



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS  
**CENTRAL OFFICE**  
Manila

097.13 DPWH

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DEPARTMENT ORDER )

No. 112 )

Series of 2023 )

dt 9/11/2023

**SUBJECT: Abolition of Various DPWH Committees  
whose Functions are Mandated to the  
Bureau of Quality and Safety (BQS)**

In order to rationalize the Department's processes and to effectively carry-out the mandated functions of the Bureau of Quality and Safety (BQS), an organic unit of the Department which was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 366, Series of 2004, *re: Directing a Strategic Review of the Operations and Organizations of the Executive Branch and Providing Options and Incentives for Government Employees who may be Affected by the Rationalization of the Functions and Agencies of the Executive Branch*, the following Committees are hereby abolished:

1. **Accreditation Committee for DPWH and Contractors'/Consultants' Project Engineers** – Created/Reconstituted by virtue of Department Order No. 51, Series of 2023 to ensure that only qualified and competent field engineers will be assigned to supervise DPWH infrastructure projects. However, said function is already being carried out by the BQS, through its Quality Systems Analysis Division (QSAD).
2. **Committee that will Oversee the Review of the Anti-Truck Overloading Provisions of RA 8794 and its IRR** – Created by virtue of DPWH Special Order No. 286, Series of 2022. However, the BQS, through its Traffic Engineering Division (TED), was accorded with the responsibility to analyze weighbridge data, as well as to manage weighbridge operations.
3. **Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) Steering Committee** – Created by virtue of Department Order No. 132, Series of 2019 to ensure proper implementation of the Guidelines for the Imposition of Administrative Sanctions to Erring Engineers Involved in the Defective Implementation of DPWH Projects and monitor effective implementation of the Department's Quality Assurance Program (QAP). However, as the organic office overseeing the QAU operations of the Department, the BQS, through its Quality Compliance Division (QCD), is mandated to perform said function.

Henceforth, the functions of these abolished Committees shall be performed by the BQS, through its aforementioned Divisions.

This Order supersedes Department Order No. 51, Series of 2023 and Special Order No. 286, Series of 2022, and amends Department Order No. 132, Series of 2019 and shall take effect immediately.

**MANUEL M. BONOAN**  
Secretary

15.1 SBOO/MGM/MLC

Department of Public Works and Highways  
Office of the Secretary



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## **Justification for the Abolition of Various DPWH Committees**

To rationalize the Department's processes and to effectively carry-out the mandated functions of DPWH, Bureau of Quality and Safety (BQS), we recommend for the abolition of the hereunder Committees and the takeover of their functions by the BQS.

### **A. Accreditation Committee for DPWH and Contractors'/Consultants' Project Engineers**

1. A committee was created to study and design an accreditation system for DPWH Project Engineers and recommend policies and guidelines to enhance the capabilities of field engineers through Department Order No. 48, Series of 1996.
2. At that time, no single existing unit in the Department was mandated to evaluate applications for accreditations. As such, a committee was created by virtue of D.O. No. 170, series of 1997, and tasked to evaluate said applications, as well as to develop a system for accreditation, selection and assignment of engineers in DPWH projects.
3. In 1998, a system for the accreditation of DPWH Field Engineers was prescribed under D.O. No. 73, series of 1998, to ensure that only qualified and competent engineers will be assigned to supervise DPWH projects.
4. A Technical Secretariat with members from the Bureau of Research and Standards (BRS) and Administrative and Manpower Management Service (AMMS) (presently Human Resource and Administrative Service (HRAS)) was created to assist the committee on the accreditation of DPWH Field Engineers under Department Order Nos. 6 and 103, both Series of 1998.
5. In 2013, the DPWH Rationalization Plan was approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), wherein the Bureau of Quality and Safety (BQS) was created. One of the functions mandated to this newly-created Bureau is the accreditation of Field Engineers (FEs), which function is lodged under the Accreditation Section of its Quality Systems Analysis Division (QSAD);
6. In 2015, the accreditation functions were redefined thru D.O. No. 137, series of 2015, considering the previous assignment and availability of manpower and resources of the Bureau of Research and Standards (BRS) in the conduct of accreditation activities. Under this issuance, the various accreditations being conducted by the Department were delineated as follows:
  - a. Bureau of Research and Standards
    - Accreditation of Private Materials Testing Laboratories
    - Accreditation of Contractors'/Consultants' Materials Engineers
    - Accreditation of DPWH Materials Engineers
    - Accreditation of Asphalt and Portland Cement Concrete Batching Plants
  - b. Bureau of Quality and Safety
    - Accreditation of DPWH Project Engineers and Inspectors



7. In 2019, the Accreditation of Contractors'/Consultants' Project Engineers was prescribed by the DPWH and the function of carrying out the accreditation process was given to BQS, through Department Order No. 10, Series of 2019, re: Guidelines on the Accreditation of the Contractors' and Consultants' Project Engineers, which was then amended through Department Order No. 94, Series of 2020.
8. Since 1997 up to present, the responsibility for accreditations was accorded to a Committee despite the existence already of an organic unit that is mandated to carry out such responsibility.

