



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. _____

PREScribing THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION OFFICER (ECO)

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. (RA) 7638 or the “Department of Energy (DOE) Act of 1992” states that it is the policy of the State to ensure a continuous, adequate, reliable, and economic supply of energy through, among others, judicious conservation, renewal, and efficient utilization of energy, to keep pace with the country’s growth and economic development;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the RA 11285 or the “Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act” (EEC Act) provides for the establishment of a framework for introducing and institutionalizing fundamental policies on energy efficiency and conservation, including the promotion of efficient and judicious utilization of energy, increase in the utilization of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, and the delineation of responsibilities among various government agencies and private entities;

WHEREAS, Section 49 of Department Circular (DC) No. DC2019-11-0014 or the “Implementing Rules and Regulations of the EEC Act” (EEC-IRR) provides for the establishment of a system for the assessment and certification of ECOs and energy managers by relevant agencies towards raising the professional standards of those engaged in energy management;

WHEREAS, Section 50 of the EEC-IRR states that a Certified Energy Conservation Officer (CECO) must pass the certification examination and assessment for the development of the DOE in consultation with the relevant government and industry stakeholders. Furthermore, as a continuing qualification, the CECO must undergo energy efficiency and conservation seminars conducted by the DOE or any third-party institution duly approved by the DOE;

WHEREAS, Sections 63 and 66 of the EEC–IRR classifies Designated Establishments based on their respective energy consumption and provide for the obligations to conduct an energy audit, employ CECO and Certified Energy Manager (CEM), among others;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. MC2020-05-0001 directs all Designated Establishments to employ a CECO for entities with an Annual Energy Consumption of at least 500,000 kWhE but less than 4,000,000 kWhE;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the EEC Act directs the DOE to initiate and maintain collaborative efforts with the business sector, particularly the commercial, industrial, transport, (CIT) and power sectors, to ensure compliance with the EEC Act and broaden and enhance their efficient and judicious utilization of energy;

WHEREAS, Section 12 of the EEC Act states that the CECO certification system shall be developed by the DOE and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It shall be based on an approved scope of practice, a set of competency standards with a clear assessment and certification process, and a certification for the determined competency undertaken by the prescribed governance structure and quality assurance systems and aligned with the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) and applicable international standards. Towards this end, the TESDA shall conduct training, assessment, and

certification of workers for PQF qualification Levels 1 to 5 and shall register Technical-Vocational Education and Training programs including that of nonprofit organizations and other private training institutions. The TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOE, develop guidelines for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the DOE and TESDA signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the development of Training Regulations on Energy Efficiency and Conservation National Competency and Competency Assessment Tool;

WHEREAS, Department Circular No. DC2021-01-0001 prescribes the guidelines on the assessment, registration, and Certification of ECOs, Energy Managers, and Energy Auditors covering Designated Establishments under Memorandum Circular No. MC2020-05-0001;

WHEREAS, conservation and efficient utilization of energy are among the major strategies of the Government to realize energy self-sufficiency and reduce environmental impacts of energy generation and utilization as instituted in the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) and the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program (NEECP);

WHEREAS, "Certified ECO (CECO)" refers to a professional who obtains a certification as a CECO after demonstrating high levels of experience, competence, proficiency, and ethical fitness in the energy management profession, and who shall be responsible for the supervision and maintenance of the facilities of Type 1 Designated Establishments for the proper management of energy consumption and such other functions deemed necessary for the efficient and judicious utilization of energy under the EE&C Act

WHEREAS, "Type 1 Designated Establishment" refers to energy-intensive entities with an Annual Energy Consumption of at least 500,000 kWhE but not more than 4,000,000 kWhE of combined fuel and electricity, and/or as updated by the DOE;

WHEREAS, the DOE conducted public consultations attended by various stakeholders on _____;and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Training Regulations for Energy Efficiency and Conservation National Certification (NC) III will lead to the adoption of energy efficiency in the energy sector, particularly in Type I Designated Establishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the DOE hereby orders the following:

Section 1. Title. This Department Circular shall be known as the "Adoption of the Training Regulations for the Certification of ECOs."

Section 2. Scope and Coverage. This Department Circular shall cover the following:

- 2.1 Training Regulations (TR) for the Certification of CECO;
- 2.2 Guidelines on the assessment, registration, and certification and recertification of CECO; and
- 2.3 Supporting mechanisms to promote the development of undergraduate and professional certificate programs on energy management to ensure the availability of competencies and skills required to promote and achieve the country's sustainable energy goals.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Department Circular, the following terms shall be understood to mean:

- 3.1 “Recognized Training Institutions (RTI)” refers to accredited entities who complied with the requirements identified by the DOE in this Department Circular. RTI are the only entities eligible to conduct prescribed training programs for CECO.
- 3.2 “Candidate” refers to a person applying as a CECO.
- 3.3 “Training Regulation (TR)” refers to the promulgated document that serves as the basis for which the competency-based curriculum and instructional materials and competency assessment tools are developed.

