



MC No. 01, s. 2013

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : ALL HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES; DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS; GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS WITH ORIGINAL CHARTERS; AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

SUBJECT : Amendment to CSC MC No. 19, s. 2007, Qualification Standards for Agriculturist Positions

Pursuant to CSC Resolution No. 1202106 promulgated on November 26, 2012, the Commission amends *CSC Memorandum Circular No. 19, s. 2007* and sets the qualification standards of the following Agriculturist positions in government:

Position	SG	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
Agricultural Technologist	10	Bachelor's degree in Agriculture or other allied courses such as Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries Technology and Veterinary Medicine	None required	None required	Relevant RA 1080 ¹
Agriculturist I	11		None required	None required	
Agriculturist II	15		1 year of relevant experience	4 hours of relevant training	
Agriculturist A	12		1 year of relevant experience	4 hours of relevant training	
Agriculturist B	14		None required	None required	
Senior Agriculturist	18		2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	

¹ *Agriculturist, Agricultural Engineer, Fisheries Technologist and Veterinarian, depending on the functions, duties and responsibilities as indicated in the Position Description Form.*

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Position	SG	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
Supervising Agriculturist	20/ 22	Bachelor's degree in Agriculture or other allied courses such as Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries Technology and Veterinary Medicine	3 years of relevant experience	16 hours of relevant training	Relevant RA 1080 ¹
Chief Agriculturist	22/ 24		4 years of relevant experience	24 hours of relevant training	
Municipal Agricultural Officer	20		2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	
Municipal Agriculturist I	24		3 years acquired experience in agriculture or in a related field	None	
Municipal Agriculturist II	25		3 years acquired experience in agriculture or in a related field	None	
City Agriculturist I	25		5 years acquired experience in agriculture or in a related field	None	
City Agriculturist II	26		5 years acquired experience in agriculture or in a related field	None	
City Agriculturist III	27		5 years acquired experience in agriculture or in a related field	None	
Provincial Agriculturist	26		5 years acquired experience in agriculture or in any related field	None	

¹ *Agriculturist, Agricultural Engineer, Fisheries Technologist and Veterinarian, depending on the functions, duties and responsibilities as indicated in the Position Description Form.*

The Commission further amends the penultimate paragraph of CSC Memorandum Circular No. 19, s. 2007 to read as follows:

"Incumbents of Agriculturist positions who do not possess RA 1080 (Agriculturist/Agricultural Engineer/Fisheries Technologist/Veterinarian) eligibility but were appointed under permanent status prior to the enactment of RA 8435 shall retain their permanent status. However, they can not be promoted to higher Agriculturist positions unless they possess the required RA 1080 eligibility."

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication of CSC Resolution No. 1202106 dated November 26, 2012 in a newspaper of general circulation.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Chairman

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CSC Resolution No. 1202106 dated November 26, 2012 was published on December 15, 2012 in Manila Times



Re: **Qualification Standards;
Amendment to CSC MC No. 19, s. 2007
QS for Agriculturist Positions**

Number : 1202106

Promulgated : 26 NOV 2012

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article IX-B of the 1987 Constitution provides that *"the Civil Service Commission as the central personnel agency of the Government, shall establish a career service and adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity x x x. It shall strengthen the merit and rewards system, integrate all human resources development programs for all levels and ranks, x x x"*;

WHEREAS, Section 12(1), Chapter 3, Title I (A), Book V of Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987), provides that the Commission shall administer and enforce the constitutional and statutory provisions in the merit system for all levels and ranks in the Civil Service;

WHEREAS, Section 22(2), Chapter 5 of the same Law also mandates the CSC to approve qualification standards established, administered and maintained by the department or agencies with assistance of CSC;

WHEREAS, in the 1997 Revised Qualification Standards Manual, and as culled from the Local Government Code of 1991, the education and eligibility requirements for Agriculturist positions are bachelor's degree relevant to the job and Career Service (Professional), respectively;

WHEREAS, with the passage of Republic Act No. 8435 dated December 22, 1997 (Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997) which prescribes measures to modernize the agriculture and fisheries sectors, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) created the Board of Agriculture. Said Board governs the administration and conduct of licensure examination for, and the registration and licensing of, agriculturists for purposes of professionalizing the agriculture sector;

WHEREAS, Section 3(c), Article III of the Rules and Regulations Implementing PRC Resolution No. 2000-663 defines **"agriculturist"**, as follows:

"(c) Agriculturist – refers to a person who is technically qualified and competent to practice the agriculture profession and who has been issued a certificate of registration and professional license as agriculturist by the Board and the Commission."

