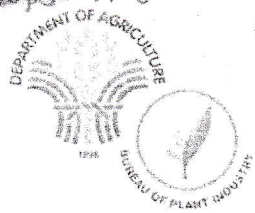
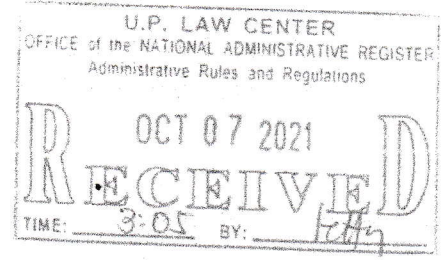


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BPI Administrative Order
No. 04
Series of 2021

SUBJECT: Protocol for the Conduct of Risk Categorization for Primary Production, Processing, Storage, Transport and Distribution of Plant Food

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 10611 also known as *Food Safety Act of 2013* and its implementing rules and regulations, this Order is hereby issued.

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Definition of Terms.* The terms as defined in the *Definition of Terms* of JDA-DOH AO 2015-0007 and DA DC No. 6, s. 2020 are hereby adopted. For the purpose of this Order, the following definitions are used, as follow:

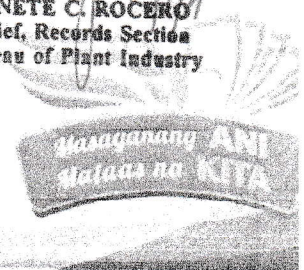
1. *Distribution* refers to any pre-retail distribution activities by food businesses, including wholesalers, wholesale storage and multipurpose wholesalers.
2. *Hazard* refers to a biological, chemical or physical agent in a plant food, or a condition of food, with the potential to cause an adverse health effect;
3. *Primary Production* refer to any activities by the food businesses at the primary production stage by the primary producers producing raw food for consumption for processing, storage or distribution to local and international market;
4. *Processing* are any activities by the food businesses in the secondary production stage participating in minimal-processing (e.g. slicing, dicing, chilling, freezing, grinding, shredding, peeling, milling) and/or packing of plant food, e.g. rice milling facility, freezing facility, packing facilities, etc.). Food processes that convert the primary foods to flour, for example, will also be included in this category. This also covers on-farm processing facilities selling directly to consumers;

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5. *Retailers* refers to food businesses participating in food retail activity that sell food to the final consumer such as supermarkets and market stalls commonly found in traditional markets;
6. *Serious or severe* refers to the condition wherein death, permanent damage, birth defects or hospitalization may result due to hazards exposure/consumption. Life-threatening in the context of a serious adverse effect refers to an event in which the patient was at the risk of death at the time of an event, it does not refer to an event which hypothetically might have caused death if it were more severe;
7. *Service Sector* includes all form of catering, including take-away food stalls and catering facilities in firms, school canteens, restaurants and public institutions;
8. *Storage* refers to any activities of food businesses storing plant food prior to processing or distribution to commerce; and,
9. *Transport* refers to any activities of food businesses conveying plant food for storage, processing or distribution for commerce.

Section 2. *Scope*. This Order shall cover the risk categorization for primary production, processing, storage, transport and distribution to commerce of plant food.

Section 3. *Non-coverage*. FBOs engaged in the plant food business as Retailers and Service Sectors are not covered under this Order pursuant to Section 15 of the *Food Safety Act* and Rule 15c.1 of its IRR. The mandate lies with the LGUs which has responsibility guided by national regulations for the implementation of safety requirements in food businesses such as wet markets, supermarkets, school canteens, restaurants, catering establishments, water refilling stations including street food sale and ambulant vendors.

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ARTICLE II
BASIS FOR RISK CATEGORIZATION

Section 4. The information provided by the risk profiles of plant food and food business operators generated by the BPI-PPSSD shall be the basis for the conduct of risk categorization.

ARTICLE III
RISK CATEGORIZATION FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Section 5. *Objectives.* Risk categorization at primary production shall be developed for purposes of prioritization of inspections of primary producers and frequency of sampling for laboratory analysis.

Section 6. *Criteria.* The following criteria shall be the basis for the risk categorization.

