

Philippines

Overview

The Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) is the Philippines' National Standards Body (NSB). A governmental agency under the Department Trade and Industry (DTI), it develops, promulgates, implements, and promotes standardization activities as mandated by Republic Act 4109 (Charter of BPS) and the Consumer Act of the Philippines (Republic Act 7394) and including Executive Order No. 133, Series of 1987 (Reorganizing the Department of Trade and Industry, Its Attached Agencies, and for Other Purposes) as amended by Executive Order No. 242, Series of 1987 (amending Executive Order No. 133, Series of 1987, Entitled "Reorganizing the Department of Trade and Industry, Its Attached Agencies and for Other Purposes"), and Executive Order No. 292, Series of 1987 (The Administrative Code of the Philippines).

The BPS formulates Philippine National Standards (PNS) or adopts relevant international or foreign standards to help industries produce quality products or services and raise productivity. These standards not only protect the consumers but also facilitate trade in the global market. Some of these include the family of international standards on Quality Management System (ISO 9000), Environmental Management System (ISO 14000), including other emerging management systems applicable to food, information security, and Quality System for Calibration and Testing Laboratories (ISO 17025) that apply to both the manufacturing and services sectors.

To further provide quality service to its clients, the BPS obtained its ISO 9001 certification from the Certification International Philippines, Inc. (CIPI) for the scope of development and promulgation of standards and product certification.

65

Product Testing

Along with other BPS recognized and DTI-accredited testing laboratories, BPS likewise offers its clients third-party testing of products through its BPS Testing Center to verify conformity to PNS requirements that support the Philippine Standard (PS) and Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) product certification schemes.

The BPS Testing Center is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 as attested by the Singapore Accreditation Council.

Standards Enforcement

To ensure that all stakeholders covered by BPS regulations conform to the standard requirements, the BPS in collaboration with the DTI Regional Operations and Development Group (DTI-RODG) actively carry out activities to strengthen the DTI's monitoring and enforcement program. Through nationwide market monitoring activities performed by the DTI's regional and provincial offices, the BPS has a tight watch of the system and products of manufacturers, importers, distributors, dealers and retailers of mandatory products.

Standards Promotion

To strengthen its information program on standards and standardization

activities, the BPS, together with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the private sector, conducts the Standards Blitz for elementary (grades 5 and 6), high school and college students. In this program, standards are introduced through visits to the BPS Testing Center and DTI-accredited laboratories to witness how certain products are tested for safety and performance based on the Philippine National Standards (PNS).

The BPS, DepEd and private sector have ready teacher-support materials (TSMs) on standards for formal and non-formal education students and learners. High schools use these TSMs in their Chemistry, *Araling Panlipunan* (Social Studies), Science and Technology, and Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) subjects. Also available are modules on standards for out-of-school youth or mobile learners in the secondary level of the DepEd alternative system.

BPS has embarked on an aggressive consumer education program called Konsyumer Atbp (KATBP). This DTI “*teleradyo*” program airs simultaneously over ABS CBN’s DZMM 630 AM Radio, Skycable Channel 26, and The Filipino Channel (TFC) every Saturday from 10:30 in the morning to 12:00 noon. It aims to increase consumer awareness and understanding, particularly among the youth, regarding standards, prices, monitoring and enforcement activities, product quality and safety characteristics, consumer tips, and trade and industry news.

Other BPS Support Services

Moreover, the BPS provides the following services: Technical Help to Exporters; Standards Data Center; Sales and Publication; and Trainings/Seminars: Basic 66 information on the BPS services is available at the BPS Standards and Conformance Portal (<http://www.bps.dti.gov.ph>) and queries can be sent to bps@dti.gov.ph.

The BPS operates a National Registration Scheme for Quality Auditors (NRSQA) for the registration of provisional and lead auditors engaged in the assessment of quality systems for ISO 9000 certification, product standards certification, laboratory accreditation, and accreditation of certifying bodies.

International and National Cooperation

To achieve its objectives in standardization and product certification, the BPS has established networks with local government agencies, regional standardization bodies, and specialist regional bodies. This includes the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electro technical Commission (IEC), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), among others.

It also supports the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). As such, BPS has been designated as the notification authority and focal enquiry point on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. BPS’ involvement with the said bodies/organizations aims to strengthen the country’s technical infrastructure for its conformity assessment, testing and calibration, and standards information services.

The BPS signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on conformity assessment with several Asian conformity assessment bodies.

BPS as WTO/TBT Inquiry Point

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other member countries. The BPS has its WTO/TBT Alert through the BPS URL address – www.bps.dti.gov.ph – where a manufacturer, importer, exporter or distributor can review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect their access to international markets.

