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.

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 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:
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National President
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Engr. Danilo G. Duya
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Mr. Roberto Batungbacal
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Samahan Sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK)
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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).

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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:
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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).

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Head, Laboratory Accreditation
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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:
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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
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Fax: (632) 751-4748
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.

For more information on AFTA, please refer to the following websites:
http://www.aseansec.org/4920.htm
http://www.aseansec.org/12025.htm

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, automobiles, textiles and apparel, healthcare, wood-based products, rubber-based 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.
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:
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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/orders_issued%20by%20DTI.htm
http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/semi-ann1.html
http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/safeguar.html