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DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 01
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SUBJECT : POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PINOY QUALITY SEAL (PQS OR "QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM") FOR THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MACHINERIES SECTOR

I. BACKGROUND

In 2021, the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (DA-BAFE) funded the project entitled "Roadmap to Transform the Philippine Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing into a Competitive, Productive, Innovative, and Sustainable Industry" (LAMMP Roadmap Project). This project was implemented by the University of the Philippines - Center for Agri-Fisheries and Biosystems Mechanization (UPLB-BIOMECH) from February 22, 2021, to March 31, 2022, with the general objective of formulating a roadmap containing specific strategies and action plans to transform local agricultural machinery manufacturing into a competitive, productive, innovative, and sustainable industry.

The Department of Agriculture approved and adopted the LAMMP Roadmap (2022-2036) through DA Administrative Order No. 12, series of 2022, issued on May 25, 2022. One of the roadmap's significant findings was that quality is a crucial factor influencing consumer preferences for agricultural machinery and equipment. The dominance of foreign brands in the local market and the high familiarity of end-users with these brands over many decades have posed challenges for local manufacturers, particularly due to a general perception that their machines are of lower quality compared to those of the foreign brands.

The LAMMP Roadmap Project recommended the development and enforcement of a "Pinoy Quality Seal (PQS) for Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery Assembly and Manufacturing." This initiative aims to improve the quality of Philippine-made machines and align them with global standards. The PQS is a physical seal awarded to certain machineries, serving as an identifying mark of the product's quality and readiness for potential export.

II. ADOPTION OF POLICY GUIDELINES

The Department of Agriculture hereby adopts the "Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of Pinoy Quality Seal (PQS) for Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery Assembly and Manufacturing" of the UPLB-BIOMECH. These guidelines are in support of RA 10601 or the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law of 2013 (AFMech Law) and its National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Program (NAFMP) and also align with the Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery and Manufacturing Industry

Roadmap (2022-2036).

The complete policy guidelines are attached as Annex A and form an integral part of this Department Circular.

III. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The policy guidelines shall apply to all local manufacturers, assemblers, and stakeholders in the agri-fisheries machinery sector. It aims to ensure that locally manufactured machinery achieves the highest possible quality in line with Philippine National Standards (PNS), Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Standards (PABES), and other related national standards.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The implementation of the PQS policy guidelines shall be supervised by the DA-BAFE, in coordination with relevant agencies, as stipulated in Section 6 of Annex A. Regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms shall be undertaken to determine the impact of this Policy on the local agricultural and fisheries machinery industry and to identify necessary measures for its improvement.

V. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect in accordance with the Effectivity Clause provided under Section 12 of Annex A.

Done this 23rd day of JANUARY, 2025.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary

AMU B. AYOMED



DA-CO-OSEC-DC2025012..00001



Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of Pinoy Quality Seal (or Quality Assurance System) for the Local Agricultural and Fisheries (Agri-Fisheries) Machineries Sector

Pinoy Quality Seal



POLICY GUIDELINES

March 2024

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Organizations:

- Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors' Association (AMMDA)
- Central Isabela Agricultural Machinery Cooperative (CIAMC)
- Korea Agricultural Machinery Cooperative (KAMICO)
- Mindanao Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (MAMIA)

Machinery Manufacturers and Suppliers

- Agricomp Machineries and Construction Cooperative (AMCC)
- Agri MD Farm Implements Company
- Davao Beta Spring, Inc. (DBSI)
- FIT Corea Trading Phils., Inc.
- Julaton Construction Supply
- Mariñas Technology, Inc.
- Pilco Mechanical
- Rods Machine Shop
- Kabayan Farm Supply

Government/ Academic Institution

- Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (UPLB-AMTEC)
- Department of Trade and Industry - Board of Investment (DTI-BOI)
- Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (DA-BAFE)
- Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS)
- Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS)

- Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (DTI-BSMED)
- Department of Science and Technology - Metals Industry Research and Development Center (DOST-MIRDC)
- Department of Agriculture - Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech)
- Regional Agricultural Engineering Division-Region XI (RAED-XI)
- Department of Trade and Industry-Region XI (DTI XI)

Higher Education Institutions/State Universities and Colleges

- Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology (ASSCAT)
- Central Mindanao University (CMU)
- Davao del Sur State College (DSSC)
- Mindanao State University - General Santos City (MSU-GSC)
- Southern Philippines Agribusiness, Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST)
- University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP)

POLICY GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PINOY QUALITY SEAL (OR QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM) FOR THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES (AGRI-FISHERIES) MACHINERIES SECTOR

INTRODUCTION

1. Background and Rationale

The Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (DA-BAFE) funded the project entitled “Roadmap to Transform the Philippine Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing into a Competitive, Productive, Innovative and Sustainable Industry” (LAMMP Roadmap Project) in 2021 to 2022. The LAMMP Roadmap Project was implemented by the University of the Philippines - Center for Agri-Fisheries and Biosystems Mechanization from February 22, 2021 - March 31, 2022. The general objective of this project was to formulate a roadmap with specific strategies and action plans to fulfill the goals of the industry and to transform local agricultural machinery manufacturing into a competitive, productive, innovative, and sustainable industry. The Department of Agriculture approved and adopted the LAMMP Roadmap (2022-2036) through the issuance of DA Administrative Order No. 12, series of 2022 on May 25, 2022.

