COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA and NORTHERN ISLANDS

****

COMMONWEALTH REGISTER

VOLUME 48
NUMBER 08
AUGUST 15, 2026

COMMONWEALTH REGISTER
VOLUME 48
NUMBER 08
AUGUST 15, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 11925 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE AND CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD FOR INDEPENDENT PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ("iPA").

PRIOR PUBLICATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH REGISTER AS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS
VOLUME 48, NUMBER 06, PP 054240 – 054257 OF JUNE 16, 2026

ACTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED REGULATIONS: The Health Care Professions Licensing Board, HEREBY ADOPTS AS PERMANENT regulations the Proposed Regulations which were published in the Commonwealth Register at the above-referenced pages, pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act, 1 CMC § 9104(a). The Health Care Professions Licensing Board announced that it intended to adopt them as permanent, and now does so.

PRIOR PUBLICATION: The prior publication was as stated above. The Health Care Professions Licensing Board adopted the attached regulations as final as of the date of signing below.

MODIFICATIONS FROM PRIOR PUBLISHED PROPOSED REGULATIONS, IF ANY: None

AUTHORITY: The Health Care Professions Licensing Board has statutory power to promulgate and effect regulations pursuant to 4 CMC §2206(b), as amended.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Pursuant to the APA, 1 CMC § 9105(b), these adopted amendments to the Regulations for Independent Physician Assistant ("iPA") are effective 10 days after compliance with the APA, 1 CMC §§9102 and 9104(a) or (b), which in this instance, is 10 days after publication in the Commonwealth Register.

COMMENTS AND AGENCY CONCISE STATEMENT: Pursuant to the APA, 1 CMC § 9104(a)(2), the agency received no comments on the proposed amendments to the regulations for Independent Physician Assistant ("iPA"). Upon this adoption of the amendments, the agency if requested to do so by any interested person, within 30 days of adoption, will issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against its adoption.

ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVAL: The adopted regulations for Independent Physician Assistant ("iPA") were approved for promulgation by the CNMI Attorney General in the above cited pages of the Commonwealth Register, pursuant to 1 CMC § 2153 (e) (to review and approve, as to form and legal sufficiency, all rules and regulations to be promulgated by any department, agency or instrumentality of the Commonwealth government, including public corporations, except as otherwise provided by law).

I DECLARE under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct copy and that this declaration was executed on the _____day of _____, 20_____, at Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Certified and ordered by:

Esther S. Fleming
Executive Director

08/12/2026
Date

Filed and recorded by:

Esther San Nicolas
Commonwealth Register

8.13.2026
Date

CHAPTER 185-10
COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD REGULATIONS

Part 4100 - Physician's Assistant

§ 185-10-4101 Definitions

(a) "Administer" means the direct application of a drug, whole blood, blood components, diagnostic procedure or device, whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion, skin application or other means, into the body of a patient.

(b) "ARC-PA" means the Accreditation Review Commission for the Education of Physician Assistants, or its successor.

(c) "Contact" for the supervision of a physician assistant means communication in person, or by electronic means, including radio, telephone, fax, computer, or other telecommunication device.

(d) "Continuing Education (CE)" shall mean educational activities, which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance, and relationships that a physician assistant uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession. The content of CE is that body of knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the medical profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of health care to the public.

(e) "Controlled Substance" means a substance, typically a drug or its chemical precursor, described or authorized for classification in the U.S. Controlled Substance Act, 21 U.S.C. § 812, et seq., and periodically classified under one of Schedules II, III, IV, or V by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), as presently codified in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.

(f) "Doctor," including "Dr.," "D.O.," and/or "M.D." shall mean a physician.

(g) "Dispense" means to deliver a device or a medication in a suitable, labeled container to or for an ultimate user.

(h) "FCVS" mean the Federation Credentials Verification Services established by the FSMB in September 1996 to provide a centralized, uniform process for state medical boards to obtain a verified, primary-source record of a physician's core medical credentials. FCVS obtains primary- source verification of medical education, postgraduate training, examination history, board action history, board certification and identity. This repository of information allows a physician and/or physician assistant to establish a confidential, lifetime professional portfolio with FCVS which can be forwarded, at the applicant's request, to any state medical and osteopathic board, hospital, health care or other entity.

(i) "Im[illegible]" means the inability of an applicant and/or license to practice medicine with reas[illegible]ill and safety by reason of:
(1) [illegible]illness;
(2) [illegible]l illness or condition, including, but not limited to, those illnesses or conditions [illegible]ould adversely affect cognitive, motor, or perceptive skills; or
Habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs defined by law as controlled substances, or alcohol or of other substances that impair ability.

(j) "Medex" means a person who gained medical experience during military service and is currently licensed by this Board as a physician assistant based on the grandfather clause in P.L. 3- 30 § 3(f) [3 CMC § 2212] (as amended).

(k) "NCCPA" means the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, an independent organization that was established to assure the competency of Physician Assistants and which administers the PANCE to graduates of accredited PA programs.

(l) "PA-C or PA-certified" is the title given to physician assistants who have taken and passed the PANCE and who maintain certification.

(m) "PANCE" means the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the NCCPA.

(n) "Patient Encounter" is a record of an interaction between a patient and a healthcare provider.

(o) "Person" means a person real or legal, including a human being, and an artificial person, including government entity, non-govemmental organization, association, corporation, Limited Liability Company, limited liability partnership, partnership, or sole proprietorship.

(p) "Physician Assistant" or "Physician's Assistant" or "Physician Associate" or "PA" means a health care professional trained in intensive physician assistant/associate education programs and who has been certified by the NCCPA to practice medicine with physician supervision.

(q) "Practice of Medicine" means:
(1) Using the title "Doctor," "Doctor of Medicine," "Doctor of Osteopathy," "Physician," "Surgeon," "Dr.," "M.D.," "D.O.," "PA," "Physician Assistant," "Physician Associate," or any word or abbreviation to indicate or induce others to believe that one is engaged in the practice of medicine as defined hereon; and
(i) Holding out one's self to the public within the CNMI as being able to diagnose, treat, prescribe for, palliate, or prevent any human disease, ailment, injury, deformity, or physical or mental condition, whether by the use of drugs, surgery, manipulation, electricity, or any physical, mechanical, or other means whatsoever; or
(ii) Suggesting, recommending, prescribing, or administering any form of treatment, operation, or healing for the intended palliation, relief, or cure or any physical or mental disease, ailment, injury, condition, or defect of any person with the intention of receiving, either directly or indirectly, any fee, gift, or compensation

whatsoever.

(r) "Prescription" shall mean a written, facsimile, electronic, or telephone order or formula issued by a practitioner for a medication to be compounded and dispensed by a pharmacy to a patient.

(s) "Prescription Drug Order" or "Order" shall mean a prescription documented in a hospital or other institutional facility's chart/medical record for a medication to be compounded and dispensed by an inpatient pharmacy and then administered to a patient by a nurse or other medical professional with drug administration privileges.

(t) "Remote Area," for purposes of these regulations, is defined as those islands within the CNMI other than Saipan.

(u) "Remote Practice Location" means a location in a remote area where a PA practices that is not his or her supervising physician's primary practice location.

(v) "State" includes a United States of America state, territory, tribal land, commonwealth, the District of Columbia, and any other U.S. jurisdiction other than the U.S. federal government.

(w) "Supervising Physician" means the licensed physician who supervises a physician assistant.

(x) "Supervision" of a physician assistant means overseeing the activities of and accepting responsibility for the medical services rendered by a physician assistant.

§ 185-10-4105 Requirements for Licensure

(a) An applicant for licensure as a physician assistant must be at least twenty-one years of age, is a U.S. citizen or a foreign national lawfully entitled to remain and work in the Commonwealth, and meets the following requirements:
   (1) Applicant has at least a ~~B~~bachelor's ~~D~~degree as a Physician Assistant or Physician Associate from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission for the Education of Physician Assistants (ARC-PA), or prior to 2001, either by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; and
   (2) Applicant passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) administered by NCCPA, or other future national examinations; and
   (3) Applicant provides evidence of current NCCPA certification; or applicant possesses~~es~~ an active unrestricted license to practice as a physician assistant in another U.S. state or territory; and
   (4) The applicant shall be of good moral character and shall not have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude or a crime related to his or her practice as a physician assistant in any jurisdiction, U.S. or foreign.

(b) In addition to the foregoing requirements, the Board may add the following requirements, in its discretion, and for good cause:
   (1) Require additional proof that the person is competent to practice professionally;
   (2) Require further examination;

(3) Require additional proof that the person is of an acceptable moral character; and/or
(4) Require that the person not be impaired by reason of substance abuse or debilitating physical or mental/emotional condition.

(c) A physician assistant license will be issued by the Board when the applicant meets the requirements set forth above. However, a physician assistant may not practice until a Practice Agreement has been filed and approved by the Board.

(d) Exemption.
(1) An individual who is currently licensed as a physician assistant and who was grandfathered ~~in~~ under the exemption for Medex in P.L. 3-30 § 3(f) [3 CMC § 2212] (as amended) shall be exempt from satisfying all licensure requirements in this section but will have an additional requirement for supervision. These individuals shall be required to have 75% on-site physician supervision.
(2) No new licenses will be issued under this exemption for Medex in P.L. 3-30 § 3(f) [3 CMC § 2212] (as amended by P.L. 7-48).

(e) The Board may deny a license to a person to practice as a physician assistant if the person has been the subject of an adverse action in which his or her license was suspended, revoked, placed on probation, condition or renewal denied.

§ 185-10-4110 Licensure by Endorsement

[Reserved.]

§ 185-10-4115 Scope of Practice

(a) The physician assistant may only provide those medical services which:
(1) He/she
(2) Are consistent with his or her education, training, and experience; and
(3) Are delegated in writing by the supervising physician responsible for the patients cared for by the physician assistant.

