

[ Act No. 3263, December 07, 1925 ]

**AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ARTICLE THREE OF CHAPTER FORTY-SIX OF ACT NUMBERED TWENTY-SEVEN HUNDRED AND ELEVEN, KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, MAKING THE PROVISIONS OF SAID ACT MORE EFFECTIVE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:*

SECTION 1. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-one of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Administrative Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1771. *Words defined.*—The words used in this law shall be taken in the sense indicated below:

" (a) 'Fiber' shall mean in this law the raw material only and not fibers partially or entirely manufactured. It shall be interpreted according to its common and commercial significance and not according to its scientific meaning.

"(b) 'Abaca' shall mean the fiber of the plant of the same name known in botany as *Musa textilis*.

"(c) 'Maguey' shall mean the fiber retted in sea water or in fresh water, or the knife- or machine-stripped fiber, washed in sea water, of the true sisal plant of the same name, known in botany by the name of *Agave cantala* Per.

" (d) 'Cantala' shall mean the knife- or machine-stripped fiber, whether or not washed in fresh water, of the plant of the same name known in botany by the name of *Agave cantala* Roxb.

"(e) 'Sisal' shall mean the fiber retted in sea water or in fresh water, or the knife- or machine-stripped fiber washed in salt water, of the true sisal plant of the same name, known in botany by the name of *Agave sisalana* Per.

"(f) 'Sisalana' shall mean the knife- or machine-stripped fiber, whether or not washed in fresh water, of the true sisal plant known in botany by the name of *Agave sisalana* Per."

SEC. 2. The following new sections are hereby inserted between sections seventeen hundred and seventy-one and seventeen hundred and seventy-two of the same Act:

"SEC. 1771-A. *Philippines fiber inspection service.*— There is hereby created an office which shall have charge of the classification, baling, and inspection of Philippine fibers and shall be designated and known as 'Philippines Fiber Inspection Service' and be governed by a standardization board.

"SEC 1771-B. *Standardization Board.*—There is hereby created a board which shall be designated and known as 'Fiber Standardization Board' and shall be vested with the powers and duties hereinafter specified. Said Board shall consist of seven members, with the Director of Agriculture as its permanent chairman and executive officer, and the other members shall be appointed by the Governor-General, with the advice and consent of the Senate: *Provided*, That one member shall represent the local rope manufacturers; two members shall represent the fiber exporters; one member shall represent the dealers or middlemen; and two members shall represent the fiber producers.

SEC. 1771-C. *Terms of service of members of Standardization Board.*— The members of the Standardization Board, with the exception of the Director of Agriculture, shall hold office as follows:

"The manufacturer for three years; one exporter for two years, and one exporter for three years; the dealer for three years; one producer for two years, and one producer for three years. At the expiration of their respective terms of service, a successor shall be appointed for the term of three years from the date of such expiration. All vacancies, except through expiration of the term, shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

"SEC. 1771-D. *Officers and employees of the Board.*—The said Board shall, immediately after its appointment, organize by electing a secretary-treasurer. The Board shall appoint such employees as it may deem necessary, and fix their duties, compensation, and terms of service. None of the said employees shall, (during their service with the Board, be a member thereof.

"SEC. 1771-E. *Duties of the secretary-treasurer.*—The secretary-treasurer shall keep full and correct minutes of all the transactions and proceeding's of the Board, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him- by the Board. He shall also pay out of the funds in his charge all properly approved accounts and shall, in general, manage the funds entrusted to him by and on behalf of the Board as authorized by law and regulations. He shall execute a bond in favor of the Board, conditioned upon the faithful performance of all the duties of his office, which bond shall be approved by the Board and be in such amount as the latter may determine.

"SEC. 1771-F. *Meetings of Board.*—The Board shall have its main office in the City of Manila, at such place as it may designate, and shall meet at such times as it may designate. The Board shall have authority to make the necessary rules not inconsistent with this law to carry out its functions.

"SEC. 1771-G. *Transaction, of business.*—The presence of five members of said Board shall constitute a quorum for transacting any of the business of the Board. In the absence of a quorum, the members present may adjourn the Board until there shall be a quorum. The concurrence of not less than five members of the Board shall be necessary to the formulation and promulgation of a rule or order.

SEC. 1771-H. *Reports of proceedings.*—The Board shall transmit to the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, through the Director of Agriculture, copies of the minutes of its meetings, and also a monthly report of all work performed and of all funds collected during said month.

"As soon as practicable after the first of January of each year, the Board shall transmit to the Governor-General, through the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, its annual report covering all the phases of the work performed and making such recommendations as it may deem proper."

SEC. 3. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-two of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1772. *Official standards for commercial grades of fibers.*—The Fiber Standardization Board shall determine the official standards for the various commercial grades of Philippine fibers that are or may hereafter be produced in the Philippine Islands for shipment abroad. Each grade shall have its proper name and designation which, together with the basis upon which the several grades are determined, shall be defined by the said Board in a general order. Such order shall have the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and for the dissemination of information, copies of the same shall be supplied gratis to the foreign markets, provincial governors, municipal presidents, and to such other persons and agencies as shall make request therefor.

"If it is considered expedient to change these standards at any time, notice shall be given in the local and foreign markets for a period of at least six months before the new standard shall go into effect."

SEC. 4. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-three of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the Administrative Code, is hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-four of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1774. *Preservation of official standards.*—The originals of all official standards shall be prepared in suitable form and shall be securely kept at the main office of the Fiber Standardization Board,

subject to renewal in the discretion of said Board, but without variation of the standards, as occasion may require."

SEC. 6. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-five of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1775. *Supply of secondary standards for use of trade.*—Specimens of the different grades of fibers conforming to the original official standards shall be prepared under the supervision of the Fiber Standardization Board, and shall, upon request, be supplied as secondary official standards, to all authorized establishments of chambers of commerce, planters' associations, and other institutions or persons directly interested in the trade, the actual cost of the specimens to be paid in advance by the party requesting the same.

"Secondary standards prepared by the Fiber Standardization Board or its authorized agents shall be deemed to be official standards for all purposes, and for such periods as the Board may determine."

SEC. 7. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-six of Act Numbered Twenty-seven hundred and eleven, known as the ' Administrative Code, is hereby repealed.

SEC. 8. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-seven of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1777. *Classes of grading establishments.*—There shall be four classes of grading establishments which shall be determined by the number of bales baled per annum as follows: First-class establishments, those baling fifty thousand bales and above; second-class establishments, those baling between thirty thousand and fifty thousand; third- class establishments, those baling between ten thousand and thirty thousand; and fourth-class establishments, those baling less than ten thousand bales.

"The classification of fiber grading establishments shall be based on the number of bales baled during the year previous to the one for which a fiber grading permit is desired. In the case of a new grading establishment, it shall pay an initial fee equivalent to the amount paid by the lowest class grading establishment."

SEC. 9. Section seventeen hundred and seventy-eight of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1778. *Grading permits.*—No person shall engage in grading and baling fibers which have established official standards, unless he shall have previously obtained a permit which shall be issued by the