The LAMMP Roadmap Project indicated that quality is one of the significant factors influencing consumers’ preferences in the selection and utilization of agricultural machinery and equipment. This consumer preference aspect is demonstrated by the dominance of foreign brands in the local market and the high familiarity of the end-users with these brands over many decades. Such notion and preferential treatment to foreign brands, present a disadvantage for the locally made machines in terms of consumer acceptance and sales on the part of the local manufacturers. Furthermore, there is also a general perception that locally manufactured machines are of lower quality compared to the leading and famous brands. The introduction of a quality assurance system for locally-made agri-fisheries machines is a bold move to make locally-made machines at par with foreign brands.

The current government bidding requirement could be a contributing factor that hinders the improvement of local machines. Rule IX, Section 37 of the 2016 IRR of R.A. 9184 indicates that contracts shall be awarded to the lowest calculated responsive bid (LCRB) or the highest rated responsive bid (HRRB) as long as machines satisfy the minimum technical specifications. Such provision encourages local production of cheaper machines rather than enhancing the quality of the machines.

The LAMMP Roadmap Project formulated a policy recommendation to improve the quality of Philippine-made machines through the “development and enforcement of Pinoy Quality Seal (PQS) for Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery Assembly and Manufacturing”. This policy on the implementation of the Pinoy Quality System (PQS) is expected to strengthen the quality inspection and promotion of the local agri-fisheries machinery. The PQS is intended as a

physical seal awarded to certain machineries and will serve as an identifying mark of the product's quality and readiness for potential exportation. The locally manufactured machines with the Pinoy seal are expected to have attained the highest quality possible as per Philippines standards.

The proposed policy guidelines were formulated as part of the project titled "Policy Study on the Implementation of Pinoy Quality Seal or Quality Assurance System for the Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery Sector (PQS Project)" to strengthen the local machinery assembly and manufacturing in support of the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law of 2013 (AFMech Law) and its National Agricultural and Fisheries Program (NAFMP). The guidelines also support the Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery and Manufacturing Industry Roadmap (2022-2036).

2. Objectives

The general objective of the proposed policy guidelines was to formulate guidelines for the implementation of a unified Pinoy Quality Seal (Quality Assurance System) for local agri-fisheries machinery and to identify the agencies responsible for its implementation to enhance local agri-fisheries machinery manufacturers', fabricators', and assemblers' competitiveness.

Specifically, the objectives of these guidelines were to:

- 1) Formulate specific PQS procedures and evaluation processes;
- 2) Identify the roles, duties, and responsibilities of concerned agencies/institutions in the implementation of the PQS and promotion of PQS-marked agri-fisheries machinery;
- 3) Identify the necessary support to the local agri-fisheries machinery manufacturing sector to comply with this policy; and
- 4) Identify the roles, duties, and responsibilities of concerned agencies/institutions in the promotion of locally manufactured, fabricated, and assembled agri-fisheries machinery with PQS.

3. Scope

The guidelines shall cover all entities involved in the implementation of PQS for the local agri-fisheries machinery sector. The guidelines only apply to local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers of agricultural and fisheries machinery who comply with the Certificate of Conformity (CC) and valid Permit to Operate (PTO) that were issued by DA-BAFE.

Since the scheme of this policy is to establish a PQS for all local manufacturers of agricultural and fisheries machinery to produce quality products, it hopes to motivate and enjoin all manufacturers of agricultural and fisheries machinery who are not CC holders of their respective local agr-fisheries machinery product to also comply with compliance certification. These policy guidelines presented the proposed respective government institutions, agencies, and partner groups who will be involved in its implementation for the benefit of all stakeholders of the local agri-fisheries manufacturing sector.

4. Terms and Definition

Agricultural and fisheries machinery - refers to machinery, equipment, and infrastructures for the production, harvesting, processing, storage, manufacture, preserving, transporting, and distribution of agricultural and fisheries products. It includes but is not limited to, tractors and their attachments, power tillers, seeders, transplanters, windmills, harvesting machinery, crop protection, and maintenance equipment, irrigation equipment and accessories, greenhouses and other thermal conditioning equipment, livestock equipment, fishery equipment, slaughtering equipment, meat/fishery, and crop processing equipment, postharvest machinery such as milling machinery, dryers, threshers, grain and other strippers, agricultural transport machinery and storage facilities including cold storage, reefer vans, slaughterhouses, and fishing boats of three (3) gross tons or less. New agricultural and fishery machinery includes those newly imported as well as ones that have not been used since their date of manufacture (AFMech Law, 2013).

Assembler - refers to an entity involved in the assembly using locally made or imported individual parts and components for the production of agricultural and fisheries machinery (DA Dept. Circ. No. 04, 2019).

Certificate of Conformity (CC)- refers to the “Certificate of Compliance” (DA Dept. Circ. No. 02, 2023) and is defined as a certificate issued by the BAFE that guarantees that the agricultural and fisheries machinery conforms with PNS/PAES or other relevant standards identified by BAFE (DA Dept. Circ. No. 19, 2018).