(4) A supervising physician shall delegate to a physician assistant only those tasks or procedures consistent with the supervising physician's specialty or usual and customary practice.

§ 185-10-4120 Practice Agreement

(a) Licensee shall submit a Practice Agreement between himself or herself and the supervising physician(s), in a format provided by the Board, describing the manner and extent to which the physician assistant will practice and be supervised. The Board may approve, modify, or reject the Practice Agreement as originally submitted. No licensed physician assistant may practice without a valid Practice Agreement on file with the Board. Practicing without an approved practice agreement shall be grounds for disciplinary action. The Practice Agreement, at a minimum, shall:
(1) Provide for:
(i) Physician consultation;

(ii) Collaboration;
(iii) Adequate means for immediate communication between the parties; and
(iv) Referral and emergency coverage;

(2) Describe the physician assistant's scope of practice;

(3) List the settings where the physician assistant will be utilized, for example, a clinic, hospital, ambulatory center, patient home, emergency vehicle and/or other institutional setting. The supervising physician and the PA are each responsible for ensuring that both parties have the proper credentials and experience to practice in the capacity listed;

(4) If applicable, list specific prescriptive privileges and/or restrictions to the physician assistant's prescriptive privilege, as described in section 185-10-4130;

(5) Provide for the supervising physician's review and signature of records, as follows:
(i) A minimum of 5% of all patient encounters by the physician assistant that do not involve a controlled substance will be reviewed and signed within thirty calendar days;
(ii) A minimum of 10% of all patient encounters by the physician assistant that involve a prescription drug order, prescribing, dispensing or administering of Schedule III-V controlled substances must be reviewed and signed within thirty calendar days;
(iii) A minimum of 15% of all patient encounters by the physician assistant that involve a Schedule II controlled substance must be reviewed and signed within seven days; and
(iv) The Board may require that up to 100% of all patient encounters by a physician assistant be reviewed and signed by a supervising physician.

(6) Describe the method by which a supervising physician will comply with the chart review requirements. The Board, may, at any time, request proof of compliance with this chart review requirement. Non-compliance may result in termination by the Board of a practice agreement;

(7) Identify the supervising physician's designated alternate supervising physician in his or her absence; and

(8) Contain a statement substantially as follows: "The physician will direct and exercise supervision over the physician assistant in accordance with the CNMI HCPLB's regulations and recognizes that he or she retains full professional and legal responsibility for the performance of the physician assistant and the care and treatment of the patient."

(b) If a practice agreement allows for the ordering, prescribing, dispensing, and/or administering of controlled substances, a copy of that Practice Agreement will be filed by the Board with all CNMI outpatient pharmacies and any applicable inpatient pharmacies.

(c) The supervising physician and the physician assistant shall notify the Board in writing within seven days of any change or the termination of the Practice Agreement.

(d) Any change to the approved Practice Agreement must be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to any change taking effect.

(e) At a minimum, a Practice Agreement shall be renewed every 2 years or at the time of license

renewal, whichever is sooner, if there is no change to the agreement within the two-year period.

§ 185-10-4125 Supervising Physician

(a) The supervising physician must comply with the following requirements ~~in order~~ to supervise a physician assistant:
  (1) The supervising physician shall possess a current unrestricted license to practice medicine in the CNMI that is in good standing with the Board and a valid individual DEA registration;
  (2) The supervising physician's primary place of practice is within the CNMI. At least 50% of his or her practice must be clinical. A supervising physician shall delegate to a physician assistant only those tasks or procedures consistent with the supervising physician's specialty or usual and customary practice;
  (3) The supervising physician will direct and exercise supervision over the physician assistant in accordance with these regulations and recognizes that he or she retains full professional and legal responsibility for the performance of the physician assistant and the care and treatment of the patient;
  (4) The supervising physician shall always provide adequate means for direct communication at all times between the physician assistant and him or her; this direct communication may occur through the use of technology which may include, but is not limited to, two-way radio, telephone, fax machine, internet, or other telecommunication device;
  (5) The supervising physician will personally review and sign the records of patients seen by the physician assistant as described in section 185-10-4120;
  (6) The supervising physician shall designate an alternate supervising physician in his or her absence. That alternate physician must satisfy all requirements of a primary supervising physician; and
  (7) A supervising physician shall petition the Board if he or she wishes to supervise more than two full-time physician assistants or the equivalent of two full-time physician assistants.

(b) If a supervising physician does not comply with the regulations in this section or if he or she allows a physician assistant to practice without a valid practice agreement, he or she will be subject to discipline.

§ 185-10-4130 Special Provision: Prescription Privilege

(a) The supervising physician may allow the physician assistant to make prescription drug orders, prescribe, dispense, and/or administer medications and medical devices to the extent described in the written practice agreement and subject to the following requirements:
  (1) Physician assistants must be currently certified by the NCCPA ~~in order~~ to be automatically eligible for prescriptive privileges. Certification by NCCPA is independent from any decision of this Board;
  (2) A physician assistant can only make prescription drug orders, prescribe, dispense, and/or administer controlled substances if he or she holds a current DEA certificate that allows for those privileges. A copy of that certificate must be submitted to the Board

before a PA can order, prescribe, dispense, and/or administer any controlled substance;

(3) A physician assistant can only make prescription drug orders, prescribe, dispense and/or administer medications, including controlled substances, if authorized to do so by the supervising physician;

(4) In general, a supervising physician may authorize the prescription drug ordering, prescribing, dispensing, and/or administration of Schedule III-V controlled substances.

(5) A supervising physician must request, with the consent of the physician assistant, authorization from the Board to allow the physician assistant to make prescription drug orders, prescribe, dispense, and/or administer Schedule II controlled substances. Unless granted by the Board in an approved practice agreement, a physician assistant shall not order, prescribe, dispense, and/or administer Schedule II controlled substances;

(6) A prescription for a controlled substance written by a physician assistant must have his or her DEA number clearly written on the prescription form;

(7) A physician assistant may prescribe no more than a 30-day supply of Schedule III-V medications. A physician assistant can only prescribe prescription refills if the prescription is co- signed by a supervising physician whose DEA number is clearly written on the prescription form;

(8) When applicable, a physician assistant may prescribe no more than a 30-day supply of Schedule II non-narcotic controlled substance medications. A physician assistant can only prescribe prescription refills if the prescription is co-signed by a supervising physician whose DEA number is clearly written on the prescription form;

(9) For physician assistants working in a remote practice location, the Board may limit the quantity of Schedule II and Schedule III-V medications prescribed to less than 7 days and 30 days, respectively. Also, the Board may impose additional supervision requirements such as maintaining an updated database of patients requiring daily and long-term scheduled medications. Such a database must be reviewed by a supervising physician at least monthly.

(10) A prescription for a controlled substance written by a physician assistant must be documented in that patient's chart and must include the name of the drug, dose, and route of administration, frequency, duration, and quantity prescribed;

(11) Patient encounters by a physician assistant where a controlled substance was ordered, dispensed, and/or administered must be reviewed and signed by a supervising physician, as described in "Practice Agreement";

(12) A practice agreement allowing a physician assistant to make prescription drug orders, prescribe, dispense, and/or administer any controlled substance will be filed with all

(13) The physician assistant shall comply with:

(i) All appropriate federal and CNMI laws and regulations; and

(ii) The Regulations Governing the Importation, Storage, Sales, and Distribution of Drug and Pharmaceutical Products [NMIAC, title 140, subchapter 50.2].

§ 185-10-4135 Remote Practice Location

(a) To be eligible to practice in a remote practice location, as defined in section 185-10- 4101(t), a physician assistant must:

(1) Have a minimum of one year of full-time clinical experience; or

(2) Alternately, a PA without that experience will become eligible to practice in a remote practice location after he or she completes 160 hours of patient care in the CNMI under

the direct and immediate supervision of a CNMI licensed physician.

(b) A physician assistant may practice through remote supervision if:
(1) There is no other CNMI-licensed physician ~~concurrently~~ working at the same physical location as the physician assistant; and
(2) The practice agreement and visitation requirements of this section are met; and
(3) The physician assistant maintains contact with the remote supervising physician, such as by telephone, radio, or email.

(c) In addition to the practice agreement requirements described in section 185-10-4120, the Practice Agreement shall include:
(1) The supervising physician(s) will always provide adequate means for immediate and direct communication at all times between themselves and the physician assistant;
(2) Chart notes and prescriptions will be sent to the supervising physician for review and signature, as applicable, to maintain compliance with the chart review and signature requirements described in the "Practice Agreement."

(d) If authorized in an approved Practice Agreement, the physician assistant may make prescription drug orders, prescribe, dispense and/or administer scheduled medications subject to the requirements described in section 185-10-4130.

(e) The supervising physician must visit the remote practice location at least monthly for a minimum of four hours to directly supervise the physician assistant and to review and co-sign the medical records of the physician assistant.

(f) The Board may redefine the term "remote area" and/or "remote practice location" ~~through the use of~~ using an emergency order.

§ 185-10-4140 Application

(a) An application for a license to practice as a physician assistant shall be made under oath on a form to be provided by the Board and shall be signed and sworn to under penalty of perjury by the applicant. This application shall be accompanied ~~with~~ by the following information and documentation as is necessary to establish that the applicant possesses the qualifications as required in these regulations:
(1) The applicant's full name and all aliases or other names ever used, current address, date and place of birth, and Social Security number;
(2) Applicant's 2x2 photograph taken within six months from date of application; and
(3) Applicant must pay the appropriate fees, including the application fee, which shall not be refunded;
(4) Applicant is to provide originals of all documents and credentials, or notarized or certified copies acceptable to the Board of such documents and credentials, including but not limited to:
(i) Diploma showing a degree of Physician Assistant or Physician Associate;
(ii) Documents showing satisfactory proof that applicants have taken and passed the PANCE;
(iii) Current NCCPA certification;
(iv) Documents showing proof that applicant is licensed to practice as a physician

assistant in another U.S. jurisdiction;

(v) The FCVS's profile of the applicant submitted to the Board by the FSMB shall be accepted in lieu of the documents required in subsections (i), (ii), (V)*, and (iv) above; and

(vi) Document showing proof of a current and valid DEA registration certificate, if required.