Section 4. Adoption of the Training Regulations (TR). The Training Regulations for CECO, developed by the DOE and its partner stakeholders, shall institutionalize the qualifications, certification process, training content, and training requirements for the certification of a qualified ECOs.

Section 5. Recognition and Certification of Training Institutions. TESDA will certify Training Institutions based on its rules and regulations on such certification and in coordination with the DOE, without prejudice to the possible issuance of the latter of a separate circular on the same.

Section 6. Application for Certification. Upon completion of the prescribed TR, the Candidate shall submit the following documents to the DOE:

- 6.1 Duly accomplished CECO Application Form (Annex A);
- 6.2 Endorsement letter from the head of the Type 1 Designated Establishment;
- 6.3 Certified True Copy of any academic credentials, and for graduates of K-12 Academic Track of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Transcript of Records and/or Diploma; and
- 6.4 Proof of payment for the Application Fee for Certification of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00)

All documents shall be submitted to the identified platform of the DOE indicated in Annex C of this Department Circular. Application for Certification shall follow the procedure stated in Annex D of this Department Circular.

Section 7. Responsibilities of CECO. All registered CECO shall observe the responsibilities under Department Circular No. DC2021-01-0001.

Section 8. Validity of Certification. The Certification shall be valid for three (3) years. After which, recertification will be processed after submission of a Training Certificate from RTI. The recertification will be valid for the next three (3) years and continuing qualifications shall still be based on the prevailing TR of DOE at the time of application.

Section 9. Transitory Provisions for ECOs with Existing Certification. An ECO with an existing certification from international and/or local organizations/bodies, such as ASEAN Center for Energy (ACE), shall apply for Certification and will be granted the initial Certification valid for three (3) years: *Provided That*, all items in Section 8 of this Department Circular, must be complied with. In lieu of the Certificate of Training Completion under Section 8 (8.1) of this Department Circular, the applicant must submit a Certificate of Completion, or a similar Certification, together with the coursework, from the international and/or local organizations/bodies: *Provided Further That*, attendance on the existing certification from

international and/or local organizations/bodies shall be on or before the effectivity of this Department Circular.

Section 10. Accredited Training Institutes and CECO Database. The TESDA shall submit to the DOE the list of accredited training institutes. The DOE shall develop and manage a centralized database of RTIs. Only those RTIs that are in the list will be allowed to conduct training for Candidates. Likewise, only Registered CECOs to the DOE will serve as compliance to the requirements of Type 1 DES for ECOs.

Section 11. Fees, Scholarship and Grants. TESDA, in coordination with the DOE, shall devise training fees for CECO and provide scholarships in the interest of providing competent EEC service and in line with the TESDA Reform and Development Agenda.

To provide opportunities for select students, the DOE shall establish a scholarship program chargeable to the NEECP. The DOE, through the Energy Utilization Management Bureau (EUMB) and in partnership with TESDA, shall issue appropriate issuances covering eligibility and procedures for application.

Section 12. Information, Education, and Communication Activities. Pursuant to Section 85 of the EEC IRR, the EUMB shall develop and undertake a national awareness and advocacy program covering energy efficiency and conservation and pursue a partnership with relevant stakeholders for the appreciation of this Department Circular.

Section 13. Recognition Program for Outstanding CECOs. Pursuant to Department Order No. DO2021-09-0014, the DOE shall recognize outstanding CECOs who are responsible for the successful reduction of energy consumption of the entity they are managing.

Section 14. Quality Assurance Review. The DOE in partnership with TESDA shall periodically review, update, and issue necessary rules relative to the development and adoption of TRs for CECO every three (3) years from the date of issuance, or earlier as the need arises.

Section 15. Transitory Provision. All pending applications at the time of the effectivity of this Department Circular shall be governed at the same.

Section 16. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review. To ensure continuous quality improvements of the Certification, Accreditation and Recognition procedures including those under Section 14 of this Department Circular, the DOE through the EUMB will conduct annual monitoring and evaluation of RTI and CECO. For this purpose, the EUMB shall issue guidelines for the procedures for the review and adoption of improvements and rules in the TRs: *Provided That*, the guidelines shall only be issued after public consultation.

Section 17. Prohibited Acts and Imposition of Fines and Penalties. As provided under Sections 11.1, 11.4, and 11.6 of DC2021-01-0001, after due process, the DOE may impose fines and penalties under Section 12 of DC2021-01-0001.

Section 18. Amendment Clause. The DOE may revise and supplement and issue related guidelines, circulars, and other subsidiary issuance as it deems necessary for the effective implementation of the various provisions of this Department Circular.

Section 19. Repealing Clause. The provisions of other circulars, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Department Circular are hereby repealed, amended, modified, or superseded accordingly.

Section 20. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Department Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 21. Effectivity. This Department Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. A copy of this Department Circular shall be filed with the University of the Philippines Law Center - Office of the National Administrative Register.

Issued at Energy Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

ALFONSO G. CUSI
Secretary