Fabricator - refers to an entity that produces agricultural machinery and equipment from prototyping to testing, commissioning, and selling. Usually, they produce agricultural machinery and equipment depending on the order and arrangement. (DA Dept. Circ. No. 04, 2019).

Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) – refers to government entities created by law, executive order, decree, or other issuance, in charge of promoting investments, granting and administering tax and non-tax incentives, and overseeing the operations of the different economic zones and freeports in accordance with their respective special laws (Rep. Act No. 11534, 2021).

Local manufacturing – refers to the production of engines and other machinery for agricultural and fisheries purposes by a company using both imported parts and components with a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of locally manufactured parts and components (DA Dept. Circ. No. 01, 2013).

Manufacturers - refers to an entity that is capable of manufacturing agricultural machinery and equipment from conceptualization to prototyping to testing and commissioning and eventually selling. Usually, a manufacturer produces agricultural machinery and equipment in bulk (DA Dept. Circ. No. 04, 2019).

Permit to Operate (PTO)- refers to a privilege granted to any Manufacturer, Fabricators, Assemblers, Dealers, Distributors, Importers, and Exporters (MFADDIEs) that have passed the review, inspection, and evaluation conducted by DA-BAFE and DA-RAED and is allowed to engage in a particular line of activity which include manufacturing, fabrication, assembly,

distribution, dealing, importation, and exportation of agricultural and fisheries machinery (DA Dept. Circ. No. 04, 2019).

Pinoy Quality Seal (PQS) - refers to the seal of conformity appearing on agricultural and fisheries machinery, and is defined as a physical seal that will serve as an identifying mark of the product's quality and readiness for possible exportation (LAMMP Industry Roadmap of the Philippines 2022-2036).

PQS Scheme - refers to the set of plans to secure the competitiveness and assurance of the certifying bodies/accreditation bodies, quality management, audit management system, and laboratories conforming with the existing international and national standards.

Quality – refers to the degree to which a product conforms to its established standards and customer's specification and is applicable not only to the manufacture, fabrication, and assembly of products but also to the quality of the process of manufacturing, fabricating, and assembling.

Quality assurance system – refers to the process of a quality management system to maintain the consistency of quality products, and a part of the procedure to ensure the manufacture, fabrication, and assembly of products without any defect. It refers to product development and manufacturing/fabricating/assembling from raw materials to process validation and final product release.

Quality product – defined in Garvin's 8 Dimensions of Quality as containing the good characteristics of performance, features, reliability, conformance, durability, serviceability, aesthetic, and perceived quality.

Registered business enterprise- refers to any individual, partnership, corporation, Philippine branch of a foreign corporation, or other entity organized and existing under Philippine laws and registered with an Investment Promotion Agency, excluding service enterprises such as those engaged in customs brokerage, trucking or forwarding services janitorial services, security services, insurance banking, and other financial services, consumers' cooperatives, credit unions, consultancy services, retail enterprises, restaurants, or such other similar services as may be determined by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board, irrespective of location, whether inside or outside the zones, duly accredited or licensed by any of the IPAs and whose income delivered within the economic zones shall be subject to taxes under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1977, as amended Rep. Act No. 11534, 2021.

Technical Regulation (TR) – refers to a document that lays down product characteristics for their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory (World Trade Organization, 1994).

The following acronyms used in the guidelines:

AFMech Law	Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law of 2013 or Republic Act No. 10601
AMMDA	Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors Association

AMTEC	Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center
BAFE	Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering
BAFS	Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards
BIOMECH	Center for Agri-Fisheries and Biosystems Mechanization
BOI	Board of Investment
CC	Certificate of Conformity
CAO	City Agriculture Office
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
DA	Department of Agriculture
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DTI-BPS	Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of Philippine Standards
DTI-BSMED	Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAMIA	Mindanao Agricultural Machinery Industry Association
MAO	Municipal Agriculture Office
MIAP	Metalworking Industries Association of the Philippines
MIRDC	Metals Industry Research and Development Center
PAO	Provincial Agriculture Office
PABES	Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Standards
PCA	Philippine Coconut Authority
PCAF	Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries
PhilRice	Philippine Rice Research Institute
PHilMech	Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization
PNS	Philippine National Standards
PRB-ABE	Philippine Regulatory Board – Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

PTO	Permit to Operate
PQS	Pinoy Quality Seal
PWS	Philippine Welding Society, Inc.
RFO	Regional Field Office
SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

5. Policy Formulation and Recommendation

Policy and operational framework for the implementation of a Pinoy Quality Seal or Quality Assurance System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery in support of the AFMech Law of 2013

The rationale for the establishment of a Pinoy Quality Seal (Quality Assurance System) System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery is to create a strong reputation of world-class quality for Philippine-made agricultural machinery. Among the attributes of world-class quality include conformance with machinery standards (specifically the Philippine National Standards and Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Standards or PABES), endurance and durability, reliability, materials conformity, safety, and availability of standard spare parts. The PQS hinges on empowering the local machinery producers and protecting the interest of consumers/users/operators of agricultural machinery as well as the other stakeholders in the value chain of the Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery Assembly and Manufacturing Industry Roadmap of the Philippines (2022-2036) in support of the AFMech Law. The PQS envisions strengthening the Local Agri-Fishery Assembly and Machinery Manufacturing Industry; improving the quality of the Local Agri-Fishery Assembly and Machinery; and establishing markets for exports and expanded market of agri-fishery machinery as provided for in the project conceptual framework in Figure 1.

