquaculture regardless of the route of administration.
2. Registration of nitrofurans for use in food-producing animals is withdrawn and future application for similar registrations shall be disapproved.
3. All concerned personnel are instructed to implement the phase-out, no importation shall be allowed after 29 February 2000; manufacturers may continue producing the product until 31 May 2000. All nitrofurans are not allowed for use in food-producing animals after 31 August 2000.

While the joint order was issued last August 2000, it was only published last 16 December 2000. It only became effective 15 days after publication or on 2 January 2000.