(5) Applicant to provide a list of all jurisdictions, U.S. or foreign, in which the applicant is licensed or has ever applied for a license to practice as a physician assistant;

(6) Applicant to provide a detailed educational history, including places, institutions, dates and program descriptions of all his or her education beginning with secondary schooling and including all college, preprofessional, professional, and professional postgraduate training;

(7) Applicant to provide a list of all jurisdictions, U.S. or foreign, in which the applicant has been denied licensure or voluntarily surrendered a license to practice as a physician assistant;

(8) Applicant to provide a list of all jurisdictions, U.S. or foreign, of all sanctions, judgments, awards, settlements, or convictions against the applicant that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under 3 CMC § 2201, et seq. or these regulations; and

(9) Applicant to provide a report from the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) within sixty days from the signature date of the application.

(b) The burden of proof shall be upon the applicant to provide and verify the required information to the Board's satisfaction. The applicant shall be responsible for the cost of obtaining such information from recognized information and data services.

§ 185-10-4145 Continuing Education

(a) All physician assistants licensed to practice in the CNMI are required to complete fifty CE hours during the twenty-four months prior to the expiration of their license as a prerequisite to the renewal of their biennial license.

(b) One hour of credit will be allowed for each ~~clock~~ hour of CE participation.

(c) Approved continuing education activities include~~s~~ but are not limited to the following:

(1) Activities designated as Category 1 by an organization accredited by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the American Medical Association, or the Academy of Family Physicians; or

(2) CEs certified by the Maintenance of Proficiency (Mainpro), which is a program of the College of Family Physicians of Canada; or

(3) Commonwealth Health Corporation CEs; or

(4) CEs as part of NCCPA certification.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to obtain documentation, satisfactory to the Board, from the organization or institution of his or her participation in the continuing education and of the number of credits earned.

(e) If a licensee fails to meet the CE requirements for renewal of license because of illness, military service, or other extenuating circumstances, the Board, upon appropriate written explanation, may grant an extension of time to complete same, on an individual basis. Licensure renewal shall be denied to any licensee who fails to provide satisfactory evidence of completion of CE requirements or who falsely certifies attendance at and/or completion of the CE.

§ 185-10-4150 Renewal

(a) All licenses issued by the Board expire every two years following issuance or renewal and become invalid after that date.

(b) Each licensee shall be responsible for submitting a completed renewal application at least sixty days before the expiration date. The Board shall send, by mail or email, a notice to every person licensed hereunder, ~~giving~~ stating the date of expiration, the fee, and any additional requirements for the renewal thereof.

(c) All licensees must submit satisfactory evidence of completion of CE requirements, as required under section 185-10-4145, and provide a copy of a current and valid DEA registration certificate, if required.

(d) Physician Assistants shall maintain a current national certification with NCCPA and provide a valid copy of the certificate ~~in order~~ to renew their CNMI license.

(e) A late fee of $25.00 will be charged every 1st of the month after the expiration date.

(f) Licenses which have expired for failure to renew on or before the date required may be reinstated within one year of the expiration date upon payment of the renewal and late fees for each calendar month until the renewal fee is paid. Each licensee whose license has expired and lapsed for more than one year ~~by~~ due to failure to renew must file a new application, meet current requirements for licensure, and receive Board approval.

(g) A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended, or placed on probation by the licensing authority of another U.S. or foreign jurisdiction, or who has voluntarily or involuntarily surrendered his or her license in consideration of the dismissal or discontinuance of pending or threatened administrative or criminal charges, following the expiration date of his or her CNMI license, may be deemed ineligible for renewal of his or her license to practice as a physician assistant in the CNMI. This will not, however, prevent the Board from considering a new application.

§ 185-10-4155 Special Provision – Advertising and Identification to the Public

(a) APA shall ~~at all times~~ always when on duty, wear an ID badge stating his or her name and title of "Physician Assistant" or "PA."

(NOTE: The following sections were omitted from the older version in § 140-50.3-004112 and will be reinstated.)

(b) A physician assistant may not advertise or otherwise hold himself or herself out in any manner that implies that the physician assistant is either a medical doctor or an independent practitioner.

(c) A physician assistant may not advertise in any manner without the name(s) of the supervising physician.

~~§ 140-50.3-004113~~ **§ 185-10-4160 Impaired Physician Assistants.**

(a) The Board shall have the power to deny an application, refuse to renew or restore, suspend, revoke, place on probation or condition the license of any physician assistant whose mental or physical ability to practice as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and safety is impaired.

(b) By submission of an application for licensure or renewal, an applicant shall be deemed to have given his or her consent to submit to mental or physical examination and/or chemical dependency evaluation, including the taking of tissue or fluid samples, at his or her own expense, as the Board may direct, and to waive all objections as to the admissibility or disclosure of such information and related findings, reports, or recommendations in an administrative or judicial proceeding. If a licensee or applicant fails to submit to an examination or evaluation when properly directed to do so by the Board, unless failure was due to circumstances deemed beyond the licensee's control, the Board shall be permitted to enter a final order upon proper notice, hearing, and proof of refusal.

(c) If the Board finds, after examination and hearing, that the applicant or licensee is impaired, he/she shall be subject to the following:

(1) Direct the applicant or licensee to submit to care, counseling or treatment, at his or her own expense, which is acceptable to the Board; and

(2) Deny the application, suspend, place on probation or condition the license for the duration of the impairment; or

(3) Revoke the license.

(d) Any licensee or applicant who is prohibited from practicing as a physician assistant under this section shall, at reasonable intervals, be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he or she can resume or begin to practice as a physician assistant with reasonable skill and safety. A license shall not be reinstated, however, without the payment of all applicable fees and the fulfillment of all requirements as if the applicant had not been prohibited.

~~§ 140-50.3-4114~~ **§ 185-10-4165 Code of Conduct**

The Board recognizes the NCCPA's Code of Conduct as its professional standards model and outlines principles that all physician assistants are expected to uphold. The NCCPA endeavors to assure the public that physician assistants meet professional standards of knowledge and skills and uphold standards of professionalism and ethics in their p actice.

~~§ 140-50.3-004115~~ **§ 185-10-4170 Disciplinary Action.**

The Board shall have the power to impose an administrative penalty and/or reprimand; revoke or suspend; refuse to issue, restore, or renew the license of any person who is found guilty of one or more of the violations pursuant to § 2224 of P.L. 15-105 and §§ 185-10-901 – 1300 of the regulations.

(NEW Proposed Subsection – § 185-10-4175)

§ 185-10-4175 Independent Practice Physician Assistant — iPA

§ 185-10-4180 Requirements to petition for Licensure.

(a) An applicant to petition for licensure as an independent practice physician assistant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, be a U.S. citizen or a foreign national lawfully entitled to remain and work in the Commonwealth, and, in addition to complying with the provisions set forth in ~~§ 140-50.3-004109~~ § 185-10-4140, applicants must also meet the following requirements:

(1) Applicant has at least a Bachelor's Degree as a Physician Assistant or Physician Associate from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission for the Education of Physician Assistants (ARC-PA), or prior to 2001, either by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association or the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; and

(2) Applicant provides evidence of current NCCPA certification; or applicant possesses an active unrestricted license to practice as a physician assistant in another U.S. state or territory; and

(3) Has completed one of the following supervised practice pathways:

(i) A minimum of four (4) consecutive years of full-time supervised clinical practice within the CNMI; or
(ii) A minimum of two (2) consecutive years of full-time supervised clinical practice within the CNMI, after and in addition to at least four (4) years of supervised practice in another U.S. jurisdiction, and
(iii) A detailed practice history within the CNMI and any other US jurisdiction, and
(iv) Letters of evaluation from supervising physician(s) practicing within the CNMI,
(v) Employer or institutional references, if applicable.
(vi) A description of the proposed scope and setting of independent practice.
(vii) Any additional documentation requested by the Board.
(viii) The applicant shall be of good moral character and shall not have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude or a crime related to his or her practice as a physician assistant in any jurisdiction, US or foreign.

§ 185-10-4185 Independent Physician Assistance Scope of Practice

(a) An Independent Physician Assistant will only practice medicine within the training and education of the individual, and

(b) Will be wholly responsible for any malpractice or other civil cases brought against the practitioner, and

(c) If prescribing controlled substances, iPAs shall obtain and maintain their own individual DEA number with a valid address indicating their primary place of practice, and

(d) Comply with Sections § ~~140-50.3-004109~~ § 185-10-4140 to § ~~140-50.3-004115~~ § 185-10-4170 of these regulations.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

PRIOR PUBLICATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH REGISTER AS PROPOSED REGULATIONS
Volume 48, Number 07, pp. 054265-054271, July 15, 2026

AMENDMENTS TO THE TEMPORARY OCCUPANCY RULES AND REGULATIONS

ACTION TO ADOPT THESE PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS: The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Office of the Governor, Department of Public Lands (DPL), HEREBY ADOPTS AS PERMANENT the proposed amendments to the DPL Temporary Occupancy Rules and Regulations, which were published in the Commonwealth Register at the above-referenced pages, pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 1 CMC § 9101 et seq. These amendments provide for the payment of Base Rent on a quarterly basis in the second and subsequent years of a lease term and authorize DPL to amend existing leases accordingly, with the agreement of existing lessees.