1. Potential risks in plant food
 - a. *High Risk* shall refer to plant food which contains pathogenic micro-organisms and will support the formation of toxins or the growth of pathogenic microorganisms and foods that may contain harmful chemicals;
 - b. *Medium Risk* shall refer to plant food which contains pathogenic microorganism but will not normally support growth;
 - c. *Low Risk* shall refer to plant food which is unlikely to contain pathogenic microorganism, toxin, heavy metals and/or pesticide residues.
2. Practices implemented by the Primary Producer
 - a. *High Risk* shall refer to practices which introduce harmful chemicals and pathogenic microorganisms, and will support the formation of toxins or the growth of pathogenic microorganisms in plant food;
 - b. *Low Risk* shall refer to practices which are unlikely to introduce harmful chemicals and pathogenic microorganisms, and will not support the formation of toxins or the growth of pathogenic microorganisms in plant food.
3. Primary Producer Control
 - a. *High Risk* shall refer to primary producers with less significant; unknown food controls; with a history of non-compliance with its food safety management system; or, violations of food safety rules and regulations.

- b. *Low Risk* shall refer to primary producers with significant food controls; and, no history of non-compliance with its food safety management system or violations of food safety rules and regulations.

Section 7. *Conduct of Risk Categorization.* The categorization shall be conducted through the Primary Production Risk Categorization Scoring Matrix (Table 1). The score shall be determined based on the criteria in Section 6 and the indicators in the following matrix:

Table 1. Primary Production Risk Categorization Scoring Matrix.

Potential Risks in Plant Food		Practices		Primary Producer Control	
Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
High Risk	2	High Risk	2	High Risk	2
Medium Risk	1	Low Risk	0	Low Risk	0
Low Risk	0				

Section 8. *Determining the Risk Management Action.* The selection of risk management action shall be based on the combined score from the potential risks in food, practices implemented by the primary producer and primary producer control as indicated in the following matrix:

Table 2. Risk Management Action Selection Matrix

Total Score	Inspection Priority	Frequency of Inspection (every x months)		
		Starting Point	Minimum	Maximum
≥4	Priority 1	6	3	9
3	Priority 2	6	3	9
2	Priority 3	9	6	12
≤1	Priority 4	12	9	18

**ARTICLE III
RISK CATEGORIZATION FOR PROCESSING, STORAGE,
TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION**

Section 9. *Objectives.* Risk categorization for FBOs engaged in processing, storage, transport and distribution of plant food shall be conducted to prioritize inspections and frequency of sampling for laboratory analysis.

Section 10. *Criteria.* The following criteria shall be the basis for the risk categorization.

2. Primary Producer
 - a. *High Risk* shall refer to primary producers with less significant; unknown food controls; with a history of non-compliance with its food safety management system; or, violations of food safety rules and regulations.
 - b. *Low Risk* shall refer to primary producers with significant food controls; and, no history of non-compliance with its food safety management system or violations of food safety rules and regulations.
3. Practices implemented by Food Business Operators other than primary producers (refer to Section 6)
4. Food Business Operators other than primary producers (refer to Section 6)

Section 11. *Conduct of Risk Categorization.* The categorization shall be conducted through the Other FBOs Risk Categorization Scoring Matrix (Table 3). The score shall be determined based on the criteria in Section 6 and the indicators in the following matrix:

Table 3. Other FBOs Risk Categorization Scoring Matrix

Primary Producer		Practices		Food Business Operator's Control	
Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
High Risk	2	High Risk	2	High Risk	2
Low Risk	0	Low Risk	0	Low Risk	0

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Section 12. *Determining the Risk Management Action.* The selection of risk management action shall be based on the combined score from the primary producer control, practices implemented by the FBO, and FBOs control as indicated in the following matrix:

Table 4. Risk Management Action Selection Matrix

Total Score	Inspection Priority	Frequency of Inspection (every x months)		
		Starting Point	Minimum	Maximum
≥ 4	Priority 1	6	3	9
3	Priority 2	6	3	9
2	Priority 3	9	6	12
≤ 1	Priority 4	12	9	18

ARTICLE IV NON-COMPLIANCE TO RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Section 13. If, upon inspection and/or laboratory analysis of samples collected, the FBO does not comply or has a record of non-compliance and/or violations with food safety set rules and regulations, the non-compliance and/or violations shall be recorded in the risk profile of the FBO and the FBO shall be re-categorized accordingly upon compliance to the corrective measures.

ARTICLE V EFFECTIVITY

Section 16. *Effectivity.* This Order shall take effect after registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register, UP Law Center.


GEORGE Y. CULASTE, PhD.
 Director

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