NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1. **Notifying Member:** PHILIPPINES
   - If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):

2. **Agency responsible:**
   - MS. PILAR MARILYN M. PAGAYUNAN
   - Director IV
   - Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR)
   - Food and Drug Administration
   - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
   - **Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:**
   - MS. RONITA YASOÑA
   - Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR)
   - Food and Drug Administration
   - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
   - Email: mreyasona@fda.gov.ph; irtcaban@fda.gov.ph

3. **Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other:**

4. **Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):**
   - Processed Food Products; PREPARATIONS OF MEAT, OF FISH OR OF CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS OR OTHER AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES (HS 16); SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY (HS 17); COCOA AND COCOA PREPARATIONS (HS 18); PREPARATIONS OF VEGETABLES, FRUIT, NUTS OR OTHER PARTS OF PLANTS (HS 20); MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PREPARATIONS (HS 21); BEVERAGES, SPIRITS AND VINEGAR (HS 22)

5. **Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:**
   - Updated Guidelines for the Assessment of Microbiological Quality of Processed Food Products Repealing FDA Circular No 2013-010 "Revised Guidelines for the Assessment of Microbiological Quality of Processed Foods" (24 page(s), in English)

6. **Description of content:**
   - The draft Circular aims to provide updated guidelines for the assessment of microbiological quality of certain processed food products and help ensure that food manufacturers comply with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This Circular covers food establishments engaged in the manufacture, trade, repacking, wholesale, importation and distribution of processed food products.

7. **Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:**
   - Consumer information, labelling; Prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection; Protection of human health or safety; Quality requirements
8. **Relevant documents:**
   - Republic Act 10611 - Food Safety Act of 2013
   - Republic Act 9711 - Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009

9. **Proposed date of adoption:** 15 days after filing at the UP Law Center and publication in newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy hereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register.

   **Proposed date of entry into force:** 15 days after filing at the UP Law Center and publication in newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy hereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register.

10. **Final date for comments:** 60 days from notification

11. **Texts available from:** National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:

    Mr. Neil P. Catajay  
    Director  
    Bureau of Philippine Standards  
    Department of Trade and Industry  
    3F Trade and Industry Building  
    361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue  
    Makati City  
    Philippines  
    1200  
    (632) 751 4700; (632) 7913128  
    bps@dti.gov.ph  
    http://www.bps.dti.gov.ph  
    Head of Organization  

    https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/PHL/21_3930_00_e.pdf