



January 11, 2024

DA-BAFS ADVISORY
No. 2024-01-001

TO : THE GENERAL PUBLIC
DA-BAFS' ACCREDITED ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES
ORGANIC CERTIFIED OPERATORS

FROM : OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT : NEWLY APPROVED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS (PNS)
RELEVANT TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

This is to inform the public that the DA-BAFS has developed two new PNS relevant to organic agriculture, in addition to the DA-BAFS Advisory No. 2023-12-012 dated January 03, 2024. In line with Clause A.2 (Standard and Normative Documents) of the organic certification scheme (Annex A of Department Circular No. 01, Series of 2018), PNS relevant to organic agriculture shall serve as normative documents for the organic certification scheme in the Philippines. These PNS are as follows, with their corresponding brief description and transition period:

PNS	Title	Description	Transition period
1. PNS/BAFS 182:2023	Organic Bio-Control Agents (OBCA) — Product Standard — Specifications	This Standard covers the minimum requirements for Organic Bio-Control Agents (OBCA) specifically microbial control agents (microbials) and botanical pesticides (botanicals) for organic crop production and postharvest management. This Standard is not applicable to Bio-Control Agents (BCA) under categories of macrobials, semiochemicals, and BCA for organic livestock and poultry production.	December 15, 2023 – December 14, 2024
2. PNS/BAFS 183:2023	Organic Soil Amendments and Plant Supplements (OSAPS) — Product Standard — Specifications	This Standard applies to organic fertilizers, organic soil conditioners, microbial inoculants, and organic plant supplements. The emphasis on how to minimize contamination from microbiological, physical, and chemical hazards is in accordance with the relevant	December 18, 2023 – December 17, 2024

PNS	Title	Description	Transition period
		provisions under the PNS/BAFS 291:2019 (Code of practice for the production of organic soil amendments).	

The abovementioned PNS were approved by the DA Secretary in December 2023. Based on Department Circular (DC) No. 01, series of 2018 (Revised Guidelines for the Official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies), and DC No. 03, series of 2022 (Guidelines for the Accreditation of Core Participatory Guarantee System Groups and its Operation as Organic Certifying Bodies), these PNS shall have a one-year transition period from the time of their approval.

The provisions relevant to OSA provided for in the PNS/BAFS 183:2020 (OSA) and provisions relevant to OBCA provided for in the PNS/BAFS 182:2016 (OBCA-Microbials and Botanicals – Minimum data requirements) shall remain valid and effective during the transition period. Thereafter, all OSA production shall be based on PNS/BAFS 291:2019 (Code of Practice for the Production of OSA) and PNS/BAFS 183:2023 (OSAPS). Similarly, all OBCA production shall be based on the PNS/BAFS 182:2023 (OBCA — Product Standard — Specifications). Consequently, PNS/BAFS 182:2016 and PNS/BAFS 183:2020 shall be canceled by PNS/BAFS 182:2023 and PNS/BAFS 183:2023, respectively. Ultimately, the PNS/BAFS 182: 2023 and PNS/BAFS 183:2023 shall be included in the criteria for organic certification of OSAPS and OBCA, respectively.

The copies of the aforementioned PNS are included in this Advisory for your guidance and reference. These PNS may also be accessed and downloaded from the DA-BAFS Website: https://bafs.da.gov.ph/page/pns_catalogue.

For further inquiries, you may contact the DA-BAFS Organic Agriculture Division (OAD). They may be reached through the DA trunkline (+632) 8273-2474 local 3303 or through email at oad.bafs@gmail.com.

Dissemination of the advisory to all concerned is hereby requested.


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 11/01/2024