

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 02
Series of 2021

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS ON THE MANPOWER COMPLEMENT OF CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY MACHINERY OPERATORS AND TECHNICIANS IN ALL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MACHINERY POOLS AND SERVICE CENTERS INCLUDING SALES AND DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS AND MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

WHEREAS, Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10601 otherwise known as the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law requires that all agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers, including sales and distribution outlets and manufacturing establishments, either public or private, shall have the required manpower complement of licensed agricultural engineers and certified technicians and operators, in accordance with the guidelines and standards to be promulgated by the Board of Agricultural Engineering (BoAE) of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to ensure efficient operation and maintenance and good management practices;

WHEREAS, the Board of Agricultural Engineering already promulgated Resolution No. 2014-03, the *"Guidelines and Standards on the Manpower Complement of Registered and Licensed Agricultural Engineers in all Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery Pools and Service Centers including Sales and Distribution Outlets and Manufacturing Establishments either Public or Private"* and was disseminated through Memorandum Circulars No. 2015-05 and No. 4, series of 2015 of the Professional Regulation Commission and the Department of Agriculture (DA) respectively;

WHEREAS, Section 12 of RA No. 10601 mandates the DOLE and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to train agricultural and fisheries machinery technicians and operators.

WHEREAS, Section 14 of RA No. 10601 further mandates the TESDA, in collaboration with the DA, the BoAE and the national associations of agricultural engineers and agricultural machinery assemblers, manufacturers and distributors to undertake skills certification and accreditation systems for agricultural and fishery machinery operators and technicians.

WHEREAS, the DA, TESDA, Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (PSABE) and the Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors Association (AMMDA), in line with the implementation of RA No. 10601 have an existing collaborative program through its Memorandum of Agreement entered in 2019, "*Train to Mechanize Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries*" which aimed to roll out the Training Regulations in the agri-fisheries mechanization sector;

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the foregoing provisions of R.A. No. 10601, the following guidelines and standards are hereby issued and promulgated on the manpower complement of certified agricultural and fishery machinery operators and technicians in all agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers including sales and distribution outlets and manufacturing establishments either public or private:

"SECTION 1. Definition of Terms: As used in this JMC, the following terms are hereby defined:

Certified Agricultural and Fishery Machinery Operators and Technicians refers to agri-fishery workers who have achieved all of the required units of competency of a national qualification defined under the promulgated Training Regulations of TESDA and issued a National Certificate (NC) on a particular qualification under the agri-fishery mechanization industry/sector.

Agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment refers to machinery and equipment 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 machines, 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 machines such as milling machines, dryers, threshers, grain and other strippers, agricultural transport machinery and storage facilities including cold storage, reefer vans, slaughter houses and fishing boats of three (3) gross tons or less. New agricultural and fishery machinery includes newly imported as well as one that has not been used since its date of manufacture.

Agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers refer to business enterprises owned and operated by registered cooperatives or by businesses registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that will provide the following services: after-sales service and warranty to their respective clients; custom plowing, harrowing, harvesting, drying, milling and other farm mechanization services; repair and troubleshooting services of agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment; and training of maintenance and proper use of agricultural machineries and equipment.

Sales and distribution outlets refer to establishments where an agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment manufacturer or seller, or their respective representative or agent, make available its products, services or credit to the end consumers under a consumer sale transaction.

Manufacturing establishments refers to any establishment that produces agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment from conceptualization to prototyping to testing and commissioning and eventually selling.

Required manpower complement refers to a licensed agricultural engineers and certified technicians and operators, employed or hired, to ensure efficient operation and maintenance and good management practices of all agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers, including sales and distribution outlets and manufacturing establishments, either public or private.

SECTION 2. Certified Agri-Fishery Machinery Operator: An agricultural and fishery machinery operator, as indicated in below, is certified if he/she has achieved all the required units of competency of a national qualification defined under the promulgated Training Regulations of TESDA through passing the national competency assessment conducted by a TESDA accredited assessment center:

	Job Title	Qualification Title
1	Rice Land Preparation Machinery Operator (Hand Tractor, 4-Wheel Tractor); Rice Crop Establishment Machinery Operator (Manual Seeder, Motorized Seeder, Rice Transplanter); Rice Crop Care Machinery Operator (Irrigation Pump, Cultivator, Sprayer, Fertilizer Applicator); Rice Harvesting and Threshing Machinery Operator (Reaper, Stripper, Combine, Thresher); Rice Drying Machinery Operator (Batch, Continuous Flow Dryer); Rice Mill Machinery Operator (Single-Pass, Multi-Pass); Rice Machinery Operator	Rice Machinery Operations NCII
2	Agricultural Machinery Operator, Agricultural Tractor Operator, Agricultural Post-harvest Machinery Operator or Agricultural Production Machinery Operator	Agricultural Machinery Operation NC II
3	Milking Machine Operator	Milking Operation NC II
4	Machine Operator, Latex Receiver	Rubber Processing NCII
5	Hatchery Farm Worker, Hatchery Operator, Hatchery Technician	Aquaculture (Hatchery) Operation NC II
6	Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) Operator and Maintenance Officer	Solar Powered Irrigation System Operation and Maintenance Level II

