

January 03, 2024

DA-BAFS ADVISORY
No. 2023-12-012

TO : THE GENERAL PUBLIC
DA-BAFS' ACCREDITED ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES (OCB)
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 three new PNS relevant to organic agriculture. 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 three PNS are as follows, with their corresponding brief description and transition period:

PNS	Title	Description	Transition period
1. PNS/BAFS 112:2023	Organic Aquaculture- Code of Practice	This Standard provides the recommended practices for the management and operation of organic aquaculture in different aquatic environments (fresh, brackish, and marine) from pre-production, primary production, postharvest stages, processing, storage, transport, and labeling of fish and fishery products to ensure organic integrity.	November 20, 2023 – November 19, 2024
2. PNS/BAFS 370:2023	Organic Poultry — Code of Practice (COP)	This Standard establishes the recommended practices for the organic production of poultry including transport, slaughter, packaging, and labeling to ensure organic integrity.	November 10, 2023 – November 9, 2024
3. PNS/BAFS 371:2023	Organic Swine — Code of Practice (COP)	This Standard establishes the recommended practices for the organic production of swine including transport, slaughter, packaging, and labeling to ensure organic integrity.	November 10, 2023 – November 9, 2024

The abovementioned PNS were approved by the DA Secretary in November 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 three PNS shall have a one-year transition period from the time of their approval.

The provisions relevant to organic animal production provided for in the PNS/BAFS 07:2016 (Organic Agriculture) shall remain valid and effective during the transition period. Thereafter, all organic animal production specific to poultry and swine shall be based on PNS/BAFS 370:2023 and PNS/BAFS 371:2023, respectively. For ruminants and other animals not covered by the new PNS, the provisions of the PNS/BAFS 07:2016 shall be used until revoked. Likewise, the provisions of the PNS/BAFS 112:2016 shall remain valid and effective during the transition period. Thereafter, PNS/BAFS 112:2023 cancels PNS/BAFS 112:2016.

Ultimately, the PNS/BAFS 112:2023, PNS/BAFS 370:2023, and PNS/BAFS 371:2023 shall be included in the criteria for organic certification of aquaculture, poultry, and swine, respectively.

The copies of the aforementioned PNS are included in this Advisory for your guidance and reference. These PNS can also be accessed and downloaded on the 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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Director IV