The policy and operational framework for the implementation of a Pinoy Quality Seal or Quality Assurance System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery is presented in Figure 1.

The AFMech Law of 2013 provides the policy support stipulated in Article 1 of the Declaration of Policy states that the law, among others, shall:

“(b) Provide a conducive environment to the local assembling and manufacturing of engines, machinery, and equipment for agricultural and fisheries production, processing, and marketing.

€ Ensure quality and safety of machinery and equipment, locally manufactured or imported, by strengthening regulation through the development and enforcement of machinery performance standards, regular testing and evaluation, registration, and the accreditation of suppliers, assemblers, and manufacturers to ensure compliance to prescribed quality standards.”

Article IV on Local Assembly, Manufacture, Supply and After-Sales Service of the AFMech Law also mandates in Section 15 that “Local Assembling and Manufacturing – Production of locally-made engines and other machinery for agricultural and fisheries purposes shall be promoted and encouraged by the DA in partnership with the private sector, and through joint venture agreements. For this purpose, the DA, in partnership with the recognized national organization of agricultural machinery, manufacturers, fabricators, assemblers and distributors, agricultural engineers, and DOST, shall undertake the feasibility study and R&D for the local assembly and manufacture of agricultural engines/prime mover, and other agricultural machinery equipment.”

Other laws and policies that support the implementation of the PQS are the National Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Program (NAFMP) (2017-2022) and (2023-2028) of the AFMech Law; the UPLB and DA-BAFE Policy study on the Local Agri-Fisheries Machinery Assembly and Manufacturing Industry (LAMMP) Roadmap of the Philippines (2022-2036) which is being implemented through DA Admin. Ord. No. 12, series of 2022; and the Rice Tariffication Law (Rep. Act No. 11203) which encourages that machinery intended for RCEF could be sourced from accredited local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers for the promotion of locally manufactured farm machinery and equipment. Moreover, the LAMMP roadmap recommended a policy on strengthening the quality inspection and promoting the local agri-fisheries machinery through the implementation of the Pinoy Quality Seal.

As presented in Figure 1, the policy guidelines were formulated through the conduct of focus group discussions, identification of the key stakeholders, secondary data gathering, consultative and participatory meetings/forum/ workshops, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions of local agricultural and fisheries machinery manufacturing industry stakeholders, and site visits of agricultural manufacturers and benchmarking activities in the Republic of Korea. Also, the proposed agencies that will be involved in the PQS implemented are presented in Figure 1.