I certify by signature below that as published, such adopted regulations are a true, complete, and correct copy of the referenced proposed regulations, and that they are being adopted without modification.

PRIOR PUBLICATION: These regulations were published as proposed regulations in Volume 48, Number 07, pp. 054265-054271 of the Commonwealth Register, dated July 15, 2026.

ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVAL: The adopted regulations were approved for promulgation by the Attorney General in the above-cited pages of the Commonwealth Register pursuant to 1 CMC § 2153(e).

MODIFICATIONS FROM PROPOSED REGULATIONS, IF ANY: None.

AUTHORITY: These amendments are promulgated under the authority of DPL pursuant to 1 CMC § 2806 to develop administrative policies, procedures, and controls related to public land.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Pursuant to the APA, 1 CMC § 9105(b), these adopted amendments are effective 10 days after compliance with the APA, 1 CMC §§ 9102 and 9104(a) or (b), which, in this instance, is 10 days after publication in the Commonwealth Register.

COMMENTS AND AGENCY CONCISE STATEMENT: No written comments regarding the proposed regulations were submitted during the 30-day comment period. DPL will, if requested to do so by any interested person within 30 days of this adoption of the amendments, issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for and against its adoption.

P.O. Box 500380, Saipan, MP 96950 • 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • E-mail: dpl@dpl.gov.mp • Facebook: www.facebook.com/DplCnmi
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54 • Fax: (670) 234-3755

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on the date indicated below at Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Submitted by:

SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
Secretary, DPL

8/11/26
Date

Filed and recorded by:

ESTHER R.M. SAN NICOLAS
Commonwealth Registrar

8.13.2026
Date

Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opa.cnmi.gov
1220 Route 312, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 501399
Saipan, MP 96950

E-mail Address:
mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

INTENDED ACTION TO ADOPT THESE PROPOSED REGULATIONS: The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) intends to adopt as permanent regulations the attached amended Procurement Regulations, pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act, 1 CMC §9104(a). The regulations will become effective ten (10) days after adoption and publication in the Commonwealth Register. (1 CMC §9105(b)).

AUTHORITY: The proposed Procurement Regulations are promulgated under the authority of 1 CMC § 2303(d) which provides the Public Auditor authority to promulgate procurement regulations and administer the procurement function of OPA.

TERMS AND SUBSTANCE: The proposed Procurement Regulations are set forth to provide the regulations and procurement of goods and services by OPA.

THE SUBJECTS AND ISSUES INVOLVED: The proposed Procurement Regulations set forth the procedural guidelines for OPA procurement of goods and services.

DIRECTIONS FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION: These proposed Procurement Regulations shall be published in the Commonwealth Register in the section on proposed and newly adopted regulations (1 CMC § 9102(a)(1)) and posted in convenient places in the civic center and in local government offices in each senatorial district, both in English and in the principal vernacular (1 CMC § 9104(a)(1)).

COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed adoption of the OPA Procurement Regulations to Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, Temporary Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, at P.O. Box 501399 CK. Saipan, MP 96950, or email to mail@opacnmi.com. Comments, data, views, or arguments are due within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice (1 CMC § 9104(a)(2)).

Submitted by: _____ 8/4/2026
Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, CPA — Date
Temporary Public Auditor

Received by: _____ 8/6/26
Jean Paul B. Reyes — Date
Special Assistant for Administration

Filed and
Recorded by: _____ 8.11.2026

Esther R.M. San Nicolas
Commonwealth Registrar

Date

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 2153(e) (AG approval of regulations to be promulgated as to form) and 1 CMC § 9104(a)(3) (obtain AG approval), the proposed regulations attached hereto have been reviewed and approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the CNMI Attorney General and shall be published (1 CMC § 2153(f)(publication of rules and regulations).

Dated the 10, day of August 2026.

_____

Edward Manibusan
Attorney General

§ 130-30-220 Small Purchases

(a) Any procurement not exceeding the amounts established herein may be made in accordance with small purchase procedures, established in this section. However, procurement requirements shall not be artificially divided so as to constitute a small purchase.

(b) Bidding is not required for purchases under $10,000. ~~Purchases that use Government-sourced funds (local funds) or any combination of both local and federal funds may be made according to the small purchase procedures of this subsection~~:

(1) For purchases that do not exceed $ 10,000.00 at least one price quote shall be obtained. However, where practicable, the Procurement Officer shall seek to obtain more than one price quote.

(2) A blanket purchase order may be used to make purchases without securing a price quote when the purchases do not exceed $1,000.00. The goods or services that may be purchased under a blanket purchase order must be defined (i.e. office supplies) and shall not be used for equipment. The Procurement Officer shall promptly submit to the Public Auditor copies of receipts for all purchases made under a blanket-purchase order. The Public Auditor may instruct the Procurement Officer to explain the need for the goods or services and how the prices paid were reasonable.

(3) For purchases that exceed $10,000.00, but which are less than or equal to $50,000.00, a minimum of three vendors shall be solicited to submit written or electronic quotations. The quotations shall be recorded and placed in the procurement file. If fewer than three vendors submit quotations, the Procurement Officer shall certify, in writing, to the Public Auditor that fewer than three vendors responded and shall provide written proof of the request. If fewer than three of the solicited vendors submit quotes, the Public Auditor may either approve the request or direct the Procurement Officer to solicit additional quotes.

(4) The Procurement Officer shall limit to $50,000.00 per fiscal year the total amount of purchase orders made in accordance with the small purchase procedures of this subsection (a) that the Procurement Officer issues to any single non-governmental vendor, unless the Public Auditor approves, in writing, of the proposed expenditures that would exceed the limit.

~~(c) Purchases that use only federal funds may be made according to the small purchase procedures of this subsection:~~

~~(1) For purchases that do not exceed $10,000.00, at least one price quote shall be obtained. However, the Public Auditor may require the Procurement Officer to obtain more than one price quote.~~

~~(2) For purchases that exceed $10,000.00, but which are less than or equal to $250.000.00, a minimum of three vendors shall be solicited to submit written or electronic quotations. The quotations shall be recorded and placed in the procurement file. If fewer than three vendors submit quotations the Procurement Officer shall certify, in writing, to the Public Auditor that fewer than three vendors responded and shall provide written proof of the request. If fewer than three of the solicited vendors submit quotes, the Public Auditor may either approve the quote, instruct the Procurement Officer to solicit additional quotes, or require that the purchase be procured pursuant to § 130-30-205 or other applicable provisions of the regulations in Chapter 130-30.~~

~~(d)~~(c) Any lease or purchase of vehicles shall be procured pursuant to § 130-30-315. Any lease or purchase of machinery and equipment in excess of the amounts allowed in this section shall be procured pursuant to § 130-30-205 or other applicable provisions of the regulations in Chapter 130-30.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opa.cnmi.gov
1220 Route 312, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 501399
Saipan, MP 96950

E-mail Address:
mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU NI MAN MAPROPONI PARA U MA ADÅPTA I REGULASION PROCUREMENT SIHA PARA I UFISINAN I PUBLIC AUDITOR

MA INTENSIONA NA AKSION PARA U MA ADÅPTA ESTE I MAN MAPROPONI NA REGULASION SIHA: I Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas, Ofisinan i Public Auditor (OPA), ma intensiona para ma adåpta komu petmaniente i regulasion siha ni mañechetton i man maproponi na Regulasion Procurement siha, sigun gi Åkton Administrative Procedure 1 CMC § 9104(a). I Regulasion siha para u ifektibu dies (10) dihas despues i adåptasion yan pupblikasion gi halom i Rehistran Commonwealth.

ÅTURIDÅT: I man maproponi na Regulasion Procurement ma diklåra gue påpa' i aturidåt i 1 CMC §2303 (d) ni mapribeniyi aturidåt i Public Auditor para u ma diklåra regulasion procurement siha yan ma dirihi i fonksion procurement i OPA.

I TEMA YAN SUSTÅNSIAN I PALÅBRA SIHA: I man maproponi na Regulasion i Procurement ma pega mo'na para u mapribeniyi fuetsao na regulasion yan procedures gi kosas yan setbisio i procurement siha guinen OPA.

SUHETU NI MASUMÅRIA YAN ASUNTU NI TINEKKA: I man maproponi na Regulasion Procurement siha ma pega mo'na i procedural guidelines para i procurement OPA gi kosas yan setbisio siha.

DIREKSION PARA U MA PO'LU YAN PARA PUPBLIKASION: Esti i man maproponi na Regulasion siha debi na u mapupblika gi halom i Rehistran Commonwealth gi seksiona ni man maproponi yan ñuebu na ma adåpta na regulasion siha, 1 CMC § 9102(a)(l), yan u ma pega gi kumbinienti na lugåt siha gi halom i civic center yan i ufisinan gubietnamentu siha gi kada distritun senadot, parehu Englis yan prinsipåt na lingguåhin natibu. (I CMC § 9104(a)(l)).

PARA U MAPRIBENIYI UPIÑON SIHA: I man intirisao na petsona siha siña manahålom upiñon siha ni man maproponi na adåptasion i Regulasion Procurement OPA guatu gi as Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, Temporary Public Auditor, gi P.O. Box 501399 CK. Saipan, MP 96950, pat email address mail@opacnmi.com. Upiñon, data, views, pat agumentu siha debi di u manahålom trenta (30) dihas guinen i fetcha ni mapupblika i nutisia (1 CMC §9104 (a)(2)).

