



**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 20-48**

*Series of 2020*

To : **All Manufacturers and Importers of Steel Bars and Others Concerned**

Subject : **SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
DAO 18-08, SERIES OF 2018**

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**WHEREAS**, the Department Administrative Order (DAO) 18-08, Series of 2018 was issued and took effect on 06 January 2019, the objective of which is to strictly ensure that steel products comply with the specified safety and/or quality requirement/s as prescribed therein;

**WHEREAS**, as provided in Rule 24.5 Transitory Provisions of DAO 18-08:2018, all manufacturers shall comply with the new marking requirements on embossed markings prescribed therein, particularly for steel grade, micro-alloy or quench and tempered bars, six (6) months after the effectivity of the said DAO or on 06 July 2019;

**WHEREAS**, Philippine National Standard (PNS) 49:2019 – Steel bars for concrete reinforcement – Specification was promulgated by the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) in January 2019 prescribing the new requirements on steel grades and markings, among others;

**WHEREAS**, a group of manufacturers requested to defer the date of the mandatory implementation of the new marking requirements to give them ample time for the necessary re-tooling and review of the marking requirements prescribed by the new PNS 49:2019;

**WHEREAS**, considering the request made by the industry, Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 19-04, Series of 2019 was issued extending the implementation of the new embossed markings for steel bars until 05 September 2019 and the commencement of market monitoring and enforcement of the new embossed markings was deferred to 05 September 2020;

**WHEREAS**, to further simplify the prescribed markings for easier compliance and monitoring, the steel bar manufacturers requested for alternative embossed markings relative to the mandatory implementation of the new marking requirements prescribed by DAO 18-08:2018,

**WHEREAS**, considering the suggestions of the industry, MC No. 19-09, Series of 2019 was issued prescribing the acceptable markings on grade and manufacturing process on steel bars, minimum sampling requirements for mechanical and chemical test, and guidelines on market monitoring and enforcement;

**WHEREAS**, on 16 March 2020, the President declared a state of public health emergency through Presidential Proclamation No. 922, Series of 2020 to address the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) threat, subsequently placing the whole Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). Other similar orders were subsequently issued extending the implementation of the community quarantine until to date;

**WHEREAS**, due to this public health emergency, all non-essential business operations including steel bar manufacturing or distribution were halted and/or allowed subject to the limitations prescribed in the various Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (MEID) issued guidelines;

**WHEREAS**, due to the halted or limited business operations, most of the steel manufacturers expressed that they will not be able to fully utilize the remaining inventories of steel bars bearing the old markings by 06 September 2020 including those already in their distributors' warehouses and hardware stores;

**WHEREAS**, Rule 23 of DAO 18-08, Series of 2018 specifically stipulates that "BPS may issue such guidelines/procedures as may be necessary in the implementation of this Order";

**WHEREFORE**, foregoing premises considered, the following guidelines shall be implemented:

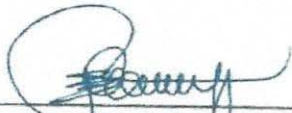
1. All local/foreign manufacturers and importers of steel products covered by DAO 18-08:2018 including their local distributors and/or hardware stores shall utilize and/or dispose the remaining inventories of steel bars bearing the old markings until 30 June 2021;
2. Market monitoring and enforcement to ensure that all steel products covered by DAO 18-08:2018 distributed in the local market bear the new requirements on embossed markings shall commence on 01 July 2021. All non-compliant products shall be subject to the following:
  - a. First Offense – Notice of Violation shall be issued but retailers/distributors shall only be advised to pull-out the items from the selling area.
  - b. Second Offense onwards – Notice of Violation shall be issued subject to the regular adjudication process.
3. All provisions of MC 19-04 and MC 19-09, Series of 2019 inconsistent with this Circular are considered repealed or amended.


This Circular shall be effective immediately 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.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

Done in the City of Makati this 24th day of August in the year 2020.

Recommended by:

  
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**NEIL P. CATAJAY**  
Director  
Bureau of Philippine Standards

  
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**ATTY. RUTH B. CASTELO**  
Undersecretary  
Consumer Protection Group

Approved by:

  
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**RAMON M. LOPEZ**  
Secretary