



NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD
Resolution No. 02
Series of 2018

RECOMMENDING THE APPROVAL OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION OF ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES REPEALING DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 06 SERIES OF 2015 OR THE REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION OF ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES

WHEREAS, Section No. 05 of Republic Act No. 10068 otherwise known as the "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010" established the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP);

WHEREAS, the Honorable Board is the policy-making body mandated under Section 6 of RA No. 10068 to provide direction and general guidelines for the implementation of the NOAP;

WHEREAS, Section 15 of the RA 10068 mandates the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) of the Department of Agriculture to grant official accreditation to organic certifying bodies (OCBs) in accordance to the Philippine National Standards for organic agriculture and other relevant standards;

WHEREAS, the same section, particularly Rule 15.2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) authorizes the accreditation committee chaired by the BAFS to revisit, update, and regularly review the guidelines for the official accreditation of OCB for the approval by the NOAB;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the instruction of the NOAB, the BAFS facilitated the revision of the Department Circular No. 06 series of 2015 or the Revised Guidelines for the Official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies - to make the ISO 17065 accreditation requirement optional;

WHEREAS, after due consultation with the concerned offices, and thorough deliberation with the National Committee on the Official Accreditation of the Organic Certifying Bodies (NCOA-OCB), the BAFS crafted a new Department Circular replacing the Department Circular No. 06 series of 2015 with the following changes:

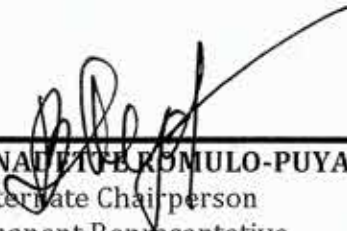
1. exclusion of ISO/IEC 17065 from the list of mandatory requirements for official accreditation subject to provisions of this Circular;
2. inclusion of organic certification scheme for standardized certification protocols among OCBs; and
3. improving the processes and mechanism for decisions relative to official accreditation (e.g. suspension, handling appeals and complaints, etc.)



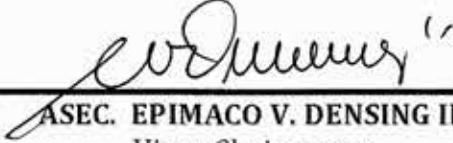
NOW, THEREFORE, considering the foregoing, this Honorable Board, by virtue of the powers vested in it by RA 10068, has resolved, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to recommend the approval of the Guidelines for the Official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies.

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the BAFS shall endorse the document to the Office of the Secretary for the approval of the Department Secretary.

APPROVED by the following Members of the Board on the 17th day of January 2018:



USEC BERNARDO B. ROMULO-PUYAT
Alternate Chairperson
Permanent Representative
Department of Agriculture (DA)



ASEC. EPIMACO V. DENSING III
Vice - Chairperson
Permanent Representative
Department of Interior and Local Government

ASEC. HERMINIA FE B. SAN JUAN
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Department of Agrarian Reform

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DIR. HENRY A. ADORNADO
Permanent Representative
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

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Permanent Representative
Department of Health



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MR. JEFFERSON C. LARUAN
 Representative, Luzon Small Farmer
 La Trinidad Organic Practitioners
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MR. ADELBERTO B. BANIQUED
 Representative, Mindanao Small Farmer
 Molave Organic SRI Practitioners
 Associations

GUILLERMO F. SARET, JR.
 Representative, Agribusiness
 Firm/Private Sector
 Saret Organic Farmville

DIR. NESTOR P. ARCANSALIN
 Permanent Representative
 Department of Trade and Industry

MR. JERRY A. DIONSON
 Representative, Visayas Small Farmer
 Negros Island Organic Practitioners
 Association

MR. NOEL B. SALAZAR
 Representative, NGO
 Agro-Eco Philippines Inc.

NORMAN G. DE JESUS
 Representative, Academe
 Pampanga State Agricultural University
 (PSAU)