Nina'hålom as: _____ 8/4/2026
Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, CPA — Fetcha
Temporary Public Auditor

Rinsibi as: _____ 8/6/26
Jean Paul B. Reyes — Fetcha
Special Assistant for Administration

Pine'lu yan
Ninota as: _____ 8.11.2026

Esther R.M. San Nicolas
Commonwealth Registrar

Fetcha

Sigun i 1 CMC § 2153(e) (I Abugådu Hineråt ma aprueba i regulasion siha na para u macho'gui kumu fotma) yan i 1 CMC § 9104(a)(3) (hentan inaprueban Abugådu Hineråt) i man maproponi na regulasion siha ni mañechettun guini ni man ma ribisa yan man ma aprueba kumu fotma yan sufisienti ligåt guinen i CNMI Abugådu Hineråt yan debi na u mapupblika, 1 CMC § 2153(f) (pupblikasion areklamenlu yan regulasion siha).

Mafetcha guini gi diha 10, gi August 2026

_____

Edward Manibusan
Abugådu Hineråt

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opa.cnmi.gov
1220 Route 312, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 501399
Saipan, MP 96950

E-mail Address:
mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

NOTISIAL ARAMAS TOWLAP REEL RE BWE ADÓPTÁLI REGULATIONUL PROCUREMENT BWE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR EBWE FÉRI ME ATTABWEY

MILLE EBWE FÉRI REEL ADÓPTÁL REGULATION: Llól Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Office of the Public Audito (OPA) e aisiisitiw mille esemmwel ebwe liiwel llól permanent regulations e appasch llól Procurement Regulations, sángi awewe me reel Administrative Procedure Act, 1 CMC §9104(a). Regulations nge ebwe bweletá llól seigh (10) ráál mwuril yaar adóptáli me atolongol llól Commonwealth Register (1 CMC §91 05(b)).

ATORIDÓD: Mille Procurement Regulations ebwe fééri atoridód sángi 1 CMC § 2303(d) ngáli Public Auditor yaal atoridód ebwe attabweey Procurement Regulations me ebwe fééri yaal tarabwaagho bwulasiyol OPA ebwe attabwey ebwe mwóghut.

IYA TOOL ME MEETA ÓWTOL: Fféril llól Procurement Regualtions yeel nge ebwe isiis aweewe me ebwe fééri regulations kka eghatch OPA ebwe attabwe reel procurement.

ÓWTOL ME FFÉR KKA EBWE ATTABWEEY: Fféril llól Procurement Regulation aa mwóletiw mille OPA ebwe attabweey bwe eghatch me ebwe fééril.

MILLE EBWE ATTABWEEY REEL FILING ME PUBLICATION: Proposed Regulations kkaal nge rebwe atolongol ebwe lo llól Commonwealth Register llól sóbwol milla e ffééta yáár adóptáli regulations (1 CMC § 9102(a)(1)) rebwe appaschátá Proposed Regulations kkal llól bwuléúw iye ararnasal falúw me llól civic center igha bwulasiyol gobietno me senatorial district, rebwe arághi me reepiya, e weewe schagh reel English me mwaleyal falúw (1 CMC § 9104(a)(1)).

YÓÓMW AIY EGH ME MÁNGÁMÁNG: Schóó kka re intersów rebwe iischilong meeta yáár mángámáng reel adóptal fféér kka OPA Procurement Regulations sángi Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, Temporary Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor llól P.O. Box 501399 CK. Saipan MP 96950, me ngare email address reel mail@opacnmi.com. Alongal aweewe kkal nge eyoor 30 ráál rebwe atootolong sángi igha re atowowul notisia yeel ngaliir aramas towlap (1 CMC § 9104(a)(2)).

Proposed regulations kkal nge aa aprebáli sángi Temporary Public Auditor wóól August 4, 2026.

Atolongoyal: _____ 8/4/2026
Dora I. Deleon Guerrero, CPA — Ráál
Temporary Public Auditor

Resibiiy sángi: _____ 8/4/26
Jean Paul B. Reyes — Ráál
Special Assistant for Administration

Filed me
Recorded sángi: _____ 8.11.2026
Esther R.M. San Nicolas
Commonwealth Registrar
Ráál

Sángi ówtol 1 CMC § 2153(e) (AG e aprebáli regulations ebwe fééri) me 1 CMC § 9104(a)(3) (AG e amweschúl appreba kkaal) reel proposed regulations kka e appasch bwe ra árághil me aweewel me apprebáali e legal me allégh sángi CNMI Attorney General bwe ebwe atowowul bwe aramas towlap rebwe repiyálil (1 CMC § 2153(f)(publication of rules and regulations).

Ráálil llól August 10, 2026.

_____
Edward Manibusan
Attorney General

Gov's office
RECEIVED
8/7/26 JP 10:22

Department of Commerce

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: https://commerce.gov.mp/
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Telephone: (670) 664-3000

David M. Apatang, Governor
Dennis James C. Mendiola, Lt. Governor

Remedio C. Mafnas, Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CNMI PRODUCT SEAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

"Rules" is used ONLY if your statute says "rules". Otherwise, "regulations" is the term we really want to use. ***It's specified in the statute; we will use the term "regulations" consistently throughout the document to align with the legal standard. This approach will enhance clarity and ensure compliance with legislative framework.***

INTENDED ACTION TO ADOPT REVISED PROPOSED REGULATIONS: The CNMI Department of Commerce intends to adopt as permanent regulations the attached revised proposed regulations governing the CNMI Product Seal program pursuant to 4 CMC § 54002 and the procedures set forth in the Administrative Procedure Act. The Regulations would become effective ten (10) days after adoption and publication in the Commonwealth Register. (1 CMC § 9105(b))

The CNMI Department of Commerce previously proposed amendments to the CNMI Product Seal Rules and Regulations in the Commonwealth Register, Vol. 47, No. 10, dated October 15, 2025, at pages 052976-052987. Following review and further deliberation, the CNMI Department of Commerce has proposed certain changes in the CNMI Product Seal program. Accordingly, these revised proposed regulations supersede the previously published proposed regulations and to provide the public with an additional opportunity to review and comment before the regulations are considered for final adoption pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY: The CNMI Department of Commerce has the authority to adopt rules and regulations in furtherance of its duties and responsibilities pursuant to Executive Orders 94-2 and 94-3 and 4 CNMC § 54002.

THE TERMS AND SUBSTANCE: These proposed amendments seek to:

1. Specify that a product seal is defined as a certification mark that indicates compliance with established quality standards.

2. Require that only products that meet the specific safety and quality benchmarks outlined in § 20-30.2-101 (1-12) shall be eligible to bear the product seal.

3. Require that manufacturers must submit an application form along with supporting documentation to the Department of Commerce for review.

4. State that the Department of Commerce will conduct periodic inspections to ensure compliance with regulations; non-compliance may result in penalties and fines.

5. State that Stakeholders are invited to submit comments during the public comment period, which will be considered before the final adoption.

CITATION OF RELATED AND/OR AFFECTED STATUES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

These proposed amendments would affect other sections of the existing CNMI Product Seal program:

- Added § 20-30.2-110 (Authorized Use and Variations), resulting in the renumbering of subsequent sections formerly codified as §§ 20-30.2-115 through 20-30.2-130.
- § 20-30.2-105 (Permitting) has been administratively clarified through the reorganization of subsection lettering and cross-references.
- Under § 20-30.2-105 (Permitting):
    - subsection (1)(g), the statutory cross-reference has been corrected to § 20-30.2-115.
    - subsection (3)(c) is repealed. Subsections (3)(d) through (3)(g) are redesignated as subsections (3)(c) through (3)(f), respectively.
    - subsection (3)(e) clarified seal resizing requirements to permit proportional scaling and prevent distortion.
    - subsection (3)(f), the descriptions of the Seals of Star Quality have been updated to reflect two primary product seal variations, Made in the Marianas and Grown in the Marianas, of which a minimum of 50%, not 51%, added value has been added in the CNMI.
    - subsection (4)(c)(i) was added as a safeguard provision clarifying that use of the CNMI Product Seal is limited to the period during which a permit is valid and may not be displayed or used in a manner that represents current authorization after a permit expires, is suspended, or is revoked.
    - subsection (4)(e) is repealed.
- Amended § 20-30.2-115 (Compliance) (5) regarding fees payment and authorized reproduction of seals.
- Amended § 20-30.2-115 (Compliance) (6) regarding printing of official CNMI Product Seal stickers.
- Amended § 20-30.2-115 (Compliance) (8)(a) to allow resizing of the CNMI Product Seal while prohibiting color variations and revisions.
- § 20-30.2-125 has been administratively clarified through the reorganization of subsection lettering and cross-references, including the proper nesting of subsections (d)(1) through (d)(3), with no substantive change to enforcement standards or obligations.
- § 20-30.2-140 (Fines) has been updated to clearly reflect the fine amounts prescribed under Public Law 20-89 by type of violation.
- Under § 20-30.2-145(a)(1), the statutory cross-reference has been corrected to § 20-30.2-140.
- Under § 20-30.2-145(a)(2), the statutory cross-reference has been corrected to § 20-30.2-135.
- Exhibits 1 through 4 have been revised to show the two official product seals, Made in the Marianas and Grown in the Marianas, including the monochromatic or black & white versions of each seal.

DIRECTIONS FOR FILING AND PUBLICATIONS: The proposed amendments to the CNMI Product Seal Program shall be published in the Commonwealth Register in the section on proposed and newly adopted

regulations (1 CMC § 9102(a)(1)), shall be published and posted in convenient locations, including government offices, legislative offices, senatorial district, and business establishment, both in English and in the principal vernacular. (1 CMC § 9104(a)(1))

COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed regulations to the Department of Commerce Secretary Remedio C. Mafnas at the following address or email address, with the subject line "Proposed CMI Product Seal Rules and Regulations":

Remedio C. Mafnas
Office of the Secretary
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 5795 CHRB
Saipan MP 96950
secretary.mafnas@commerce.gov.mp

Comments are due within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of publication of this notice. 1 CMC § 9104(a)(2). For further questions regarding the comment process, please contact:

CNMI Department of Commerce

Maryann Borja-Arriola	Kioshi Cody	John David Reyes
marriola@commerce.gov.mp	kcody@commerce.gov.mp	registrar.reyes@commerce.gov.mp
(670) 664-8020	(670) 664-3077 ext. 107	(670) 664-8024

These proposed regulations were approved by the Secretary of Commerce on June 16, 2026.

