

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 18-13 - - -  
Series of 2018

To : ALL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED

Subject : Implementing Guidelines for the Mandatory Certification of Christmas Lights / Lighting Sets covered by PNS 189:2000

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 04:2008 and DAO No. 05:2008, the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) under its Product Certification Schemes is implementing mandatory certification for Christmas lights/lighting sets covered by the Philippine National Standard (PNS) 189:2000;

**WHEREAS**, with the regular increase of Christmas lights importation and market distribution leading up to the Christmas season, the BPS issues a Memorandum Circular every year to remind the Christmas lights importers and distributors of the policies regarding mandatory certification;

**WHEREAS**, with the growing number of foreign manufacturers certified under the Philippine Standard (PS) Certification Mark Licensing Scheme, strict monitoring of Christmas lights importation and distribution in the market is necessary to further protect the consumers with regard to safety of Christmas lights;

**WHEREAS**, on 13 September 2018, the BPS facilitated the conduct of the Christmas Lights Industry Meeting wherein concerns on the existing policies for the importation, certification and monitoring of Christmas lights were raised and discussed;

**WHEREAS**, taking into consideration the concerns raised during the Christmas Lights Industry Meeting, there is a need for the BPS to revise/update some provisions of the Implementing Guidelines for the Mandatory Certification of Christmas Lights covered by PNS 189:2000 issued on 09 July 2008;

**WHEREFORE**, foregoing premises considered, this Memorandum Circular is hereby issued for the guidance of all concerned.

**1. SCOPE**

1.1 The following Christmas lights / lighting sets rated up to 250V single phase shall be required to undergo PS or ICC certification procedures in accordance to the requirements of DAO 04:2008, DAO 05:2008, their respective Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and their future amendments:

- Lighting sets using push-in type lamps
- Lighting sets using filament type lamps
- Lighting sets using light-emitting diode (LED) as lamps
- Lighting sets for indoor use. Lighting sets marked "for indoor/outdoor use" are also covered.

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1.2 The following are exempted from the mandatory certification scheme:

- Lighting sets integral in Christmas trees/lanterns/decors
- Rope lights
- Neon lights
- Meteor tube lights/stick lights/laser lights
- Lighting sets using general lighting service (GLS) type bulbs
- Lighting sets with d.c. main supply (e.g. battery-operated lighting sets, solar-powered lighting sets)
- Lighting sets with power supply adapter
- Lighting sets designed for outdoor use
- Other lighting sets not mentioned in clause 1.1

1.3 Christmas lights/lighting sets stated in clause 1.2 may be issued a Certificate of Exemption upon verification/inspection of the actual application/usage of the lighting sets.

## 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of these guidelines, the definition of terms provided under PNS 189:2000, the DTI DAO 2:2007, DAO 4:2008, DAO 5:2008, and their respective Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall apply.

## 3. AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DTI

In addition to the duties and responsibilities prescribed in DAO 2:2007, DAO 4:2008, DAO 5:2008 and their respective IRRs, the BPS shall maintain and disseminate a registry of Christmas lights/lighting sets certified by the BPS under the ICC or PS Certification Schemes.

## 4. APPLICATION FOR PS LICENSE OR ICC CERTIFICATION

2.1 Manufacturers shall apply for the Philippine Standard (PS) Certification Mark License in accordance to the requirements of DAO 4:2008, its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and their future amendments.

2.2 Importers shall apply for the Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) in accordance to the requirements of DAO 5:2008, its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and their future amendments.

## 5. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

3.1 Manufacturers/importers shall ensure that each lighting set is labeled with its corresponding product identification and traceability number/code of the production lot or batch prior to importation or distribution.

3.2 Importers shall submit to the BPS the summary of the product identification and traceability numbers/codes of the production lot or batch for every importation of lighting sets covered under section 1.1 of this Circular.

## 6. SAMPLING

6.1 For ICC application, five (5) samples of lighting sets per type/model per brand shall be randomly drawn from every shipment at the importer's warehouse by a duly authorized DTI/BPS representative.

- 6.2 For PS Certification Mark License application, ten (10) samples of lighting sets per type/model per brand shall be randomly drawn from the manufacturer's production line or warehouse by a duly authorized DTI/BPS representative. The first five (5) samples shall be tested in-plant as witnessed by the authorized DTI/BPS representative. The remaining five (5) lighting sets serve as the samples for independent testing upon satisfactory results of the in-plant test.
- 6.3 Test samples for independent testing shall be packed/sealed and signed by the authorized DTI/BPS representative and shall be sent by the manufacturer or importer to a BPS recognized testing laboratory within three (3) working days upon drawing of samples. The authorized DTI/BPS representative shall ensure that the Request for Test form is properly filled-up, signed and issued to the manufacturer or importer.
- 6.4 Prior to independent testing, there shall be no special preparation, modification or adjustment, quality control, testing or assembly procedure conducted in any manner on a test sample or any parts and sub-assemblies thereof, which is not normally performed during production and assembly.

