



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Agriculture**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
Quezon City 1100, Philippines

March 20, 2018

**DEPARTMENT ORDER**

No. 07  
Series of 2018

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING THE DA FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM FOR THE PRIMARY AND POST-HARVEST FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTION SECTORS OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**

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**WHEREAS**, Republic Act 10611 or the Food Safety Act of 2013 (FSA 2013) mandates the strengthening of the food safety regulatory system in the country by protecting the public from food-borne and water-borne illnesses and unsanitary, unwholesome, misbranded or adulterated foods; enhancing industry and consumer confidence in the food regulatory system; and achieving economic growth and development by promoting fair trade practices and sound regulatory foundation for domestic and international trade;

**WHEREAS**, to attain the above, the Act requires the establishment of policies and programs for addressing food safety hazards and developing appropriate standards and control measures; strengthening the scientific basis of the regulatory system; and upgrading the capability of farmers, fisherfolk, industries, consumers and government personnel in ensuring food safety;

**WHEREAS**, Article V Section 15 of the FSA 2013 mandates that the DA shall be responsible for food safety in the primary production and post-harvest stages of food supply chain and foods locally produced or imported in this category;

**WHEREAS**, the above provisions and requirements of the FSA 2013 are consistent with the policies and objectives stipulated in Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997, which promotes the transformation of the agriculture and fisheries sectors into one that is dynamic, technologically advanced and competitive yet centered on human development guided by the sound practices of sustainability and the principles of social justice;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to fully carry-out the mandate and requirements of the above laws by developing and implementing a sustained and resource-supported Food Safety Program instigated at the national level and cascaded down to the regional, provincial and municipal levels in collaboration with the DA Regional Field Offices and the Local Government Units through various work streams, mechanisms, institutional structures and arrangements identified and defined in the Department Order No. 7, s. 2016;



**WHEREAS**, Rule 16.5 of the FSA 2013 authorizes the DA Secretary to put into place arrangements among the DA FSRAs when necessary to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL**, Secretary of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, hereby issue this Department Order directing the enhanced implementation of the FSA 2013 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) through the development and implementation of a sustained DA Food Safety Program for the primary and post-harvest stages of food and feed production sectors of agriculture and fisheries and the creation of the DA Food Safety Focal Group.

## **SECTION I SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

- A. This Department Order covers the development and implementation of a Food Safety Program for the primary and post-harvest stages of food and feed production sectors of agriculture and fisheries.
- B. The following DA Offices/Agencies and DA Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (DA FSRAs) shall be involved:
  - 1. DA Offices/Agencies
    - a. Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Project Development, Research and Development, and Regulations (OPP)
    - b. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regulations (OASR)
    - c. Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Division, Policy Research Service (FAFPD-PRS)
    - d. Planning and Monitoring Service (PMS)
    - e. Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)
    - f. Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)
    - g. DA Regional Field Offices (DA RFOs)
  - 2. DA Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRAs)
    - a. Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
    - b. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
    - c. Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
    - d. National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)
    - e. Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)
    - f. National Dairy Authority (NDA)
- C. This Order also directs the above Offices and Agencies to coordinate and collaborate as necessary, with FSRAs and other concerned Offices not under the administrative control of the DA but with mandated responsibilities under the FSA 2013, as follows:
  - 1. National Food Authority (NFA)
  - 2. Food Development Center of the National Food Authority (FDC-NFA)
  - 3. Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)
  - 4. Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA)
  - 5. Department of Health (DOH)



6. Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
7. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
8. Local Government Units (LGUs)

## **SECTION II OBJECTIVES**

This Order aims to:

1. Enhance the capability of the Department and the Offices and Agencies listed in Section I.B and I.C to identify and evaluate the food safety issues covered by each FSRAs, and to implement the requirements of the FSA 2013;
2. Institutionalize the implementation of the requirements of the FSA 2013 as integral to the regular activities and responsibilities of the Offices and Agencies through the development, implementation and monitoring of a sustained Food Safety Program;
3. Ensure inclusion and participation of DA RFOs and LGUs in implementing the requirements on food safety at the local levels in accordance with the national program, standards, and regulations
4. Improve international and national cross-sectoral collaboration, enhance communication and advocacy
5. ensure that the required resources are included in the annual budget preparation of the offices and agencies for sustained program implementation.

## **SECTION III FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

All concerned shall ensure full implementation of this Order. For this purpose, the following functions and responsibilities shall be observed and complied with:

1. The Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Project Development, Research and Development, and Regulations shall provide overall supervision and oversight in the implementation of the Food Safety Act as per Section XVII of RA 10611.
2. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regulations (OASR) shall be responsible for coordinating with the DA FSRAs in ensuring that a sustained Food Safety Program consistent with the requirements of the FSA 2013 is developed and implemented on sustained basis by each DA FSRAs for their respective sectors. The OASR shall also develop and institute the mechanism for regular and/or special meetings, coordination, and reporting on status and progress of work pursuant to DO 08 s. 2016.
3. The DA FSRAs shall create their respective Food Safety Units within their agencies. The Unit shall be responsible for developing and implementing the Food Safety Program in accordance with the mandate and provisions of the FSA 2013, and shall support the adoption of food safety indicators. A Food Safety Officer shall be designated to head the Food Safety Unit. He/she shall be the agency focal Person for Food Safety matters.



