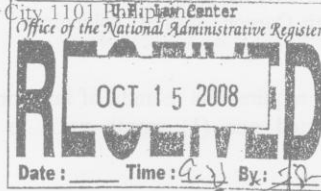




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Administrative Order
No. 30
Series of 2008

SUBJECT: Revision of Administrative Order No. 25 - Guidelines on the Certification of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Fruits and Vegetable (FV) Farming – On Fees, Duration of Renewal of Certificate and Modular Approach to Certification

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 25 s.2005 specifying the Guidelines for the Certification of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Fruits and Vegetable Farming, the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) in collaboration with the regional field unit offices of the Department carried out numerous training programs to disseminate information on GAP to the concerned stakeholders and create awareness. In the course of the activities conducted, the Bureau as the Secretariat of the Program was informed of the difficulties faced by farmers regarding certification fees and cost of analyses. In a related note, the Department has also initiated the benchmarking process of the PhilGAP with that of GLOBALGAP so as to ease the process of exporting our high quality and safe fresh fruits and vegetables.

This Administrative Order revises the provisions stipulated in Sections 4.4, 5.1.2 and 6.1 of A.O. No. 25 pertaining to fees and renewal of GAP certificate .

1. Fees

- 1.1. The cost of certification pertaining to the administrative expenses to be incurred by the Committee and the GAP Inspectors during the evaluation, inspection and audit shall be free of charge and will be shouldered by the BAFPS.
- 1.2. For farmer applicants applying for its first certification, the cost of analyses for the first sampling shall be free and will be borne by BAFPS. However, in cases when the results of analyses proved that the practices of the farmer applicant fell below the standards set, the inspectors shall be compelled to conduct another sampling after the corrective actions has also been complied with. The cost of analyses for the subsequent samplings shall be borne by the farmer applicant.
- 1.3. Farmer applicant applying for renewal of certificate, the cost of analyses for the first sampling shall be free and shall be borne by BAFPS. The cost of analyses for subsequent samplings shall be borne by the applicant, in cases where the chemical and microbial results of the analyses of the first sampling are non-compliant with the standards.



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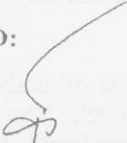
- 1.4. Re-certification requires the re-audit of farm on the GAP-FV guidelines and will be conducted one (1) month prior to the expiry of the existing certification.
- 1.5. During conduct of regular monitoring of GAP certified farmers, the costs of analyses shall be free of charge.

2. Renewal of GAP Certificate

- 2.1 GAP certified farms shall renew GAP certificate by submitting a new application one (1) year after it has been issued.
- 2.2 Application for renewal shall be done one (1) month prior to the anniversary date of the certificate. Re-certification requires the re-audit of farm on the GAP-FV guidelines and shall be conducted one (1) month prior to the expiry of the existing certification. Audit for the purpose of re-certification shall be conducted preferably during the harvesting season so as to cover as many points in the checklist as possible. In situations where there is no crop or produce present at the time when the annual inspection is due, and providing that the farmer has already signified his intention for re-certification at the end of the period of validity of the previous certificate, the Department may opt to extend the validity of the previous certificate by up to 3 months longer than the 12 month period (15 months in total). This is to give ample time when the farm may be inspected with presence of crop/produce. An extension can only be granted if the farmer applicant re-registered before the expiry date.
- 2.3 Upon receipt of the renewal request, a new certificate shall be issued and an inspection shall be performed within the following thirty (30) days, preferably during the growing or packing season.
- 2.4 An applicant may, at his option, seek certification on any one or all or two or three combination of the four modules of GAP certification i.e. on food safety, produce quality, environmental safety and workers health and safety. The certificate to be issued shall explicitly state the specific modules applied for.


This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its filing with the UP Law Center.

APPROVED:


ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

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