**B. Committee that will Oversee the Review of the Anti-Truck Overloading Provisions of RA 8794 and its IRR**

1. The Department has been operating a network of weighbridges across the country as part of its asset preservation program. Initially, the responsibilities were accorded to several offices in the Department, as prescribed under Ministry Order No. 79, series of 1982, with the Bureau of Equipment (BOE) responsible for the procurement, installation, repair and maintenance of the weighbridges; with the Regional Offices responsible for its operations; and the Planning Service responsible for consolidating the monthly reports of the Regional Offices;
2. In June 2000, Republic Act No. 8794 entitled "An Act Imposing a Motor Vehicle User's Charge on Owners of all types of Motor Vehicles and for Other Purposes" was enacted by Congress. Under Section 6 of RA 8794, a penalty for overloading was prescribed on trucks/trailers who are loading beyond their prescribed gross weights and single axle weight. Under Section 7c of the promulgated IRR of RA8794, the responsibility for imposing the penalty for overloaded trucks was accorded to the Land Transportation Office (LTO);
3. In 2001, considering that DPWH has a network of weighbridges on national roads which can determine weights of trucks and trailers, a Joint Circular was signed by and between three (3) National Government Agencies namely: Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Public Works and Highways and Department of Interior and Local Government, in order to lay down the framework for implementing the anti-truck overloading program of the Government. Under the signed Joint Circular, the DPWH thru its Regional/District Engineering Offices, was tasked to provide resources for the operations of weighbridges and portable axle weighing stations along national roads nationwide;
4. In 2009, an Anti-Truck Overloading Enforcement Oversight Unit was established at the Bureau of Maintenance (BOM), thru D.O. No. 48, series of 2009, which was tasked with the responsibility of supervising the operations of the DPWH weighbridge stations and mobile enforcement teams;
5. In 2010, with the creation of the Anti-Truck Overloading Enforcement Oversight Unit at the BOM, the set-up of the management and supervision of the actual operation of weighbridges was transferred to the Maintenance Division of the Regional Office thru D.O. No. 11, series of 2010;
6. In 2013, under the approved DPWH Rationalization Plan, the newly-created BQS was accorded with the responsibility for the analysis of weighbridge data as well as the management of weighbridge operations under the Traffic Analysis Section of its Traffic Engineering Division (TED); and,

7. In 2022, a Committee was created under S.O. No. 286, series of 2022 to oversee the review of the anti-truck overloading provisions of RA 8794 and its IRR.

### **C. Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) Steering Committee**

1. In 1990, the Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) was created to perform project assessment on the quality of construction and compliance with plans and specifications of both on-going and completed projects by virtue to Department Order No. 26, Series of 1990. Under said Department Order, a Committee composed of the Undersecretary for Technical Services as head and the Directors of the BRS, Bureau of Construction (BOC) and Bureau of Maintenance (BOM) was tasked to forward findings and recommendations of the QAUs to the Secretary;
2. In 1991, the QAU-Regional Office (RO) was created to perform project assessment within their region by virtue of Department Order No. 169, Series of 1991;
3. Per Department Order No. 125, series of 2014, *"Offices and Divisions created/renamed under the approved DPWH-CO Rationalization Plan Pursuant to E.O. No. 366, series of 2004"*, the BQS was one of the new offices created, accorded with regular plantilla positions and tasked with the monitoring of policies relating to the implementation of the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) of the Department;
4. In 2019, Department Order No. 132, Series of 2019 which amends Department Orders relative to the Creation and Operations of the QAUs was issued. As mentioned on said Order, the QAU shall be directly reporting to the QAU Steering Committee (QAUSC), which is composed of the Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary in-charge of the overall coordination of the QAU operations as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, and the Directors of BQS, BOD, BRS, BOM, and BOC as members;
5. As highlighted under the "Terms of Reference for the set-up and operation of Quality Assurance Units (QAU)" of Department Order No. 132, series of 2019, the BQS shall be the overall coordinator of the QAU operations. Hence, the BQS has been undertaking activities to effectively implement the QAP, such as but not limited to:
  - a. Conduct quality audits of on-going and completed projects of the Department to check their compliance with the approved plans and specifications;
  - b. Participate/Conduct investigation of projects which are subject of complaints;
  - c. Propose policy direction, including formulation of Quality Assurance (QA) policies for DPWH project implementation;
  - d. Monitor implementation of policies to ensure that effective quality control of materials in the implementation of DPWH projects is carried out by the contractor's testing laboratory or its designated private accredited testing laboratory; and,
  - e. Monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of DPWH Standard Specifications for Project Quality Assurance.
6. As an organic office overseeing the QAU operations of the Department, one (1) of the Divisions created under the BQS is the Quality Compliance Division (QCD), which is tasked to perform the following functions relating to QAU activities, to wit:
  - a. Conduct assessment of on-going and completed projects of the Department to check their compliance with the approved plans and specifications;
  - b. Participate/Conduct investigation of projects which are subject of complaints;



- c. Participate in the conduct of final inspection for completion/acceptance of projects implemented by the Project Management Offices of the Department;
- d. Appraise quality control performance in project Implementation of DPWH field offices;
- e. Evaluate written explanations and recommend sanctions against erring field engineers involved in the faulty supervision of projects;
- f. Conduct preliminary investigation of such irregularities or anomalies; and,
- g. Prepare formal administrative charges and prepare corresponding decisions.

In view of the foregoing, the abolition of the above-mentioned Committees is proposed considering that an organic unit in the Department is already handling the aforementioned functions with an Undersecretary and an Assistant Secretary exercising oversight functions.