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WHEREAS, Item 1, Section 54 Article XIII of the same Rules provides that *"No person shall practice the profession of agriculture in the Philippines unless he has a valid certificate of registration as Agriculturist."*;

WHEREAS, considering that the practice of agriculture profession is covered by a board law, the position of Agriculturist, just like the other government positions regulated by the PRC, should conform with the eligibility requirement, that is the RA 1080 Agriculturist, among other qualification requirements;

WHEREAS, to conform with the provisions of RA 8435, the Commission adopted CSC Resolution No. 071243 circularized through CSC MC No. 19, s. 2007, amending the education and eligibility requirements of Agriculturist positions in government, excluding the positions of Provincial/City and Municipal Agriculturist and Agricultural Technologist;

WHEREAS, the said Resolution also provides that *"incumbents of Agriculturist positions who do not possess RA 1080 (Agriculturist) eligibility but were appointed under permanent status prior to the enactment of RA 8435 may still be considered for promotion to higher Agriculturist positions;"*

WHEREAS, the Commission has received numerous queries on the application of RA 8435 to the positions of Provincial/City and Municipal Agriculturist in the local government units and other Agriculturist positions in government. These issues include: a) which will prevail in the determination of the qualification standards of agriculturist positions in LGU: RA 7160 in relation to CSC MC 1, s. 1997 or RA 8435 in relation to PRC Res. No. 2000-663 and Board Res. No. 2, s. 2002 of the Board of Agriculture; b) how would holders of permanent Agriculturist positions without an Agriculturist license be encouraged to undergo registration if CSC MC 19, s. 2007 still considers them for promotion to higher Agriculturist positions; c) can other related professions, specifically, Agricultural Engineer, Fisheries Technologist and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine be considered appropriate for Agriculturist positions; and d) whether RA 8435 applies to the position of Agricultural Technologist;

WHEREAS, the Professional Board of Agricultural Engineering and licensed Agricultural Engineers have made representations to the Commission that the Agricultural Engineering license can be considered an appropriate eligibility for Agriculturist positions;

WHEREAS, the study conducted by the PPSO on the matter shows that the functions of Provincial, City and Municipal Agriculturists are considered "practice of agriculture profession" defined under RA 8435 and that these positions fall squarely within the definition of "Agriculturist" based on said law; that the practice of Agricultural Engineering (RA 8559), Fisheries Technology (RA 8550), and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (CSC Resolution No. 100009 dated January 4, 2010) belong to "Agricultural Sector" which is defined as that *"which is engaged in the cultivation of the soil planting of crops, growing of fruits trees, raising of livestock, poultry, or fish, including the harvesting and marketing of such farm products, and other farm activities and practices"*, hence, the said professions can also be considered practice of agriculture profession; and, that the duties of the position of Agricultural

Technologist involve the practice of agriculture profession, thus, RA 1080 eligibility should be required for appointment thereto.

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court and CSC Decisions have consistently adhered to the principle that no employee can claim vested right to promotion. Incumbent of a permanent position which later requires passing a licensure examination may have vested right to the current position and permanent status. However, such right is not vested to future promotions;

WHEREAS, while incumbents of Agriculturist positions who were appointed as permanent prior to the enactment of RA 8435 should maintain their permanent status, they should no longer be promoted to higher positions without meeting the minimum qualification requirements of the position and pass through all the screening procedures;

WHEREAS, inasmuch as the Agriculture & Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (RA 8435, approved on December 22, 1997), Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550, approved on February 25, 1998) and Philippine Agricultural Engineering Act of 1998 (RA 8559, approved on February 13, 1998) are more recent laws compared to the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160, approved on October 10, 1991), thus the more recent laws should prevail;

WHEREFORE, the Commission **RESOLVES** to amend CSC Memorandum Circular No. 19, s. 2007 and to set the qualification standards of the following Agriculturist positions in government:

Position	SG	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
Agricultural Technologist	10	Bachelor's degree in Agriculture or other allied courses such as Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries Technology and Veterinary Medicine	None required	None required	Relevant RA 1080 ¹
Agriculturist I	11		None required	None required	
Agriculturist II	15		1 year of relevant experience	4 hours of relevant training	
Agriculturist A	12		1 year of relevant experience	4 hours of relevant training	
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¹ *Agriculturist, Agricultural Engineer, Fisheries Technologist and Veterinarian, depending on the functions, duties and responsibilities as indicated in the Position Description Form.*

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City Agriculturist II	26		5 years acquired experience in agriculture or in a related field	None	
City Agriculturist III	27		5 years acquired experience in agriculture or in a related field	None	
Provincial Agriculturist	26		5 years acquired experience in agriculture or in any related field	None	

¹ *Agriculturist, Agricultural Engineer, Fisheries Technologist and Veterinarian, depending on the functions, duties and responsibilities as indicated in the Position Description Form.*

FURTHER, the Commission **RESOLVES** to amend the penultimate paragraph of CSC Memorandum Circular No. 19, s. 2007 to read as follows:

"Incumbents of Agriculturist positions who do not possess RA 1080 (Agriculturist/Agricultural Engineer/Fisheries Technologist/Veterinarian) eligibility but were appointed under permanent status prior to the enactment of RA 8435 shall retain their permanent status. However, they can not be promoted to higher Agriculturist positions unless they possess the required RA 1080 eligibility."

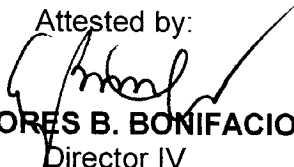
This Resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Quezon City.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Chairman


MARY ANN Z. FERNANDEZ-MENDOZA
Commissioner


ROBERT S. MARTINEZ
Commissioner

Attested by:

DOLORES B. BONIFACIO
Director IV
Commission Secretariat and Liaison Office