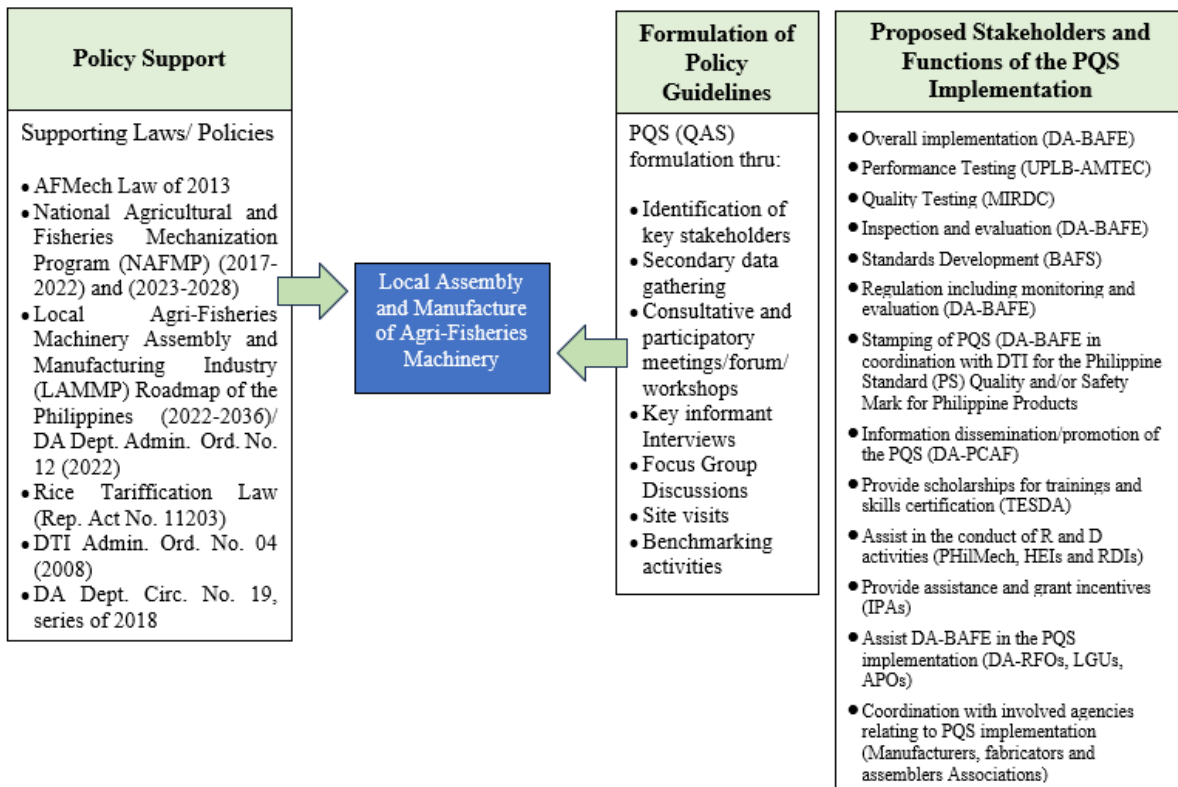


Figure 1. Policy and operational framework for the implementation of a Pinoy Quality Seal or Quality Assurance System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery

6. Implementing Guidelines

6.1. Roles of National Government Agencies

The proposed general and/or specific roles are described in the succeeding discussion of the section.

6.1.1. Department of Agriculture – Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (DA-PCAF)

The DA-PCAF is mandated to serve as an integrative and consultative structure for inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration in agriculture and fisheries modernization (DA Admin. Ord. No. 6, 1998).

The PCAF, in coordination with other concerned agencies, shall spearhead the conduct of a series of consultations with the stakeholders on the guidelines. Upon the approval and adoption of these policy guidelines, the DA-PCAF shall facilitate the orientation briefings, and information dissemination (including the addition of the Information Education and Communication materials in the DA-PCAF website) to accordingly inform and enjoin all concerned agencies, offices, and stakeholders in the implementation of the guidelines, including the stakeholders' roles and functions.

6.1.2. Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS)

The DA-BAFS shall exercise its powers and functions pursuant to sections 21 & 26 of the AFMech Law of 2013.

Based on this law, the DA-BAFS shall:

- a. Develop, amend, or revise PNS for specifications and methods of testing of agricultural and fisheries machinery; and
- b. Update and translate existing PABES as PNS.

6.1.3. Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (DA-BAFE)

Pursuant to Section 24 of AFMech Law, BAFE has the following functions and responsibilities related to standard enforcement: (e) coordinate and integrate all agricultural and fisheries engineering activities of the DA bureaus, attached agencies, and corporations; and (f) coordinate and monitor the enforcement of standards and other regulatory policies on agricultural and fishery engineering. The DA-BAFE shall monitor the enforcement of agri-fisheries machinery standards.

The DA-BAFE shall spearhead the implementation of the policy guidelines. The DA-BAFE shall draft the required technical regulations corresponding to specific standards. In this regard, the DA-BAFE shall conduct on-site

evaluation and inspection of the manufacturers', fabricators', and assemblers' plants based on the technical regulations.

The DA-BAFE shall be responsible for the processing of applications and issuance of PQS. It shall review the completeness, veracity, and authenticity of the submitted documents.

6.1.4. Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC)

The AMTEC, as the designated premier and reference testing center in the country, and for purposes of functional coordination and integration, shall closely coordinate its activities with the BAFS and BAFE for the implementation of the PQS. Moreover, as stipulated in the AFMech Law (2013), AMTEC shall assist BAFS in the formulation of quality, safety, and performance standards of agricultural and fisheries machinery and of accreditation guidelines for testing centers. It shall also provide technical assistance in the establishment of testing centers in other parts of the country.

For the purpose of implementing these guidelines, AMTEC shall test the general performance and safety of the machine based on PABES, PNS, and future guidelines/regulations that will be developed in support of the AFMech Law.

6.1.5. Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC)

The mandate of the MIRDC is to provide both the government and the private sector in the metals and engineering industry with professional management and technical expertise on such vital activities for the development of the industry as training of engineers and technicians, information exchange, trade accreditation services, quality control and testing of metal products, research and development, and business economics advisory services (Rep. Act No. 6428, 1972). MIRDC shall assist local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers in materials testing, training of technical staff, and if possible, in the prototyping and other R and D activities. If warranted, MIRDC may be involved in the formulation of other standards that may emanate in the implementation of the PQS in coordination with DA-BAFE, DA-BAFS, and other concerned agencies.

For the purpose of implementing these guidelines, MIRDC shall test the quality of the machine in terms of workmanship and materials used based on PABES, PNS, and future guidelines/regulations that will be developed.

6.1.6. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

The TESDA, in collaboration with the DA, the PRB-ABE, and the national associations of agricultural engineers and agricultural machinery manufacturers, fabricators, assemblers, and distributors shall undertake skills certification and accreditation systems for local agricultural and fishery machinery manufacturers' technical personnel (AFMech Law, 2013). TESDA shall provide scholarships for the technical personnel of local manufacturers to undergo training and skills certification. TESDA will likewise spearhead the

development of Training Regulations required by the local manufacturing industry.

6.1.7. Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech)

The PHilMech shall develop, in association with appropriate agencies, research and testing centers, and industry associations, a continuing, long-term program of development and commercialization of appropriate agriculture and fisheries mechanization (DA. Admin. Ord. No. 6, 1998).