SECTION 3. *Certified Agri-Fishery Machinery Technician:* An agricultural and fishery machinery technician, as indicated in below, is certified if he/she has achieved all the required units of competency of a national qualification defined under the promulgated Training Regulations of TESDA through passing the national competency assessment conducted by a TESDA accredited assessment center:

	Job Title	Qualification Title
1	Drying and Milling Plant Service Technician	Drying and Milling Plant Servicing NCIII
2	Four-Wheel Tractor Mechanic; Senior Mechanic; and Four-Wheel Tractor Servicing Personnel	Agricultural Machinery Servicing (Four-Wheel Tractor) NCIII
3	Biogas System Technician, Biogas Project Supervisor/Foreman, Biogas Plant Construction Lead Man/Foreman and Biogas Piping Specialist	Biogas Plant Installation NCIII
4	Pressurized Irrigation Technician, Greenhouse Irrigator	Pressurized Irrigation System Installation and Maintenance NC II

SECTION 4. *Required Manpower Complement:* 1) The following public or private entities or businesses shall have the required manpower complement of at least one (1) agricultural and fishery machinery operators and technicians, as appropriate in the Job Titles indicated above in Sections 2 and 3:

- a) Agricultural and fishery machinery service centers operated and/or to be established by registered cooperatives or by businesses registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in Strategic Agricultural Development Zones (SAFDZs) or Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs), pursuant to Section 9 of Republic Act No. 10601, which will provide the following services:
 - 1) After-sales service and warranty to their respective clients;
 - 2) Custom plowing, levelling harrowing, harvesting, drying, milling and other farm mechanization services;
 - 3) Repair and troubleshooting services of agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment; and
 - 4) Training of maintenance and proper use of agricultural machineries and equipment.
- b) Sales and distribution outlets of agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment of all concerned registered cooperatives or businesses registered with SEC and DTI;
- c) Agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment pools, service centers, common service facilities, post harvest and agri-fisheries processing centers established and/or operated by agricultural plantations, agro-industrial firms, agri-fishery cooperatives, farmers organizations; Department of Agrarian Reform; in the research, demonstration and training stations/centers of the Department of Agriculture (DA), academic

institutions, local government units; and other concerned government agencies and private institutions; and

- d) Manufacturing/Assembling establishments of agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment registered with SEC and DTI which include joint venture with foreign entities.
- e) All farmers associations and cooperatives who are recipients of agricultural and fishery machinery provided and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Local Government Units and other concerned government agencies.

2) This provision shall be implemented and enforced in areas where TESDA accredited Training Centers and Assessment Centers offering the particular qualification or Training Regulations are accessible.

SECTION 5. Accreditation of Training Centers and Competency Assessment Centers:

In order to provide adequate number of certified agri-fishery machinery operators and technicians, the TESDA in coordination and collaboration with the DA and in the pursuit of the Joint TESDA, DA, PSABE and AMMDA Memorandum on Agreement on accelerating skills development and certification in the agri-fishery mechanization sector shall aggressively pursue the accreditation of Trainers, Competency Assessors, Training Centers and Assessment Centers on the above enumerated qualifications in Sections 2 and 3 in all provinces, cities and municipalities nationwide.

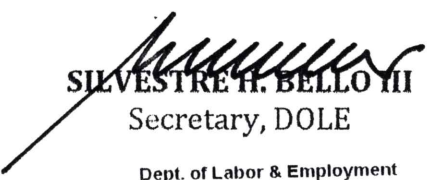
SECTION 6. Additional Training Regulations: The TESDA in collaboration with the DA and industry stakeholders shall develop and promulgate additional Training Regulations for the other Job Titles of agricultural and fishery machinery operators and technicians in the agri-fishery mechanization sector. Along this, a Functional Map for the agri-fishery mechanization industry/sector shall be formulated as basis in the development of Training Regulations.

SECTION 7. Compensation: The compensation of agricultural and fishery machinery operators and technicians to be hired or engaged in public and private agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers, sales and distribution outlets and manufacturing establishments, and by farmers cooperatives and associations shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Salary Standardization Law, Labor Code of the Philippines and prevailing regional wage rates.

SECTION 8. Compliance Monitoring: The DA through the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering shall conduct monitoring and inspections in agricultural and fisheries machinery pools and service centers, sales and distribution outlets and manufacturing establishments, and other concerned public and private entities or businesses on their compliance to this guidelines and standards.

SECTION 9. Penalties and Sanctions: Any person who violates the provisions of this guidelines shall be liable for the administrative and criminal penalties and sanctions imposed under Section 31 and 32 of Republic Act No. 10601 and other applicable laws and regulations.


SECTION 10. Effectivity: This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and its filing with the Administrative Register of the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center


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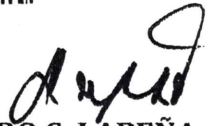
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In replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-01-21-0194

Received : 01/12/2021 10:26 AM


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