Standards Organizations

Organizations that cooperate with BPS in the development of Philippine National Standards:

Mr. Christopher Chan
President
Philippine Rubber Industries Association
C/o Mitsuboshi Belting Phils. Corp.
Brgy. Lawang Bato
Valenzuela City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 445-4105 to 10
Fax: (632) 983-9109; 445-4109
Email: chrischan@pacific.net.ph
Website: <http://www.philippinerubber.com.ph/>

Engr. Jules Alcantara
National President
Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc.
41 Monte de Piedad St., Cubao
Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 721-6442
Fax: (632) 410-1899

Engr. Danilo G. Duya
President
Philippine Society of Ventilating A/C and Refrigerating Engineers (PSVARE)
Unit 924 Cityland Shaw Tower
Corner St. Francis St.
Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 638-6539
Fax: (632) 910-2721
E-mail: psvare@pltdsl.net

Hon. Jose Rene Almendras
Secretary
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Merritt Rd. Fort Bonifacio
Taguig City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 840-2008
Fax: (632) 812-6194

E-mail: doe_osec@yahoo.com

Mr. Antonio C. Olizon
President
Philippine Wood Producers Association
Room 305, LTA Building
118 Perea St., Legaspi Village
Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 817-6751; 817-6885
Fax: (632) 817-6884
E-mail: philwood@globelines.com.ph

Mr. Roberto Batungbacal
President
Samahan Sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK)
(Chemical Industries Association of the Philippines)
Unit 2201 Cityland 10 Tower
H.V. Dela Costa St. corner Ayala Avenue
Makati City, Philippines
Tel/Fax: (632) 814-0970
E-mail: spik.secretariat@gmail.com

Mr. Joseph Jocson
President
Packaging Institute of the Philippines
Unit 725, Cityland Shaw Tower
St. Francis Ave. corner Shaw Blvd.
Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 687-3051
Fax: (632) 687-2018
E-mail: secretariat@phil-packaging.org

Mr. Angelito T. Banayo
Administrator
National Food Authority
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg.
North Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 928-1634; 926-6493
Fax: (632) 928-1634

Mr. Gregorio A. Coronel
President
Philippine Welding Society (PWS)
Gate 2 TESDA, NCR Complex
East Service Road, South Super Highway
Taguig City, Philippines
Tel/Fax: (632) 894-4609
E-mail: philwedsoc@yahoo.com
Website: www.philippineweldingsociety.org

Ms. Sonia T. Valdeavilla
Officer in Charge
Philippine Overseas Construction Board
5/F Executive Bldg. Center
369 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave.
Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 896-1831
Fax: (632) 896-4569

Ms. Sonia T. Valdeavilla
Officer in Charge
Philippine Domestic Construction Board
5/F Executive Bldg. Center
369 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave.
Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 896-1831
Fax: (632) 896-4569

Engr. Jesus L. Motoomull
Director
Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines
5/F Executive Bldg. Center
369 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave.
Makati City, Philippines
Tel/Fax: (632) 896-4569

Engr. Arthur Lucas Cruz
Director
Metals Industry Research and Development Center
MIRDC Compound, Bicutan
Taguig City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 837-0431
Fax: (632) 837-0613

Ms. Nazarita Tacandong
Director
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 809-4390 local 2182 to 2184
Fax: (632) 807-0751; 807-8511; 842-5606
E-mail: nttacandong@yahoo.com

Dr. Carlos C. Tomoboc
Director
Philippine Textile Research Institute
Department of Science and Technology
Bicutan, Taguig City, Philippines
Tel/Fax: (632) 837-1325
E-mail: carlos@dost.gov.ph

NIST Notify U.S. Service

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL: <http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>

Conformity Assessment

The BPS is in close coordination with the Philippine Accreditation Office (PAO), also a DTI office that supports the product certification schemes.

The PAO accredits testing and/or calibration laboratories under its Laboratory Accreditation Scheme conformity assessment bodies, medical laboratories, and inspection bodies. The PAO maintains its signatory status to the International Accreditation Forum/ Pacific Accreditation Cooperation Multilateral Agreement 70 (IAF/PAC MLA) and the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation-Mutual Recognition Agreement (APLAC-MRA).

Product Certification

The BPS implements a mandatory product certification for various building and construction, electrical and electronics, chemical and consumer products under its Product Certification Scheme. Products under the BPS list of PNS 'for mandatory certification' cannot be sold or distributed in the Philippine market without the necessary Philippine Standard (PS) or Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) mark.