The PHilMech shall assist local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers in the conduct of research and development activities regarding agri-fisheries machinery either through prototyping, modification, and improvement of existing machinery.

6.1.8. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

The DTI, with its attached bureaus and agencies, shall serve as the primary coordinating, promotive, and facilitative arm for trade, industry, and investment activities. It acts as the catalyst for intensified private sector activity to accelerate and sustain economic growth (Exec. Ord. No. 133, 1987). The DTI and its attached agencies shall assist in promoting and developing business, with a focus on SMEs, lowering the cost of doing business and ensuring consumers get the best value for money (Exec. Ord. No. 124, 1999).

6.1.9. Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS)

The DTI-BPS, as the National Standards Body of the Philippines, is mandated by virtue of RA 7394 to develop, promulgate, and coordinate standardization activities in the Philippines.

6.1.10. Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs)

IPAs shall provide assistance to local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers according to their functions and powers as provided under the special law governing them except to the extent modified by the provisions of this code (Rep. Act No. 11534, 2021).

The DTI, through the DTI-BOI, shall grant incentives for local manufacturers as long as they are considered registered enterprises engaged in a preferred area of investment pursuant to Article 39 of Executive Order 226 as amended.

For the purpose of implementing these guidelines, the DTI shall allocate/formulate additional incentives for entities with PQS-issued machinery.

6.2. Roles of Regional Field Offices

Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs)

For the purpose of implementing these guidelines, the DA-RFO, through the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division, shall take charge of the PQS application of local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers in their respective regions and for evaluating application and documentary requirements before endorsement to the DA-BAFE. DA-RFO shall assist the DA-BAFE in conducting evaluation and inspection for the local agricultural machinery manufacturer in their respective region in coordination with PAOs and C/MAOs. The DA-RFO shall also coordinate any activity with the PAOs and C/MAOs and monitor if their roles and responsibilities are performed accordingly. Moreover, the DA-RFOs shall be in charge of consolidating the reports of C/PAOs about any illegal activity by manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers, which shall be forwarded to the DA-BAFE.

6.3. Roles of Local Government Units

The LGUs in collaboration with DA, shall enforce the standards on the manufacture, sale, and distribution of agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment, and its accreditation system for agricultural and fisheries facilities and establishments. Furthermore, the DA in collaboration with the DILG and the various LGU Leagues, shall encourage the LGUs through its Agricultural Engineering Division/Section of the Agriculture Office the management and regulation of agri-fisheries machinery and equipment, including the collection of fees (RA 10601, 2013).

For the purpose of implementing these guidelines, the local government units (LGUs) may assist DA-BAFE and RFOs in the implementation and monitoring of the PQS regulations. The agriculture offices of the LGUs having the proper authority over their municipal and provincial areas will undertake the necessary roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the PQS policy.

6.4. Roles of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will assist local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers in the research and development of agricultural and fisheries mechanization technologies specifically but not limited to prototype development, modification and improvement of existing machinery, preliminary test and evaluation prior to standard AMTEC test and evaluation. They will assist manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers by providing technical expertise in the testing of agricultural and fisheries machinery and provide technical recommendations to improve the performance of manufactured, fabricated, and assembled machinery, equipment, and infrastructures as part of HEIs public and extension service activities.

6.5. Roles of Research and Development Institutes (RDIs)

Research and Development Institutes shall assist local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers in the conduct of research and development activities regarding agri-fisheries machinery either through prototyping, modification, and improvement of existing machinery. Similar to the role of HEIs, RDIs may assist manufacturers, fabricators and assemblers by providing technical expertise in the testing of agri-fisheries machinery and provide technical recommendations to improve the performance of manufactured, fabricated or assembled agri-fisheries machinery, equipment and infrastructures as part of RDIs public and extension service activities.

6.6. Roles of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers/Fabricators/Assemblers Groups/Associations

These groups/associations shall coordinate and assist involved agencies to achieve the objectives of this policy guidelines. They shall coordinate with the involved agencies in conducting related activities to amplify and ensure the quality of local machinery in the country and assist the DA-BAFE in determining the support needed by the local manufacturers, fabricators, and assemblers.

These groups/associations are encouraged to create a national federation regardless if it belongs to any group/association/cooperative. These national federations/associations/organizations will help strengthen the local agricultural manufacturing of parts and assembling towards mass production resulting in lower production costs but competitive quality.

6.7. Roles of Accredited Professional Organizations (APOs)

These APOs shall assist the involved agencies and stakeholders in inspecting, testing, and evaluating the quality of the locally manufactured agricultural and fisheries machinery. These APOs may serve as an advisory body in aesthetics, craftsmanship, and other characteristics for the improvement of the quality of the machinery.

6.8. Application for PQS

6.8.1. Eligibility Criteria for PQS Application

1. The machine applied for shall be locally produced and assembled as defined in these guidelines. The DA-BAFE shall provide supplementary guidelines on the evaluation of locally produced and locally assembled machinery.
2. The entity applying for PQS for a specific machine should have an existing quality management system.
3. The entity applying for PQS must have valid PTO and CC.

