

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 372, October 15, 1941]

**PROHIBITING FOR THE LICENSING BY THE CIVILIAN
EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION,
OR OTHER DISPOSITION TO THE PUBLIC OF GAS-MASKS,
RESPIRATORS, OR OTHER PROTECTIVE DEVICES AGAINST
IRRITANT OR POISONOUS GASES OR SUBSTANCES, CREATING
THE BOARD OF INSPECTORS FOR GAS-MASKS, AND DEFINING
ITS FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES**

WHEREAS, modern warfare, as waged by the Powers now engaged in the present world conflict, appears to include not only the clash of arms between the armed forces of each nation but also attacks on the civilian population to diminish and overcome the nation's resistance undermine its morale;

WHEREAS, irritant and poisonous gases and substances are known to have been used in the last World War and no adequate guaranty exists that the same will not be resorted to in the event that the present conflagration spreads to the Orient; and

WHEREAS, it appears necessary in the public interest and for the protection of civilian lives in case of an emergency that effective measures be adopted to insure that gas-masks, respirators, or other protective devices against irritant or poisonous gases or substances, to be sold or distributed to the public will serve the purposes for which they are intended and afford adequate and efficacious protection;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MANUEL L. QUEZON, President of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers in me vested by Commonwealth Act Numbered Six hundred, as amended by Commonwealth Act Numbered Six hundred and twenty, and upon the recommendation of the National Emergency Commission, do hereby promulgate the following rules and regulations to govern the sale, distribution, or other disposition to the public of gas-masks, respirators, or other protective devices against irritant or poisonous gases or substances:

1. No person, firm, corporation, or other entity, whether domestic or foreign, shall sell, distribute, or otherwise dispose to the public, or offer or advertise for sale, distribution or other disposition to the public, gas-masks, respirators, or other protective devices, or parts thereof, whether of local or foreign make, intended to afford protection or immunity against gases or other substances that operate as acute lung irritants, lachrimators, paralyzants, asphyxiants, vesicants, or otherwise injuriously affect human beings, unless such person, firm, corporation, or other entity has first obtained a license for the purpose from the Civilian Emergency Administration. Such license shall be in the form of a "License to Sell Gas-Masks to the Public," signed by the Executive Officer of the National Emergency Commission, and shall be displayed prominently in the Commission, and shall be displayed prominently in the store or establishment, if there be one, maintained by such person, firm, corporation, or other entity.

2. The Executive Officer of the National Emergency Commission shall not issue the license referred to in paragraph 1 hereof, except upon certification by the Board of Inspectors for Gas-Masks, hereinafter created, that the gas-masks, respirators, or other protective devices, sought to be solid, distributed, or disposed of in any manner to the public, satisfies the minimum specifications required by said Board to insure the maximum of safety and protection against gases and/or substances that operate as acute lung irritants, lachrimators, paralytics, sternutators, vesicants, or otherwise injuriously affect human beings. The minimum specification herein mentioned shall, among other things, require:

(a) That the type of the gas-mask, respirator, or other protective device, be at least similar to the Bureau of Science model with canister No. 1E-O manufactured by the National Development Company;

(b) That the specifications of the United States Army, with respect to the absorbent power of the charcoal utilized, be strictly complied with;

(c) That with respect to the soda lime used, the material should be granulated so as to pass through Sieve No. 8 and retained by Sieve No. 14 and the absorptive capacity under the same conditions should be not less than the absorptive capacity of soda lime of the following composition: Hydrated lime, $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$, 55%; Portland Cement, 17%; Kieselguhr, 7.2%; Sodium Hydroxide, NaOH , 1.2%; Sodium permanganate, NaMnO_4 , 3.8%; and Moisture, 15.7%.

(d) That the percentage composition of fillings of the canister should be approximately 15 to 25% soda lime and 85 to 75% activated charcoal; and

(e) That the gas-mask, respirator, or other protective device, shall be, as much as possible, small in weight, admit of easy carriage and rapid adjustment, offer little resistance to breathing, be comfortable to wear, and interfere as little as possible with vision and hearing.

3. For the purpose of determining as to whether the gas-masks, respirators, or other protective devices, sought to be solid, distributed, or disposed of in any manner to the public, satisfy the minimum specifications by it set in accordance with this Executive Order, and to exercise the functions and perform the duties herein specified, a board is hereby created and constituted, to be known as the Board of Inspectors for the Gas Masks. The Board shall consist of five members, with the National Aid-Raid Warden as Chairman, and shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines to hold office for the duration of the national emergency unless sooner removed. The Secretary of the Civilan Emergency Administration shall be ex-officio Secretary of the Board. The Board shall prescribe the minimum specifications mentioned in Paragraph 2 of this Order; prescribe the procedure to be followed in order to obtain the certification mentioned in the above-mentioned paragraph and the certification mentioned in paragraph 5 of this Order; and in general, exercise such functions, perform such duties and issue such rules and regulations as would be best effectuate the purposes of this Order.

4. It shall be the duty of the person, firm, corporation, or other entity who shall