



21 May 2003

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.9
SERIES OF 2003**

**Subject: SCHEDULE OF FEES PURSUANT TO SECTION 17, DA AO 8,
SERIES OF 2002 AND RELATED GUIDELINES**

Upon the recommendation of the Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and pursuant to Section 17 of DA AO 8 otherwise known as “**Rules and Regulations on the Importation and Release into the Environment, Plants and Plant Products Derived from Use of Modern Biotechnology**”, this Department hereby issues the following schedule of fees relating to application for permits to import and release into the environment plant and plant products derived from the use of modern biotechnology and other related guidelines.

Section 1. Payment of Filing Fee - Upon submission of completed application forms, the applicant shall pay a non refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1000.00) for the following:

- a. Permit for Field Testing of Regulated Articles,
- b. Permit for Propagation of Regulated Articles,
- c. Permit for Importation of Regulated Articles for Direct Use as Food or Feed, or for Processing, and
- d. Petition for Delisting

Request for certified true copy of the permit and documents submitted to BPI shall be charged the amount of Twenty Pesos (PhP 20.00) per page.

Section 2. Additional Costs Related to Risk Assessment - Aside from the procedural review, the application requires the conduct of scientific and technical risk assessment. This process would entail substantial resources that are not currently covered by the regular budget of the government. Thus, the applicant shall shoulder the costs relative to substantive review of the application. The amount that will cover such review shall be termed as the Risk Assessment Review Cost (RARC).

RARC is premised on the need to augment limited government resources in the conduct of a comprehensive risk assessment review. It should be understood that the payment of the RARC does not guarantee the issuance of a Permit to

the applicant. The financial support is mainly intended to facilitate the review of the application.

a) Mechanics for the RARC

Upon the satisfactory procedural review of the application, the BPI shall meet with the applicant to agree on the scope of work and the cost of the risk assessment review. A Risk Assessment Review Work and Financial Plan shall be mutually formulated to include the timetable, and the corresponding budget and logistical requirements to attain the projected completion date. The agreements shall be expressly indicated in a Memorandum of Agreement between the BPI and the applicant.

The applicant shall remit the RARC to the BPI, upon the execution of the MOA. The BPI shall issue an official receipt to acknowledge the payment of the RARC and deposit the amount in its GENERAL FUND TRUST ACCOUNT. BPI shall disburse the amount in accordance with the mutually agreed Risk Assessment Review Work and Financial Plan and consistent with existing rules and regulations.

b) Guidelines for Utilization of Funds for RARC

Expenses attendant to the review that can be charged against RARC shall include but not limited to the following:

Service Contract for Members of STRP - The STRP members shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with BPI to include the scope of work, timeline(s), deliverable(s), the cost of the scientific and substantive review.

Honoraria of Resource Persons - Services of resource persons both from the organic personnel of related DA agencies or from other agencies external to DA maybe engaged, should their expertise be required to facilitate the review. The cost of the services of resource persons is Four Hundred Pesos (400.00) per supporting scientific paper submitted by the applicant or the corresponding honoraria subject to pertinent rules and regulations.

Expenses for Site Visits - Only members of STRP, Non-DA Resource Persons, and BPI, BAI, FPA, and BAFPS resource persons (at most two [2] members per agency and per trip) are entitled to charge travel expenses to the RARC. These expenses include round trip transport cost, meals and accommodation at prescribed government rates.

Logistical and administrative support - These expenses include meeting costs, documentation, communication, transportation, and administrative costs necessary for the conduct of a comprehensive risk assessment review.

Section 3. **Monitoring Compliance with Permit Conditions** - The government shall, from time to time, monitor permittee's compliance with the conditions set in the permit. The permittee and BPI shall mutually agree on the scope of work to be undertaken with respect to monitoring. The applicant shall shoulder the actual cost of monitoring, i.e. round trip transport cost using the most economical and practical route, per diems to cover food and accommodation, for a maximum of three (3) days per trip inclusive of travel time unless circumstances warrant otherwise. Under no conditions should such per diems or travel/transportation allowances exceed twice of the prescribed government rates for such travel(s) or the permittee's standard/existing rates for such purposes as may be agreed upon by the BPI and the permittee.

This Memorandum Circular takes effect immediately and repeals / amends all other issuances inconsistent hereof.

21 May 2003 , Quezon City

(signed)

LUIS P. LORENZO, Jr.
Secretary