4. The Food Safety Units of the DA FSRAs shall work closely with the non-DA FSRAs and other concerned offices not under the administrative control of the DA as listed in Section I.C of this Order to ensure coherent implementation of the Food Safety program.
5. BAI and BPI shall establish linkages with the Food Safety Units of the appropriate units at the DA RFOs, and provide the required technical support and capacity-building activities in implementing the Food Safety Program in the regional jurisdictions. On the other hand, BFAR, NMIS, SRA, and NDA shall implement through their regional/area offices.
6. The Food Safety Coordinators of the DA RFOs as per DA Special Order No. 372, series Of 2017 (Annex 1A), together with and/or guided by the DA FSRAs Food Safety Units, shall support and work with the Local Government Units (LGUs) in ensuring that food safety standards, regulations, and activities are observed and enforced accordingly in the various localities. They shall assist the LGUs in establishing a mechanism for the issuance and enforcement of ordinances and regulations for food safety based on national standards within their territorial jurisdiction. They shall develop and implement capacity building programs for the LGUs such as but not limited to training courses, advocacy, information dissemination and including participation in national, regional, and international activities on food safety.
7. BAFS and ATI shall perform their food safety-related roles and responsibilities as stipulated in Department Order No. 4, series of 2017: *Department Policy on Rationalizing and Strengthening DA National and Regional Laboratory Services*, and Department Order No. 7, series of 2017: *Designating the Agricultural Training Institute as Lead Agency in Developing and Coordinating a Food Safety Regulation Training Program for the Department of Agriculture*, respectively.
8. PMS shall provide guidance to the DA Food Safety Focal Group of each implementing agencies/offices in the preparation of Annual Project Procurement and Management Plan (PPMP) or the Annual Work and Financial Plan (WFP). PMS shall ensure inclusion of this in the DA's Annual Budgetary Requirement for submission to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

#### **SECTION IV**

##### **THE DA FOOD SAFETY FOCAL GROUP**

1. To ensure effective and efficient planning, monitoring, assessment, implementation and harmonization of DA's Food Safety programs and activities a DA Food Safety Focal Group (FSFG) is created (S.O. No. 155, s. 2018) composed of the agency designated Food Safety Focal Person (FSFP) from DA Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRAs) and other agencies/offices identified in the FSA of 2013 including the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Bureau of Agriculture and Products Standards (BAFS).
2. The FSFG shall be under the direct supervision of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regulations (OASR)



**SECTION V**  
**REGIONAL FOOD SAFETY COORDINATORS**

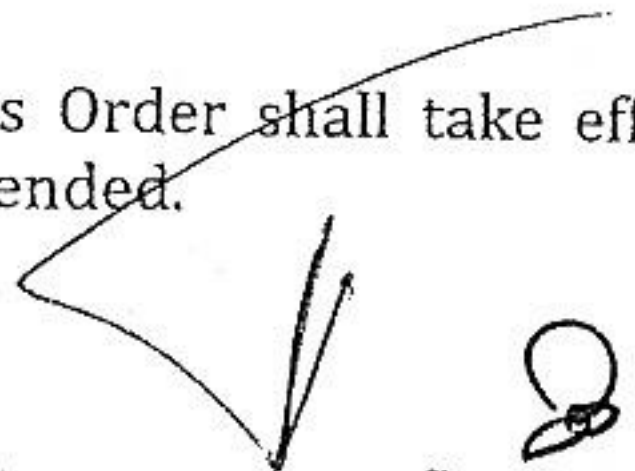
1. The designated Regional Food Safety Coordinators (RFSG), per S.O. No. 372, s. 2017, dated March 30, 2017, shall serve as the main link between the national and regional levels in the implementation of the FSA of 2013 in partnership with the various Local Government Units (LGU) in their respective areas.
2. The RFSC serves as the focal person of all food safety-related programs and activities in the region and shall be under the direct supervision of the Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Research and Regulations of the DA RFO

**SECTION VI**  
**PERSONNEL AND BUDGET**

1. Rule 16.16 of the FSA 2013 provides that the DA and each DA FSRAs may utilize or restructure existing units in order to create their functional Food Safety Unit, which shall be provided with the necessary personnel out of the existing manpower of the DA.
2. OPP, OASR, BAFS, ATI, the DA FSRAs and the DA RFOs may also consider hiring additional qualified personnel to strengthen manpower requirements of a sustained Food Safety Program, subject to the usual government processes, rules and regulations.
3. OPP, OASR, BAFS, ATI, the DA FSRAs, and the DA RFOs shall also move towards regularization of their Food Safety Units and the required plantilla positions within their respective offices.
4. OPP, OASR, BAFS, ATI, the DA FSRAs and the DA RFOs shall prepare and submit their respective Annual Project Procurement and Management Plan (PPMP) or the Annual Work and Financial Plan (WFP) on Food Safety Program under the guidance of PMS.
5. PMS shall supervise annual budget preparations and monitor submission of the same, to ensure compliance with requirements and inclusion of this in the DA submission to DBM.

**SECTION VI**  
**EFFECTIVITY**

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked or amended.

  
**EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL**  
Secretary



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