1. Under the PS Certification Scheme (Department Administrative Order No. 4:2008), a manufacturer obtains a license to use the Philippine Standard (PS) Quality and/or Safety Certification Mark for its capability to consistently manufacture products in accordance with specific PNS or an internationally accepted foreign standard. Conformity to standards is determined on the basis of satisfactory results of the assessment of manufacturer's production and quality assurance processes and its product.
2. Under the ICC certification Scheme (Department Administrative Order No. 5:2008), an importer obtains an ICC certificate after an import shipment has been evaluated by BPS as meeting the requirements of the applicable PNS. The BPS through the DTI Regional and Provincial Offices, subjects import shipments to sampling, testing, and evaluation based on the requirements of specific PNS. DAO 05 specifies that importers are offered four (4) options for their applications to be processed which include (1) an application without a Product Test Report but with a Quality Management System (QMS) based on the ISO 9001:2000 and its future amendments; (2) an application with a Product Test Report and with a QMS based on the ISO 9001:2000 and its future amendments; (3) an application without a Product Test Report and without a QMS; (4) an application with the Philippine Standard (PS) license from a foreign supplier.

There are 85 listed PNS measures that require mandatory certification.

Philippine Accreditation Office Introduction

The Philippine Accreditation Office (PAO) is a spin-off from the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) as a result of the joint resolution of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Based on ISO/IEC 17011:2004, the international standard for operation of accreditation bodies, accreditation bodies are no longer allowed to also do certification, testing and other services that it accredits. It is viewed as conflict of interest.

Accreditation bodies not conforming to ISO/IEC 17011 will not be accepted into the mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

By virtue of Executive Order 124 (Ensuring Effective Operational Structural Arrangements in the Department of Trade and Industry), the then DTI Secretary issued Department Administrative Order No. 4:2006 which transferred the accreditation function of the BPS to the PAO. The PAO was established in 11 April 2006 to carry out independent accreditation of conformity assessment bodies in the Philippines. The PAO operates in accordance with relevant international standards and requirements.

Conformity Assessment

The PAO operates the following accreditation schemes:

- a. Testing and Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)
- b. Medical Testing Laboratories (ISO 15189)
- c. Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)
- d. Quality Management Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17021)
- e. Environmental Management Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17021)
- f. Food Safety Management System Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/TC22003)
- g. Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC Guide 65)
- h. Personnel Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17024)
- i. Information Security Management System (ISO/IEC 27006)
- j. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Certification Bodies – CODEX
- k. Certification Authorities for Electronic Signatures

World-wide Recognition and International Acceptance

The PAO is a signatory/member to the Mutual/Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MRAs/MLAs) of: Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) for Quality Management System (QMS) and Environment Management System (EMS); International Accreditation Forum (IAF); Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) for testing and calibration (ISO 17025); and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

Contact

Asst. Director Jaime Lasaro L. Olmos
Officer-in-Charge
3/F Trade and Industry Bldg.
361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. (632) 751-3235
FAX (632) 751-3262

Email: jaimeolmos@dti.gov.ph
anoga2000@yahoo.com

Management System Accreditation (MSA)

The MSA handles the accreditation of certification bodies offering certification of quality management system, environment management system, food safety management system, and product, among others.

Contact:

Ms. Nanita F. Fidelino
Head, Management System Accreditation
Tel. (632) 751-3128
FAX (632) 751-3262
Email: pao@dti.gov.ph

Laboratory Accreditation

The Laboratory Accreditation (LA) is in charge of accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), medical laboratories (ISO 15189), and inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020).

Contact:

Ms. Perla F. Baje
Head, Laboratory Accreditation
Tel. (632) 751-3128
FAX (632) 751-3262
Email: pao@dti.gov.ph

Publication of Technical Regulations [Return to top](#)

The approved PNS for mandatory certification are published in the National Printing Office's Official Gazette and two newspapers of general circulation. Draft standards are circulated for comments while still in its draft stage.

Contact details:

Ms. Anne Daisy T. Omila, Head
Standards Information Services
Tel: (632) 751-4736
Fax: (632) 751-4706
E-mail: bps@dti.gov.ph

Labeling and Marking

The marking and labeling requirements are specified in the Consumer Act of the Philippines and in the specified PNS.

To guide the consumers in the purchase of critical products, including electrical, and electronics, consumer and chemical and construction and building materials, they are encouraged to look for the PS and ICC marks on the products or product packages.

Consumers are educated on these quality and safety marks through the BPS Standards Blitz Program.

Contact details:

Ms. Marie Camille B. Castillo
Head, Standard Promotion and Media Relations
Tel: (632) 751-4740
Fax: (632) 751-4748

E-mail: CamilleCastillo@dti.gov.ph

Contacts

Ms. Carmencita Magno
Officer-in-Charge
Bureau of Product Standards
Department of Trade and Industry
3/F, Trade and Industry Building
Tel: (632) 751-3126
Fax: (632) 751- 4706
E-mail: bps@dti.gov.ph
Website: <http://www.bps.dti.gov.ph>; <http://www.business.gov.ph>

Trade Agreements

AFTA

As a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Philippines committed to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers and investment restrictions within the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). Under these commitments, ASEAN members agreed to accelerate the tariff reductions in each country's AFTA Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Inclusion List. The end goal for the six original ASEAN members is to reduce tariffs to zero for all products in the Inclusion List by 2010 (2015 for the four newer ASEAN members), with flexibility on some sensitive products until 2018. CEPT duty rates are lower than or equal to the most favored nation (MFN) rates accorded to other trading partners, including the United States.