6.8.2. Application Process

The application process for the PQS shall be strictly followed, and only applicants with complete requirements shall be allowed to apply. The evaluation result of the inspection and testing will be sent to the applicants and those with incomplete requirements shall be notified to provide the lacking documents. The general application process for PQS is as follows:

1. Sign the PQS application form
2. Attach the following requirements and transaction receipt
 - (a. Certificate of Conformity; b. Permit-to-Operate; c. Design of machine;
 - d. Specification of parts; e. Parts purchase confirmation (if imported);
 - f. AMTEC test report; and g. Quality test report)
3. Secure a schedule for the inspection, testing, and evaluation from the concerned agencies. (Inspection, testing, and evaluation are based on the Technical Regulation of the product)
4. Evaluation of the assessment result
5. Settle the transaction fee.
6. Issuance of PQS certificate and sealing of PQS
7. PQS Surveillance
 - Testing of product sampled from the factory
 - Testing of product sampled from the market
 - Testing of machinery should be based on PNS/PABES.

6.8.3. Process flow for the issuance of the PQS for agri-fisheries machinery

The proposed process flow for the implementation of the PQS is presented in Figure B. The figure highlights the step-by-step procedure and the agencies involved in the process of the issuance of PQS for specific agricultural and fisheries machinery. Moreover, Table 1 presents the processes and functions of the respective agencies involved. The PQS policy guidelines, which include the process flow below, are to be presented in a national consultation to solicit comments and suggestions from the stakeholders.

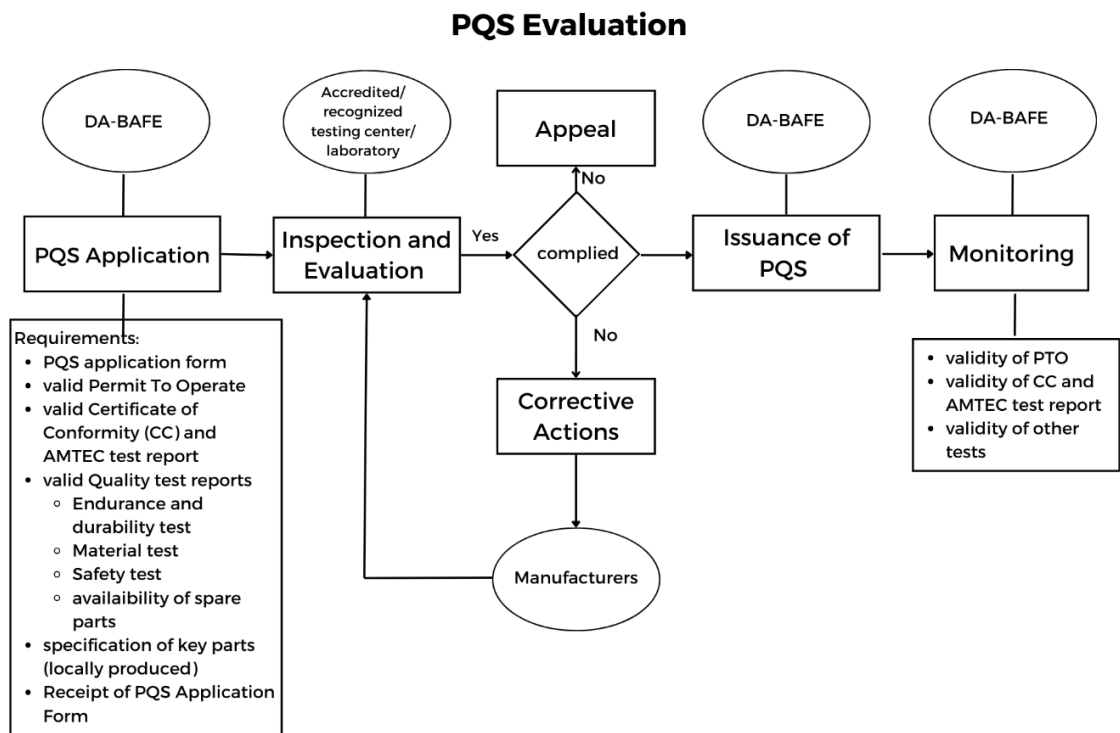


Figure 2. Process flow for the issuance of the PQS for agri-fisheries machinery

6.8.4. Requirements

The applicants for PQS should complete the following set of requirements, and other documents or compliance stated in the Technical Regulation of the machine.

- a. Duly accomplished PQS application form by the manufacturer.
- b. Permit to operate (PTO) and Certificate of Conformity (CC) issued by DA-BAFE
- c. Full descriptions and specifications of the key parts locally produced
- d. Parts' purchase confirmation (if other parts used in machine assembly are imported)
- e. Test Report from AMTEC (submitted for CC application) and other accredited testing laboratories
- f. Quality Test (depends on the developed national standards and/or international standards)

DA Dept. Circ. No. 02 (2023) – Revised National Guidelines on Testing and Evaluation of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery

- **Endurance and Durability test** – The endurance test determines the capacity of an equipment to handle its expected load for a continuous period or under or prolonged use, while the durability test determines the duration of time an equipment can meet its performance requirement. E.g. lifetime span, or it determines characteristics of an

equipment under various load conditions over time, or its fitness for purpose over its intended lifetime.