Submitted by: _____ 8/07/2026
Remedio C. Mafnas — Date
Secretary
CNMI Department of Commerce

Received by: _____ 8/7/26
Jean Paul B. Reyes — Date
Special Assistant for Administration

Filed and recorded by: _____ 8.11.2026
Esther R. M. San Nicolas — Date
Commonwealth Registrar

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 2153(e) (AG approval of regulations to be promulgated as to form) and 1 CMC § 9104(a)(3) (obtain AG approval) the proposed regulations attached hereto have been reviewed and approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the CNMI Attorney General and shall be published, 1 CMC § 2153(f) (publication of rules and regulations).

Dated the 10 of Aug, 2026.

EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

Gov's office
RECEIVED
8/7/26 10:22 JP

Department of Commerce
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: https://commerce.gov.mp/
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Telephone: (670) 664-3000

David M. Apatang, Governor
Dennis James C. Mendiola, Lt. Governor

Remedio C. Mafnas, Secretary

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL AMWULAAL ALLÉGHÚL CNMI PRODUCT SEAL-IL PEIRÁGHIL AMÉÉMÉ LÓ IYE SIWELI NGALI ALLÉGHÚL CNMI DEPARTMENT-IL COMMERCE

Yáayál "Allégh" ngáre aweewel nge "allégh". Reel akkááw nge re yáali "Ammwellaal Allégh". Sibwe yáali "ammwelaal allégh" llól dókkomento reel ebwe weewe fengál me alléghúl aweewe. Iyeel nge ebwe affata me alléghú fischi weewel.

FÉFFÉRÚL MWÓGHÚTÚGHÚT IKKA REBWE YÁÁLI REEL AMMWELLAAL ALLÉGH: Schóól Department-il Commerce llól CNMI rebwe ammwela fischi ammwelaal allégh iye rebwe attabweey alléghúl program-al CNMI Sel-il ameémé ló. Mwóghutughut yeel ebwe bwel faal 4 CMS § 54002 me ebwe attabweey mwóghutughutul Administraive Product Act.

Re ayoora arongorongol allégh kkaal llól Commonwealth Register wóól Sarobwel 2025. Bwe rel siwel kkaal rel ghommwal arongorong, Department-il Commerce ebwe bwal ayoora seläli arongorong. Iyeel iye toulap rebwe amweeri siwel me ayoora yaar aiyegh me ólegh mesammwál yaar rebwe siweli allégh kkaal faal Administrative Procedure Act.

Allégh yeel ebwe fis seigh ráál mwiril yaar amwella me ayoora arongorong llól Commonwealth Register.(1 CMC § 9105(b))

Ammwelaal allégh e abwáári aweewel Program-al CNMI Seal-il ameémé ló me alisi rel rebwe attabweey angaangil allégh.

Toulap rebwe amwuuri fischi amwulaal allégh kkaal me ayoora yaar aiyegh me ólegh ótol iye aa fis.

1. Faal: Ammwelaal Allégh kkaal nge ebwe abwáári bwe peirághil ameémé ló nge e ghatch llól yaal ebwe tepengiir schóól akkamé me alisiir ghatchú yaar angaang fengál me business.

2. Iyo E Fil Ngáli: Ammwelaal Allégh kkaal nge e fil ngáli schóól ffér, schóól akkamé, me tenda kka llól CNMI iye re tipáli rbwe yoor seal wóól peirághil ameémé ló.

3. Ótol: Emmwál ngáliir aramas rebwe isisilong yaar aiyegh me ólegh llól eliigh ráál bweletáál rrálil iye re isáliwow arongorong.

Ótoridóód: Eyoor bwángiir schóól Department-il Commerce me llól CNMI merel Legislature bwe rebwe ayoora allégh ikka ebwe alisi me ayoora aweewel allégh iye ebwe alisir llól yaal angaang (1 CMC § 2451, mwóghútúghútúr Schóól Department-il Commerce, allégh me ammwelaal allégh). Amwuuri afalafalal Excutive.

Eyoor ótorodóódur Schóól Department-il Commerce rebwe ayoora ammwelaal allégh kkaal faal provisions kkeey:

1. 4 CMC § 54002:Eyoor ótorodóódur Schóól Department-il Commerce rebwe ayoora ammwelaal alléghúl peirághil mil ameémé reel ebwe tepengi me aghatchú fischi me llól CNMI.

2. Executive Orders 94-2 me 94-3 (ebwel wóól Elúwel ruweigh me eluuw, tiwabwughúw tiweigh me faawu (August 23, 1994, ssiwelil Executive branch)

AWEEWEL ME ÓUTOL: Arongorongol amendments kkaal ebwe:

1. E abwáári ghatchul peirágh kka re mókkali ngáli Seal-il peirághil ameémé ló.

2. Peiráágh kka e attabweey alléghúl lugheiyal me ghatchúl peirágh llól § 20-30.2-101 (1-12) nge e emmwálúl bweibwogh seal-il peirághil ameémé ló.

3. E tettengágh bwe Schóól Ffér rebwe isisilong application me alillisil dókkomento ngáli Schóól Department-il Commerce bwe rebwe amweri fischi.

Schóól Department-il Commerce rebwe ayoora inspections reel rebwe amweri fischi amwirimwiril amwelaal allégh. Schóó kka rese attabwey amwirimwiril allégh nge rebwe yoor penalties me fine.

Emmwál bwe schóól téél apilómw rebwe isisilong yaar aiyegh me ólegh ótol public feedback. Rebwe ghommwal amweril aiyegh me ólegh kkaal mesammwal yaar affata ló allégh.

AWEEWEL ALLÉGH

Arongorongul siwel kkaal ebwe afekktai ákkááw ireiral Peirághil Seal-il Ameémé ló.

KKAPAS ME FITIGHOOGHO IKKA EYOOR ME LLÓL AMMWELAAL ALLÉGHÚL SEAL-IL PEIRÁÁGHIL AMÉÉMÉ LÓ.

Ammelaal Allégh kkeey ebwe ammwela kkapas me fitighooghol kkaal:

1. Tepengiir Schóól Akkamé: Ammwelaal Allégh kkaal nge ebwe amweri fischi peiráágh kka eyoor seal wóól bwe eghi ghatch me alisi fischiir schóól akkamé reel rebwe mataf reel peiráágh kka ese ghatch.

2.Integrity-l Market: Isisiwowul ammwelaal alléghúl seal-il peirághil ameémé ló e alillis reel areepiyal ghatchúl llól business.

3. Allégh kka ubwe attabweey: Ammwelaal Allégh kkaal ebwe afalaar schóól ffér me schóól akkamé ló bwe rebwe attabweey, bwal efaisúl rebwe féérú me ayooral dókkomento kka e tettengágh.

4. Léghélégh úl Allégh: Ammwelaal Allégh kkaal e isiwow bwe rebwe weri me ghulei ngáre re tabweey ngáli allégh me towoowul ngáre rese attabweey allégh, me penalties ngáre rese attabwey.

5. Yaar Toulap Rebwe Tuutá: Emmwál bwe toulap rebwe isisilong yaar aiyegh me ólegh ótol yaar kke ischi ammwelaal allégh kkeey bwe rebwe bwal mataf reel máfiyer toulap.

AFAL REEL ISISILONG ME ATOOTOWUL: Ammwelaal Allégh ebwe toowow merel Commonwealth Register me llól ireiral atootowow me allégh kka e ffé (1 CMC § 9102(a)(1)), ebwe atootowow me apaschetá me llól tenda, bwulaasiyol government, me bwulaasiyol legislative,senatorial district, me business, reel kkasal English me kkasal faleey.. (1 CMC §9104(a)(1)

1. Afal iye ebwe tabwey: E tettengágh bwe schóó kka re tipáli rebwe isisilong aiyegh me ólegh reel ammwelaal allégh yeel nge rebwe ischi ngáli:

Remedio C. Mafnas
Secretary
CNMI Department of Commerce
secretary.mafnas@commerce.gov.mp

2. Ileeta Ebwe Isisilong: Ebwe isisilong alongaal aiyegh me ólegh wóól Elúwel eliigh me fisuuw, ruwangaras ruweigh me oloow (August 17, 2026) bwe rebwe amweri.

3. Atootowul Arongorong: Ammwelaal Allégh kkaal ebwe toowow merel Commonwealth Register me bwal wóól yaar website schóól Department-il Commerce.

4. Igha Toulap rebwe bwughi me weri iye: Emmwál ubwe schungi kkóópil allégh wóól online reel www.commerce.gov.mp me ngáre ubwe ló bwughi kkóópil me Department-il Commerce ótol business.

REEL AYOORAL AIYEGH ME ÓLEGH REEL AMMWELAAL ALLÉGHÚL SEAL-IL PEIRÁGHIL AMÉÉMÉ LÓ:

1. Isisilongul Aiyegh me ólegh: Ischil aiyegh me ólegh ebwe isisilong ngáli:

Remedio C. Mafnas
Office of the Secretary
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 5795 CHRB
Saipan MP 96950
secretary.mafnas@commerce.gov.mp

2. Ótol isisilong: Ebwe isisilong aiyegh me ólegh ótol iye Eluwel 17, 2026 bwe rebwe amwuri ótol mwóghútúghútúl yaar rebwe amwuuri.

3.Tappal: Emmwel afangafangal aiyegh me ólegh ebwe isisilong ngáli (kkatta ngáre email). Ebwe iisch ghatch, me aschulong ital schóól afangafang, numurol tilifoon, me gurupu iye re lo llól.

