



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture

## SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION

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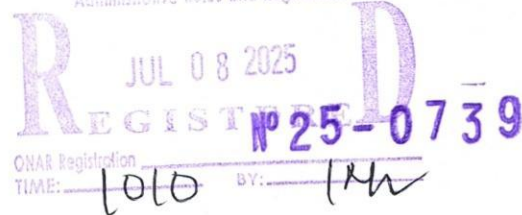
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June 16, 2025

**SUGAR ORDER NO. 6**  
Series of 2024-2025



**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE MOVEMENT OF SUGARCANE PLANTS, PLANTING MATERIALS, AND NEW VARIETIES**

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 18 dated 28 May 1986 declares that the sugar industry is a significant component of the socio-economic and political structure of the country;

**WHEREAS**, it is the declared policy of the State to promote the competitiveness of the sugarcane industry, maximize the utilization of sugarcane resources, and improve the income of farmers and farm workers through improved productivity, product diversification, job generation, and increased efficiency of sugar mills;

**WHEREAS**, under Republic Act 10659, otherwise known as the Sugarcane Industry Development Act of 2015 (SIDA Law), the SRA is directed to intensify research on high-yielding or flood-resistant sugarcane varieties, pest control or prevention, the latest farming, milling, refining, and biomass co-generation technologies, soil analysis and fertility mapping of sugarcane areas, weather monitoring, and climate change adaptation measures;

**WHEREAS**, the Red-striped Soft Scale Insect (RSSI), *Pulvinaria tenuivalvata* (Newstead) is a sap-sucking insect that attacks sugarcane leaves and excretes large amounts of honeydew which encourages the growth of sooty mold fungus, leading to a blackened leaf surface and eventual leaf drop due to sap depletion, reducing sugar content by approximately 50%;

**WHEREAS**, the RSSI, which was a non-existent pest in the Philippines before, was initially discovered in late 2022 as an unidentified pest in the municipalities of Bacolor, Floridablanca, and Porac in Pampanga; Capas in Tarlac; Alitagtag, Balayan, Calaca, and Cuenca in Batangas; and Calamba City in Laguna, all in Central and Southern Luzon; and it was later officially identified as RSSI in 2023, with the initial source determined to have originated outside of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the now-identified RSSI pest was controlled and contained in Luzon from 2023 to 2025;

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**WHEREAS**, on May 2025, there were verified reports of the RSSI infestation in sugarcane areas in North Negros Occidental, and by June 2025, the RSSI infestation had already spread in other localities in Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, and Panay, posing a very serious threat to the livelihood of those who depend thereon, considering that the region accounts for 65% of the country's sugar production;

**WHEREAS**, if the spread of this pest is not contained, it may wipe out the sugarcane industry not just in Luzon, Negros, and Panay but eventually in the rest of the country;

**WHEREAS**, to augment the necessary and appropriate emergency measures and methodologies in the interventions and treatment of infested sugarcane plants and planting materials, which may include mechanical, chemical, and biological measures, there is a need to put in place an immediate and comprehensive system to regulate the movement of cane points, sugarcane, plantlets, new varieties and research plants to effectively control, manage, and eventually eradicate the RSSI and other pests that could cause massive infestation in the sugarcane plantations across the country;

**WHEREAS**, as a risk reduction and management measure for the sugarcane industry during the declaration of infestation and spread of deadly/destructive diseases, there is a need to place all sugarcane-producing areas under quarantine and establish checkpoints and quarantine stations to prevent the transport of unprocessed/untreated sugarcane plants and planting materials to other areas and prevent the further spread of pests and diseases ensuring the protection of the livelihood of sugarcane farmers and the preservation of the Philippine sugarcane industry,

**WHEREAS**, to also ensure that no new biological threats to the national sugarcane production will be allowed to enter the Philippines and/or easily spread across sugarcane-producing areas in the future, the SRA, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Plant Industry, and other relevant agencies of government, must establish, implement, and enforce specific and more effective bio-security measures especially now that there is a need for new, more productive, more climatic and environmentally resilient sugarcane varieties;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the power vested in the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), it is hereby ordered that:

**Section 1. PROHIBITION TO TRANSPORT FROM AREAS UNDER QUARANTINE DUE TO PEST INFESTATION OR DEADLY/DESTRUCTIVE DISEASES.** No sugarcane plants or planting materials shall be transported outside of barangays, municipalities or provinces duly declared under quarantine due to insect infestation or deadly/destructive diseases, whether for commercial or research purposes, except when supported by a Permit to Transport duly issued by the SRA providing, among others, that appropriate preventive measures, such as washing and spraying of proper chemicals, have been instituted.



**Section 2. INTERISLAND TRANSPORT.** All interisland transport of sugarcane plants and planting materials should have prior permit from the SRA with or without a declaration of pest infestation/diseases. This applies to materials including, but not limited to:

1. Cane points
2. Sugarcane plantlets and tissue-cultured materials
3. New or existing genetic varieties
4. Specimens for research and development

**Section 3. PROHIBITION TO IMPORT NEW SUGARCANE VARIETIES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.** The importation of new sugarcane varieties by any private or public entity is prohibited without prior written approval and monitoring from the SRA.

**Section 4. PROHIBITION TO RELEASE NEW SUGARCANE VARIETIES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.** The release of any new sugarcane variety by any private or public entity is prohibited without prior written approval and monitoring from the SRA.

**Section 5. AUTHORITY TO TRANSPORT.** The SRA shall have the exclusive authority to grant Permits to Transport for the shipment or movement of sugarcane plants and planting materials from and to any points of the country.

**Section 6. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES.** SRA shall issue a Memorandum Circular within five (5) days from the effectivity of this Sugar Order enumerating the requirements and outlining the procedure for the application of the Permit to Transport.

The application for 'Permit to Transport' may be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture (DA), thru the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), for further evaluation and/or issuance of comment/recommendation/conformity.

**Section 7. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.** Non-compliance with the provisions of this Sugar Order shall be subject to penalties and fines as follows:

1. First offense - confiscation of the illegally transported materials;
2. Second offense - confiscation of the illegally transported materials, and payment by the violator of a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00); and
3. Third and subsequent offenses - confiscation of the illegally transported materials, and payment by the violator of a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000).

**Section 8. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All provisions of Sugar Orders, Circular Letters, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Sugar Order are hereby amended, modified, or revoked accordingly.

**Section 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any provision of this Sugar Order is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** This Sugar Order shall take effect three (3) days after the date of its filing with the Office of the National Registrar, UP Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

APPROVED BY:



**SEC. FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**  
SRA Board Chairperson and DA Secretary



**PABLO LUIS S. AZCONA**  
Administrator and CEO

**ENGR. ROGER V. NAVARRO**  
Alternate Ex-Officio Chairperson



**MA. MITZI V. MANGWAG**  
Board Member  
Millers' Representative



**DAVID ANDREW L. SANSON**  
Board Member  
Planters' Representative