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CIRCULAR 09-2017

7 November 2017

TO : Heads of Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Agencies of the National Government, including State Universities and Colleges, Government Owned and/or Controlled Corporations, Government Financial Institutions, and Local Government Units

SUBJECT : Procurement of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery

1.0 Purpose

This Circular is being issued to remind procuring entities implementing government mechanization projects to observe the provisions stipulated in Republic Act (RA) No. 10601, otherwise known as the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law and the National Guidelines on Testing and Evaluation of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery¹.

2.0 Coverage

All Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Agencies of the National Government, including State Universities and Colleges, Government-Owned and/or Controlled Corporations, Government Financial Institutions, and Local Government Units.

3.0 Procurement of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery

3.1 Section 18 of RA 10601 provides that [a]gricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment to be sold in the market shall pass through testing and evaluation by the Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC) in accordance with the national policies and guidelines to be promulgated by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Specifically, before these items can be assembled, manufactured and commercially sold in the market, the model of the machine and any modification thereof should be tested by the AMTEC and should pass the prescribed quality and performance standards.

3.2 The Department of Agriculture, pursuant to the provisions of RA 10601 and in coordination with various government agencies and private sector

¹ Department Circular No. 05 Series of 2017 issued on 16 May 2017.

issued the National Guidelines on Testing and Evaluation of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery, which aims to provide national and local government offices, including the private sector, with a framework for implementing the testing and evaluation of agricultural and fisheries machinery and guide the manufacturers in the improvement and development of machinery, and safeguarding the interest of farmers and fisherfolks, as envisioned under RA 10601.

- 3.3 Accordingly, all procuring entities are enjoined to strictly comply with the provisions of RA 10601 and the National Guidelines on Testing and Evaluation of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery, particularly the requirement that agricultural and fisheries machinery, as defined under Section 3 of the law and its IRR², to be sold in the market should pass through testing and evaluation before it can be assembled, manufactured and commercially sold in the market.
- 3.4 Procuring Entities that procure agricultural and fisheries machinery shall incorporate in their procurement documents the required standards and parameters approved by the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering.
- 3.5 In order not to cause delay in government procurement activities, AMTEC shall conduct a timely testing and evaluation of agricultural and fisheries machinery. Further, BAFE is likewise encouraged to be proactive in the accreditation of reliable and competent testing centers throughout the country in accordance with Accreditation Guidelines for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery Testing Center³.

4.0 This Circular shall take effect immediately.

5.0 For guidance and compliance.

(SGD)

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO

Chairperson

² Agricultural and fisheries machinery refers to machinery and equipment for the production, post-production, harvesting, processing, storage, manufacture, preserving, transporting and distribution of agricultural and fisheries products and by-products. It includes, but 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 and fiber extraction machines.

³ Department Circular No. 04 Series of 2017 issued on 16 May 2017.