4. Amwuriyeer Toulap: Rebwe ghommwal amwuuril alongaal aiyegh me ólegh mesammwal yaar afata ló aiyegh. Rebwe ayoora óutol aiyegh me ólegh kkeey ngáliir toulap.

Faifai: Reel aiyeghil ólegh, utu ghal soong faingi:

CNMI Department of Commerce

Maryann Borja-Arriola	Kioshi Cody	John David Reyes
marriola@commerce.gov.mp	kcody@commerce.gov.mp	registrar.reyes@commerce.gov.mp
(670) 664-8020	(670) 664-3077 ext. 107	(670) 664-8024

Allégh kkaal nge e bwunguló faal Secretaril Commerce wóól Alimaté 16, 2026.

Merel: _____ 8/07/2026
Remedio C. Mafnas — Ráál
Secretary
CNMI Department of Commerce

Bwughiyal: _____ 8/7/26
Jean Paul B. Reyes — Ráál
Special Assistant for Administration

Ammwelayal: _____ 8.11.2026
Esther R. M. San Nicolas — Ráál
Commonwealth Registrar

Faal 1 CMC § 2153(e) (AG e affata bwe allégh bwe ebwe bwáá) me 1 CMC § 9104(a)(3) (ngáre eghatch merel AG) allégh yeel nge aa amweri bwe e legal sángi CNMI Attorney General me ebwe isisiwow, 1 CMC § 2153(f) (isiswowul allégh me ammwelaal allégh)

Wóól ráál iye 10, ruwangara ruweigh me oloow (2026).

_____
EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

Gov's Office

RECEIVED
8/7/26 JP 10:22

Department of Commerce
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: https://commerce.gov.mp/
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Telephone: (670) 664-3000

David M. Apatang, Governor
Dennis James C. Mendiola, Lt. Governor

Remedio C. Mafnas, Secretary

AKONSEHUN PUBPLIKU PUT I MANMAPRUPONI NA TINILAIKA NU I "CNMI PRODUCT SEAL RULES" YAN AREKGLAMENTU SIHA PARA I "CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

I "Rules" mana'sesetbi HA' yanggin i lai ilekna "rules". Put esu, "regulations" sigidu tana'setbi guini la'yiyi sa' i lai ha tuka' put para u kunfotma yan i lingguahin i lai (***"legal standard"***) ya u klaru yan i "***legislative framework***".

GINAGAGAO INI NA U MA APRUEBA I MAPRUPONI NA TINILAIKAN AREKGLAMENTU: I "CNMI Department of Commerce" la'yiyi ha petsigi ini na hu aprueba kumu petmanenti ("permanent") na arekglamentu i sigienti siha na tinilaika ni ha tutuka put asuntun prugraman "CNMI Product Seal" sigun i "4 CMC § 54002" yan i debi umacho'gui na aksion sigun i "Administrative Procedure Act". Put esu, u efektibu dies na ha'ani ("ten (10) days) dispues ma pupblika gi "Commonwealth Register. (1 CMC § 9105(b))".

I "CNMI Department of Commerce" gi alacha ha prupone tinilaika siha gi prugraman "CNMI Product Seal Rules and Regulations" gi "Commonwealth Register, Vol. 47, No. 10, dated October 15, 2025, at pages 052976-052987". Dispues di inina yan diniskuti, i "CNMI Department of Commerce" ha disidi sigidu na debi u pruponi dididi' tinilaika siha put i prugraman i "CNMI Product Seal". Put esu, i alacha na mapruponi na tinilaika la'yiyi pininu' nu esti siha na tinilaika ini ya ha prubiniyi i pupbliku tiempu yan manera anai sina manman ina yan manna'halum finihu ta'lu antis di manma aprueba yan mana'efektibu sigun i "Administrative Procedure Act".

ATTURIDAT: I "CNMI Department of Commerce" gai atturidat na hu aprueba yan na'efektibu ini na tinilaikan arekglamentu siha ("rules and regulations") la'yiyi kumu che'cho'na sigun i "Executive Orders 94-2 and 94-3 and 4 CNMC § 54002".

GINAGAGAO NA ALIMENTUN PRINIPONI NA TINILAIKA SIHA: I manmapruponi ini na tinilaika siha ha intensiona kumumpli i sigienti siha:

1. Tuka' dibuenamenti na i "product seal" la'yiyi ufisiat na matka ni ha indika na ha kumpli i tatkilu' na kualidat i industriha ("industry quality standards").

2. Edyu ha' na fina'tinas iya Marianas siha na fenkas ni ha kumpli ginagagao na "safety" yan "quality benchmarks" gi § 20-30.2-101 (1-12) man masedi osino man ilihipbli man ma matka "CNMI Product Seal".

3. Upbliga na i manmama'titinas fenkas Marianas iya Marianas mismu debi ufan na'halum aplikasion yan palu siha na dokumentu guattu giya "Department of Commerce" para u ina yan aprueba.

4. Tuka' klaru sin hafa na dinida na i "Department of Commerce" u kundukta "periodic inspections" para u asigura na i fina'tinas fenkas gi halum Marianas kunfotma yan i arekglamentu siha sinoke i ti makumpli u guaha' pena yan mutta.

5. Tuka' na maskiseha hayi gi pupbliku manma kumbibida man na'halum finihu durantin i tiempun "public comment period" ya u fan ma kunsidera antis di ma aprueba dibuenamenti.

LISTAN TINILAIKA SIHA NA AREKGLAMENTUN I ALACHA ("STATUTES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS")

I sigienti siha ini i manmapruponi na tinilaika ha tuka' katkuet na patti gi presenti na prugraman i "CNMI Product Seal":

- Umenta "§ 20-30.2-110 (Authorized Use and Variations)", ya humuyung ma agun numiru i sigienti dispues na seksiona kumu "§§ 20-30.2-115 through 20-30.2-130".
- "§ 20-30.2-105 (Permitting)" mana' klaru sa' ma agun arekgla i "subsection lettering and cross-references".
- Gi papa' "§ 20-30.2-105 (Permitting)":
    - i "subsection (1)(g)", matulaika i "statutory cross-reference" para "§ 20-30.2-115".
    - Mana'suha i "subsection (3)(c)". I "Subsections (3)(d) through (3)(g)" ma agun designa kumu "subsections (3)(c) through (3)(f)",.
    - i "subsection (3)(e)" ha na' klaru i "seal resizing requirements" para u sedi na sina ha' ma midi maskiseha hafa na mineggai kuntat ki taya' digeriha ya sinedi "proportional scaling and prevent distortion".
    - i "subsection (3)(f)", gi ineksplikan "Seals of Star Quality" matulaika para u na' klaru yan distinggi i hugua na primera ("two primary") na fina'tinas tat kumu ti menus ki 50% Fina'tinas Marianas (Made in the Marianas) pat Mana'Dokku'/Matanum Marianas (Grown in the Marianas),
    - i "subsection (4)(c)(i)" ma umenta para u asigura na i usun "CNMI Product Seal" sinedi ha' mientras gaigi gi halum i tiempu durantin i "valid permit" ya ti guailayi mana'usu dispues yanggin esta makpu' i tiempun "valid permit",
    - Mana'suha i "subsection (4)(e)"..
- Tulaika "§ 20-30.2-115 (Compliance) (5)" put asuntun apas yan ma sedi na ma agun na'setbi i "reproduction of seals".
- Tulaika "§ 20-30.2-115 (Compliance) (6)" put asuntun ma imprentan man ufisiat na "CNMI Product Seal stickers".
- Tulaika "§ 20-30.2-115 (Compliance) (8)(a)" para u sedi ma na'dangkulu pat ma na'dikiki' i "CNMI Product Seal" lao ti guailayi tinilaikan kulot pat maskiseha hafa mas na tinilaikan fektus dispues.
- I "§ 20-30.2-125" mana'klaru sigun i ma agun arekgla i patti yan letra ("reorganization of subsection lettering and cross-references"), tat kumu ma agun numiru "(d)(1) through (d)(3)", sin hafa na tinilaika put asuntun ma enfuetsa sigun i ginagagao gi "enforcement standards or obligations".
- Tulaika "§ 20-30.2-140 (Fines)" para u na'klaru i kuantu i katkuet na mutta siha sigun i "Public Law 20-89".
- Na'dinanchi i matugi' i "§ 20-30.2-145(a)(1)", para "§ 20-30.2-140".
- Na'dinanchi i matugi' i "§ 20-30.2-145(a)(2)", para "§ 20-30.2-135".
- Tulaika i "Exhibits 1 through 4" para u na'annuk yan distinggi klaru entalu' "Made in the Marianas" kontra "Grown in the Marianas", yan i "monochromatic or black & white versions of each seal".

GINAGAGAO PUT ASUNTUN "FILING" YAN "PUBLICATIONS": I manmapruponi siha na tinilaika gi prugraman i "CNMI Product Seal" debi ma pupblika gi "Commonwealth Register" sigun i "(1 CMC § 9102(a)(1))", ma na'famta' huyung gi katkuet na sagan pupbliku siha tat kumu ofisian gubietnamentu yan palu na bisnis siha gi finu' Inglatera, Chamoru, yan Carolinian (Refaluwaasch) sigun i "(1 CMC § 9104(a)(1))".

