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MEMORANDUM NO. 193

Series 2018

**T O: All Heads of Chemical Laboratories**

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- DSS-SRA Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory

- PhilRootcrops Central Analytical Services Laboratory

- Animal Science Laboratory

- Food Science and Tech Laboratory

**R E: Certificate of Authority for Chemical Laboratory**

This is relative to the passage into law of Republic Act No 10657 otherwise known as the Chemistry Profession Act which came into full force and effect on 12 April 2015. This is an act regulating and modernizing the practice of chemistry in the Philippines, repealing for the purpose Republic Act No. 754 or the Chemistry Law of the Philippines. Likewise, pursuant to Section 7 (m) and Section 47 of RA No. 10657, the Professional Regulatory Board (PRB) of Chemistry, with the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission, adopted and promulgated the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) through its PRBC Resolution No. 7 Series of 2015.

Please be advised of the salient provisions of the law and the IRR regarding the operation of laboratories performing chemical analyses in the Philippines:

Only firms, corporations, government agencies, academic institutions duly authorized by the Board, that hold a valid certificate may operate a chemical laboratory or engage in the practice of chemistry or chemical analysis in the Philippines (RA 10657, Sec. 35).

That only registered Chemists or registered Chemical Technicians holding valid Certificate of Registrations (CRs) and Professional Identification Certificates (PICs) issued by the Board and the Commission can carry out the chemistry practice in the chemical laboratory (PRBC, Res. No. 7 s. 2015, Rule XI Section 46 .1).

That only registered Chemist heads the Chemistry Laboratory. The personnel performing chemical analysis are licensed Chemists or Chemical Technicians and those certifying chemical analysis results are licensed Chemists (PRBC Res. No. 7 s. 2015, Rule XI Section 46.2)

Most importantly, all covered chemical laboratories and establishments should comply with the requirement to secure the Certificate of Authority to Operate, under pain of penalties as provided for in Section 39 of R. A. No. 10657, which reads: *"No chemical laboratory or firm shall undertake activities covered by this Act without a valid authority to operate the same. The president or the highest ranking officer of the corporation shall be held liable for violations of this Act. Upon conviction, these persons shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) month but not more than one (1) year, or a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than one million pesos (P1,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court."*

In this regard, as head of department/chemical laboratory, you are hereby directed to comply with the requirement to secure the **Certificate of Authority to Operate** of your respective laboratory and to ensure that each laboratory is headed by a licensed chemist and licensed chemical technicians as chemical analyst(s). The deadline for the application of **Certificate of Authority to Operate** and accreditation is on April 12, 2018, i.e. three (3) years after the signing of the law (PRBC Res. No. 7 s. 2015, Rule XIV, Section 56).

For your compliance and action ensuring that the provisions of the Chemistry Profession Act are complied by the university.

  
EDGARDO E. TULIN  
President