

RA8435
Chapter 7

Product Standardization
and Consumer Safety

SEC. 60. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State that all sectors involved in the production, processing, distribution and marketing of food and non-food agricultural and fisheries products shall adhere to, and implement the use of product standards in order to ensure consumer safety and promote the competitiveness of agriculture and fisheries products.

SEC. 61. *Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards.* - The Department, within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, and in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bureau of Food and Drug, shall establish the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS).

SEC. 62. *Coverage.* - The BAFPS shall set and implement standards for fresh, primary-and-secondary processed agricultural and fishery products.

SEC. 63. *Powers and Functions.* - The BAFPS shall have the following powers and functions:

- a.) Formulate and enforce standards of quality in the processing, preservation, packaging, labeling, importation, exportation, distribution, and advertising of agricultural and fisheries products;
- b.) Conduct research on product standardization, alignment of the local standards with the international standards; and,
- c.) Conduct regular inspection of processing plants, storage facilities, abattoirs, as well as public and private markets in order to ensure freshness, safety and quality of products.

SEC. 64. *Pool of Experts and Advisers.* - The BAFPS may coordinate, seek the services of, and consult with both private and governmental agencies, research institutes, educational establishments and such other individuals and entities with expertise in the field of product standards and consumer safety.

The Department of Trade and Industry, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, and the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration shall provide technical advice and form part of the pool of experts/advisers of the BAFPS.