## 7. IN-PLANT TEST

7.1 The manufacturer shall have the capability to verify conformance of its Christmas lights / lighting sets to the following parameters of PNS 189:2000 by using its own inspection, measuring and testing equipment:

- 7.1.1 Quality of Materials (Clause 4)
- 7.1.2 Connection to supply (Clause 5)
- 7.1.3 Wiring (Clause 9)
- 7.1.4 Protection Against Electric Shock (Clause 10)
- 7.1.5 Mechanical Requirements (Clause 11.1)
- 7.1.6 Temperature Requirements (Clause 13)
- 7.1.7 Marking (Clause 14)

7.2 The manufacturer shall establish a system and procedure of ensuring the full conformance of its finished products to the requirements of PNS 189:2000 as part of its quality control.

## 8. INDEPENDENT TESTING

- 8.1 Samples shall be tested by a BPS recognized testing laboratory.
- 8.2 Samples shall be tested at 230 V 60 Hz and shall comply with the applicable requirements of PNS 189:2000.
- 8.3 All test results shall be held strictly confidential by the BPS recognized testing laboratory. Copies of test report/s that maybe requested by the manufacturers/importers from BPS are for product certification purposes only and shall not be used for commercial purposes.

## 9. DISPOSITION OF SAMPLES

- 9.1 Tested samples shall be retrieved by the manufacturer/importer within 30 days upon receipt of the notice issued by the testing laboratory.
- 9.2 Samples which failed to comply with the requirements of PNS 189:2000 may be stored at the concerned testing laboratory for reference purposes and in the

event that the manufacturer/importer contests the result of tests. If the test results were not contested after two (2) months from the issuance, the test report is deemed final and the samples shall be returned to the manufacturer/importer or disposed of in a manner deemed appropriate, under existing rules and regulations.

- 9.3 The BPS and its recognized testing laboratory shall not be liable for whatever damage sustained by the test samples during transport and testing. The laboratory shall dispose the samples, in a manner deemed appropriate under existing rules and regulations. Disposal of tested samples with hazardous substances shall be the responsibility of the manufacturer/importer concerned.

## **10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PS LICENSEES AND ICC HOLDERS**

- 10.1 The PS licensee shall abide by the terms and conditions of the PS license as prescribed under DAO 04:2008, its IRR, and other applicable DTI/BPS rules and regulations.
- 10.2 The ICC holder shall abide by the terms and conditions of the ICC certificate as prescribed under DAO 05:2008, its IRR, and other applicable DTI/BPS rules and regulations

## **11. REQUIRED MARKINGS**

Required markings shall be as follows:

- 11.1 Markings/labels prescribed by PNS 189:2000;
- 11.2 Applicable markings/labels prescribed by DAO 04:2008, DAO 05:2008 and their respective IRRs;
- 11.3 Applicable markings/labels prescribed under Republic Act No. 7394 (Consumer Act of the Philippines); and
- 11.4 An instruction or warning on the maximum allowable number of connections the Christmas light/lighting set is designed as prescribed by the manufacturer.

## **12. IMPORTED LIGHTING SETS CERTIFIED UNDER THE PS LICENSE SCHEME**

- 12.1 All importers of Christmas lights / lighting sets certified under a PS license issued by the BPS to a foreign manufacturer shall secure a Certificate of Exemption on a per shipment/importation basis prior to the release of the imported products from the Bureau of Customs.
- 12.2 The BPS shall have the prerogative to conduct verification, inspection, sampling, and/or testing on the actual shipment prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption.

## **13. MONITORING AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE**

The BPS/FTEB/DTI Regional and Provincial Offices shall at any time monitor and inspect Christmas lights/lighting sets in the market for conformance to the requirements of DAO 2:2007, DAO 4:2008, DAO 5:2008, their respective IRRs and PNS 189:2000. If the products are found not in conformity, DTI/BPS shall make

appropriate legal actions or impose necessary sanctions, in accordance with the relevant laws, rules and regulations.

#### 14. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

Should any provision of this Memorandum Circular or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separate from the invalid ones, shall remain in force and effect.

#### 15. REPEALING CLAUSE

This repeals the Implementing Guidelines for the Mandatory Certification of Christmas Lights Covered by PNS 189:2000 issued on 09 July 2008 and all other Memorandum Circulars, Orders or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provision of this Memorandum Circular.

#### 16. TRANSITORY PROVISION

Compliance to the following parameters of PNS 189:2000, which were waived by the Implementing Guidelines issued on 09 July 2008 due to test capability constraints, shall be implemented beginning 01 April 2019:

- 16.1 Clause 5.2
- 16.2 Clause 5.3
- 16.3 Clause 6.0
- 16.4 Clause 9.5

#### 17. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation, a copy of which shall be submitted to the UP Office of National Administrative Register.

Done in the City of Makati this 24th day of October in the year 2018.

  
**DIRECTOR JAMES E. EMPEÑO**  
Bureau of Philippine Standards

Noted by:

  
**UNDERSECRETARY RUTH B. CASTELO**  
Consumer Protection Group

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