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Introduction:

This document is intended to give interested persons or companies an overview of the OCCP requirements for Organic Agricultural Inputs. The OCCP standards only refers to commercial production of fertilizers but has adapt existing international standards for organic inputs to cover all agricultural inputs

The OCCP standards was adopted by the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture and Processing in 2005 after undergoing a series of public consultations

Who needs to certified?

Manufacturers of organic inputs for commercial production needs to be certified

- Organic fertilizers
- Pesticides (i.e. insecticides, fungicides, herbicides) on the basis of plant extracts, mineral substances, micronutrients


Minimum Requirements:

1. Raw materials

- Raw materials for organic fertilizer production must be in accordance with Appendix 2.1 to 2.3. However, preference should be given to materials indigenous in the area.
- Other macro elements may be used for enrichment provided they come from materials indicated in Appendix 2.4
- Synthetic nitrogenous additives are prohibited
- No use of GMOs or GMO-derivatives
- For inputs using guano, collection in caves which are still hosting bats should not expel the bats. Collection must be suspended during mating season
- In case potentially contaminated raw materials are used (i.e. rice hull from poultry farms), pesticide testing has to be performed

2. Composting

- For compost activation, appropriate plant-based preparations or preparations of microorganisms, not genetically modified, may be used to hasten decomposition of organic residues.
- The introduction of worms for vermicomposting is allowed
- The organic fertilizer produced should be such that the original materials are no longer recognizable, free from plant and animal pathogens, soil-like in texture, contain not less than 20% organic matter (o.m.) over dry basis and can supply nutrients to plants

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3. Environmental and health impact

- Input manufacturers have to reduce negative effects on the environment and human health. This refers to active as well as inert ingredients including non-intentional contaminations and the production process
- There must be a system in place to minimize water, soil and air contamination
- Care must be exercised to prevent contamination of ground and surface water due to leaching of nutrients from composted materials.
- Safety precautionary measures for production workers such as wearing masks, gloves, and boots should be undertaken
- Packaging shall be "environmentally friendly", simple and not deceptive

4. Analysis

- Standard analysis includes the following parameters:
 - Fertilizers- concentration of soluble NPK
 - Manures- antibiotics, pesticides and/or antaparasitics
 - Heavy metals
 - Phosphoric rock- Cadmium
- Additional analysis may be carried out according to the type of product produced

5. Labelling

- The manufacturer has to make sure that no confusion about the certification status of his products occurs. There should be a clear differentiation between certified and non-certified products on labels and advertising materials
- Only products that are produced, handled and processed according to these Standards may be labeled as "produce of organic agriculture" or similar
- Labels and information material has to include warnings about potential health risks of the user and should indicate protective measures how to avoid or minimize such a risk


Traceability:

The manufacturer must maintain a complete audit trail for all organic inputs manufactured. The audit trail system should be complete enough to trace any product suspected of contamination from point of origin to the customer. Manufacturers must periodically demonstrate that production and sales of organic inputs match the purchase of raw materials.

Records:

Manufacturers must maintain updated documents of the following, containing key information to allow evaluation of compliance with standards:

1. Processing flow charts and Vicinity map
2. Suppliers list
 - name of supplier and sources of raw material for both organic and non-organic materials, documentation of certification of raw materials (if any)
3. Processing/Production Records

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- daily/weekly and monthly production, incoming and final weights, and account for loss and disposal of shrinkages
- 4. Packing Records
- 5. Sales Records
- 6. Inventory Records
 - amount and sources of intermediate and finished products
- 7. Laboratory Analysis
 - soluble NPK, heavy metals, antibiotics, pesticides, etc.
- 8. Other supporting documents- receipts, invoices, transaction certificates

These documents must be maintained for at least three years after sale of products and has been sold, and be available for inspection at all times.

Knowledge:

The manufacturer has to study and keep a copy (hard copy or electronic file) of the respective standards

The manufacturer needs to have adequate knowledge on organic rules and technologies

Note:

Please be aware that this is only a selection of the essential requirements of the standards and everyone is advised to get a copy of the standards and study all the requirements of the standards. A copy of the OCCP standards may be obtained from the OCCP website www.occp.phils.org while the Philippine National Standards may be obtained from the DA-BAFPS website