The Philippines is on track in meeting its AFTA commitments and has reduced duties to zero percent on 99 percent of total ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature tariff lines. The average CEPT preferential tariff rate on imports from ASEAN countries was reduced from 3.20% in 2003 to 0.92% in 2009. Moreover, the Philippines began implementing preferential rates under the ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Korea, and ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand free trade agreements.

74

For more information on AFTA, please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.aseansec.org/4920.htm>
<http://www.aseansec.org/12025.htm>
<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/afta-cep.html>

ASEAN Priority Integration Sectors

ASEAN member states agreed to accelerate the establishment of the single market ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.

ASEAN is implementing the AEC through the Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors and the 11 ASEAN Sectoral Integration Protocols on electronics, e-ASEAN, automotives, textiles and apparel, healthcare, wood-based products, rubberbased products, agro-based products, fisheries, air travel, and tourism. The Philippines eliminated import duties for these priority products in 2007 along with the other ASEAN-6 countries. The remaining ASEAN nations must comply by 2012.

For further information on the ASEAN Priority Sectors, you may refer to the following website: <http://www.aseansec.org/AIPS - Framework.doc>

APEC

80 percent of all Philippine trade is with other Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries, and the Philippines formally committed to its Bogor Goals of free and

open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific for industrialized economies (2010) and developing economies (2020).

The country participates in the Accelerated Tariff Liberalization (ATL) Initiative program of the WTO, originally an APEC program. Since joining, however, the Philippines has noted extensive reservations for both policy and revenue reasons, and has requested flexibility on end dates. The country complies with its tariff reduction commitments with the WTO and ASEAN under its Tariff Reform Program.

For more information on the Philippines and APEC, please refer to the following websites: http://www.apec-iap.org/document/RP_2010_IAP.htm

<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/asia.html>

PJEPA

The Philippines and Japan signed the Philippine-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (PJEPA) - the first bilateral free trade agreement for the Philippines - on September 2006. PJEPA seeks the liberalized flow of goods, persons, services, and capital; as well as a comprehensive economic partnership focusing on intellectual property, competition policy, improvement of business environment, human resources development, information and communications technology, and small and medium enterprises.

PJEPA was ratified by the Philippine Senate and entered into force on December 11, 2008.

75

For detailed information regarding the PJEPA, contact the Philippine Coordinating Committee (PCC) Secretariat at the Bureau of International Trade Relations, Department of Trade and Industry via e-mail at pjepa.secretariat@gmail.com or at telephone numbers (632) 897-8289 and 897-8290.

Other Trade Agreements

Under the ASEAN framework, the Philippines negotiated free trade agreements (FTA) with Japan and India and FTA chapters on trade in services and investments with China, the Republic of Korea, and Australia-New Zealand.

For more information on the Philippines' trade agreements, the point of contact is:

Mr. Ramon Vicente T. Kabigting

Assistant Secretary for International Trade

Bureau of International Trade Relations

Industry Development and Trade Policy Group

Department of Trade and Industry

4F DTI International Building, 375 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue

Makati City 1200 Philippines

Tel: (632) 897-8289; 897-8290

Fax: (632) 890-5149

E-mail: bitr_mon@dti.gov.ph, rvtkabigting@yahoo.com

Web Resources

<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/>

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tariffs_e/tariff_data_e.htm

<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/tariff2010.htm>

http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/orders_issued%20by%20DTI.htm

<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/semi-ann1.html>

<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/safeguar.html>

<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/anti-dum1.html>

<http://bpi.da.gov.ph/>
<http://www.da.gov.ph/>
http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20-%20Narrative_Manila_Philippines_7-17-2009.pdf
<http://www.bsp.gov.ph>
<http://www.dti.gov.ph/dti/index.php?p=214>
<http://www.customs.gov.ph>
<http://www.dti.gov.ph>
<http://www.da.gov.ph>
<http://www.bis.doc.gov>
<http://www.bps.dti.gov.ph/>
<http://www.dti.gov.ph/uploads/DownloadableForms/Revised%20Rules%20and%20Regulations%20on%20the%20Accreditation%20of%20Importers%20under%20CMO%2015-2009.doc>
<http://www.philippinerubber.com.ph/>
<http://www.philippineweldingsociety.org>
<http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>
<http://www.business.gov.ph>
<http://www.aseansec.org/4920.htm>
<http://www.aseansec.org/12025.htm>
<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/afta-cep.html>
http://www.apec-iap.org/document/RP_2010_IAP.htm
<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/asia.html>