- Material Test – The material test determines the physical, mechanical, and chemical properties of equipment components, including but not limited to hardness, bend strength, and break load, among others.
- Safety Test and Inspection – Safety tests and inspections determine the safety features and characteristics of the equipment and their compliance with specifications and operator safety requirements.
- Other tests (e.g. Vibration test, wear test of implement, waterproofing, tilting angle determination, the center of gravity, etc.)

- g. Factory Evaluation and Inspection (Manufacturing Evaluation and Inspection)
- h. Receipt of Application for PQS

6.8.5. Inspection and Evaluation

The inspection and evaluation shall be aligned with the ISO 17065:2012 Conformity Assessment – Requirements for Bodies Certifying Products, Processes, and Services. The applicants with complete requirements shall be inspected and evaluated. The applicants will be notified if the results are either passed or failed/or for compliance.

The accredited testing laboratories shall be aligned with the ISO 17025:2017 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories. The test reports from these laboratories will be accepted upon the confirmation of the veracity of the reports.

6.8.6. Non-conformity/compliance

The application for the PQS of agricultural machine/s that had been evaluated as non-compliant will be given a grace period of 20 working days to conform to the PQS requirements. However, the applicant may request for an extension of the grace period through a letter of extension with justification. An application that did not comply with the requirements within the given period shall mean that the agricultural machinery did not pass the PQS application.

The application for PQS which did not pass the inspection and evaluation, and did not satisfy the requirements for the PQS, may appeal for reconsideration to DA-BAFE as the issuing agency of PQS. The applicant has seven (7) working days to appeal after receiving the notification of PQS non-compliance.

6.8.7. Issuance

The Pinoy Quality Seal shall be issued by DA-BAFE and will be attached to the specific brand, model, or type of machine with an approved certificate of conformity. The seal cannot be reproduced or used for any other machinery. The PQS will be valid for five (5) years with an annual assessment. The seal can be suspended, withdrawn, or canceled for cause at any time.

6.8.8. Responsibilities of PQS holder

The responsibilities of the PQS holder upon receiving the PQS certificate are as follows:

- a. The PQS holder shall abide by the Rep. Act No. 7394 (Consumer Act of the Philippines), Rep. Act No. 4712 (Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines), and Rep. Act No. 10601 (Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law), and their implementing rules and regulations, as well as regulations enforced by the DA-BAFE as authorized under law.
- b. The PQS holder shall ensure that its sealed product always conforms to certain standards and shall be liable for any damage caused by the registered product to its consumers. The quality management system of the PQS holder shall be aligned with the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System – Requirements and future revision.
- c. The PQS holder shall attach the seal only to the certified product.
- d. The PQS holder shall give duly authorized representatives of the BAFE access during working hours to the premises where the products are manufactured to conduct management system evaluation aligned with ISO 19011:2018 Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems.
- e. The PQS holder shall pay the scheduled fee and other charges as billed and specified by the DA-BAFE or accredited third-party testing laboratories, certifying bodies, inspectors, and evaluators.

6.8.9. Monitoring/Surveillance

The monitoring of products in the market shall be regulated and enforced to ensure the continuity of compliance with the set standards. Surveillance of the manufactured products from the plant to the market shall be conducted according to a set schedule. Random surveillance visits may also be conducted at any time.

7. Prohibited Acts

It is unlawful for any person to:

- a. Produce, sell, mortgage, or lease agri-fisheries machinery claiming that such machine conforms to PQS assessment even if it is not compliant. Any form of promotions that lead to false information pursuant to Article 18 of the Rep. Act No. 7394 (1992) is considered a failure to comply with an order issued under Article II, on protection against deceptive, unfair, and unconscionable sales acts and practices.
- b. Make use of the expired, suspended, or revoked PQS compliance certificate.
- c. Violate the set of responsibilities of the PQS holder.

8. Sanctions

- (a) PQS may be revoked if the applicant uses an expired or suspended PQS compliance certificate.
- (b) PQS is also subject to suspension and later up to revocation for any violation committed by the applicant during the annual inspection/evaluation, and any other violation of the law.

9. Penalties

- (a) Any person who shall violate any provision of this policy shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) but not more than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than two (2) months but not more than one (1) year, or both, upon the discretion of the court and/or other applicable penalties imposed under the Rep. Act No. 7394.
- (b) Any person who shall violate any provision of the policy related to assembling imported parts shall be punished based on Section 2 of Rep. Act No. 4712 (1966) on Unlawful Importation.
- (c) Any person who shall violate any provision in producing, selling, or mortgaging defective, injurious, dangerous, and unsafe agricultural machinery shall be penalized by the Department according to Article 111 of Rep. Act No. 7394 (1992).

10. Fees and Charges

The fees and charges will be set by DA-BAFE as the regulatory body.

11. Separability

The provision of this policy or any part thereof may be declared invalid, and other provisions shall remain valid and enforceable provided such invalidity does not affect the other provisions.

12. Effectivity

This policy shall take effect after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

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