NINA'HALUM FINIHU ("COMMENTS"): Hayi malagu' muna'halum tinigi' na finihu put ini manmaprumponi na tinilaika siha tugi'i guattu i "Commerce Secretary Remedio C. Mafnas gi sigienti na "address" pat "email address", ya tugi' "subject line "Proposed CMI Product Seal Rules and Regulations":

Remedio C. Mafnas
Office of the Secretary
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 5795 CHRB
Saipan MP 96950
secretar_.mafnas@commerce.gov.mp

Nina'halum tinigi' na finihu debi u halum trenta (thirty (30) calendar days) na ha'ani ginin i fechan anai mapupblika ini na nutisia sigun i "1 CMC § 9104(a)(2)". Yanggin guaha' mas finaisin a'agang pat tugi'i i man sigienti siha:

CNMI Department of Commerce

Maryann Borja-Arriola	Kioshi Cody	John David Reyes
marriola@commerce.gov.mp	kcody@commerce.gov.mp	registrar.reyes@commerce.gov.mp
(670) 664-8020	(670) 664-3077 ext. 107	(670) 664-8024

I manmapruponi siha na tinilaikan arekglamentu ini man ma aprueba gi "June 16, 2026" as "Secretary of Commerce Remedio C. Mafnas".

Nina'halum As: _____ 8/07/2026
Remedio C. Mafnas — Fecha
Secretary
CNMI Department of Commerce

Tinaggam As: _____ 8/7/26
Jean Paul B. Reyes — Fecha
Special Assistant for Administration

"Filed and Recorded" As: _____ 8.11.2026
Esther R. M. San Nicolas — Fecha
Commonwealth Registrar

Sigun i "1 CMC § 2153(e) (AG approval of regulations to be promulgated as to form)" yan i "1 CMC § 9104(a)(3) (obtain AG approval)", i manmaprupone na tinilaikan arekglamentu ini inina yan inaprueba as "CNMI Attorney General" ya debi ma pupblika sigun i "1 CMC § 2153(f) (publication of rules and regulations)".

Ma Fecha ini na Ha'ani 10 gi Aug, 2026.

EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

SUBCHAPTER 20-
CNMI PRODUCT SEAL REGULATIONS

Subchapter Authority: 4 CMC § 54002

Part 001 General Provisions

§ 20-30.2-001 Authority

There is created a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Product Seal to identify products manufactured in the CNMI.

This chapter is promulgated pursuant to § 54002 which authorizes the CNMI Department of Commerce to administer the provisions of this Chapter and promulgate rules and regulations, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to carry out the purposes of this Chapter.

§ 20-30.2-005 Responsibilities

The CNMI Department of Commerce shall:

(a) Develop, or have developed, a design for the CNMI Product Seal;

(b) Determine the viability of having a distinct product seal for the islands of Rota, Tinian, Saipan or any island to the north of Saipan or a single product seal for the entire CNMI;
(c) Assess the local value added in the production processes of manufacturers applying for permission to place the seal upon their products;
(d) Issue permits for use of the seal to eligible applicants;
(e) Ensure ongoing compliance with the eligibility requirements by all manufacturers who have been issued permits;
(f) Conduct field investigations of products bearing the seal, both on its own initiative and in response to information and complaints received from the public;
(g) Levy fines on manufacturers, importers, exporters, distributors, and retailers found to be in violation of this Chapter;
(h) Transmit information regarding the levy of fines to the Department of Finance; and
(i) Take appropriate steps to notify businesses about the requirements of this Chapter.

§ 20.30-2-010 Definitions

For the purpose of this subchapter, the following definitions shall apply.

(a) *"Article"* shall mean the commodity or product in a package or container that is available for purchase by the consumer.

(b) *"Conspicuous"* shall be reflected by markings that appear on the article's packaging or container in a place that is readily accessible, and where the marking noting the product's origin can be found upon casual examination.

(c) *"Label"* any written, printed, or graphic matter affixed to or appearing upon any consumer commodity or affixed to or appearing upon a package containing any consumer commodity; except that:

(1) An inspector's tag or other nonpromotional matter affixed to or appearing upon a consumer commodity shall not be deemed to be a label requiring the repetition of label information required by this part, and

(2) For the purposes of the regulations in this part the term *label* does not include written, printed, or graphic matter affixed to or appearing upon commodities, or affixed to or appearing upon containers or wrappers for commodities sold or distributed to industrial or institutional users.

(d) *"Legible"* shall mean markings that are clearly identified, and which can be read without strain.

(e) *"Package"* any container or wrapping in which any consumer commodity is enclosed for use in the delivery or display of that commodity to retail purchasers. For purposes of the regulations in this part the term *package* does not include shipping containers or wrappings used solely for the transportation of any consumer commodity in bulk or in quantity to manufacturers, packers, or processors, or to wholesale or retail distributors thereof unless used in the retail display; shipping containers or outer wrappings used by retailers to ship or deliver any commodity to retail customers if such containers and wrappings bear no printed matter pertaining to any particular commodity; or containers subject to the provisions of the Act of August 3, 1912 (37 Stat. 250, as amended; 15 U.S.C. 231–233), the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1186, as amended; 15 U.S.C. 234–236); or transparent wrappers or containers which do not bear written, printed, or graphic matter obscuring any part of the label information required by this part.

(f) *"Perishable consumer commodity"* shall mean an article packaged and offered for consumption as a food product or for use by individuals for the purpose of personal care or in the performance of services ordinarily rendered in or about the household in connection with personal possessions; and is intended to have a limited shelf life, including, but not limited to, articles such as baked goods, dairy products, cut or dried flowers, fruits, vegetables and meats; coffee, candies, cookies, jams, jellies, juices, oils, nuts, or such similar products.

(g) *"Permanent"* refers to the print on the article's packaging or container designed to remain until received by the end user or ultimate purchaser at the point of sale in a retail establishment.

(h) *"Standard Labeling Practices"* shall be defined by the most current rules and regulations that have been established by the United States Food and Drug Administration relative to General Food Labeling Requirements.

(i) *"Star Quality"* there is established a standard seal of quality, the design of which is shown in exhibit 1, entitled "Star Quality" seal which is made a part of this regulation. This seal may be applied only to:

i. Fresh agricultural products that have been entirely produced in the CNMI and hold sanitation license;

ii. Value-added processed agricultural and food products for which the primary agricultural product has been entirely produced in the CNMI that meet the requirements of § 20-30.2-101 (6);

iii. All other goods produced, manufactured or processed in the CNMI.

(j) *"Value added"* shall be the difference between the wholesale price of the product, if sold at wholesale, or the retail price of the product, if sold directly by the manufacturer, and the sum of both the total landed cost of all material components of the product that have been brought into the CNMI and the total landed cost of materials, excluding machinery used in the production process that has been brought into the CNMI.

§ 20-30.2-015 Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to establish the requirements and procedures involved in obtaining a permit to use the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, (CNMI) Product Seal, the criteria for issuance of said permit, and the permit's effective term.

To help promote products made in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and to help enhance our export potential.

To protect the integrity and value of the CNMI's marketing distinction and help our genuine fresh and processed products compete equally with lookalike products from elsewhere.

To provide incentives for new entrepreneurs to produce locally made products and at the same time promote consumption and exportation of locally made products.

Part 100 Product Seal

§ 20-30.2-100 CNMI Product Seal Fund

There is established a fund to be known as the CNMI Product Seal Fund, which shall be maintained separate and apart from any other funds of the government of the CNMI. Independent records and accounts shall be maintained in connection therewith. Funds of the CNMI Product Seal Fund shall be used exclusively for the administration and operations of the CNMI Product Seal Program. All funds collected from fees, charges, or fines levied pursuant to this Chapter shall be deposited into the CNMI Product Seal Fund under the Enforcement and Compliance Division. Expenditure authority for the CNMI Product Seal Fund shall be the Secretary of Commerce.

§ 20-30.2-101 Eligibility and Requirements

In order for a manufacturer to be eligible to use the CNMI Product Seal on its product, it must:

(1) Be used only on a product manufactured in the CNMI that results from a substantial transformation of the materials used in the creation of the product and for which a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the value added of the product has been added on the CNMI to obtain a permit to use the seal, a manufacturer or processor must apply

to the CNMI Department of Commerce. A permit to use the CNMI Product Seal shall be effective for one year;

(2) Be of Star Quality characteristic of that commodity and shall be specified on the Business License;

(3) Each packaged or labeled consumer commodity shall bear a label specifying the identity of the commodity; the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer/processor, or distributor; the net quantity of contents; and the net quantity per serving, use or application, where there is a label representation as to the number of servings, uses, or applications obtainable from the commodity;

(4) Any fresh or processed agricultural or food products to which the seals are applied shall meet all applicable CNMI and federal sanitation standards and shall be in compliance with all CNMI law(s) enacted for specified commodities;

(5) Any fresh or processed agricultural food products to which the seals are applied shall be in compliance with all CNMI law(s) enacted for specified commodities;

(6) Any value-added processed agricultural or food product shall be manufactured, assembled, fabricated, or produced within the CNMI and shall have had at least fifty percent (50%) of its wholesale value added by manufacture, assembly, fabrication, or production within the CNMI;

(7) The quality of any value-added processed agricultural or food product shall meet all the minimum requirements specified by the CNMI and federal laws and rules.

(8) Minimum quality standards established in paragraph (5) shall be applied equally to all like or similar, value-added processed agricultural or food products; and the primary agricultural product shall be entirely produced in the CNMI.

(9) All "consumer commodities" be labeled to disclose net contents, identity of commodity, and name and place of business of the product's manufacturer, packer, or distributor. Each package of household "consumer commodities" that is included in the coverage of the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, (FPLA) to bear a label on which there is:

i. A statement identifying the commodity, e.g., detergent, sponges, etc.;

ii. The name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor; and

iii. The net quantity of contents in terms of weight, measure, or numerical count (measurement must be in both metric and inch/pound units).

(10) The label of a consumer commodity shall specify conspicuously the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor. Where the consumer commodity is not manufactured by the person whose name appears on the label, the name shall be qualified by a phrase that reveals the connection such person has with such commodity; such as "Manufactured for _____," "Distributed by _____," or any other wording that expresses the facts.

(11) The requirement for declaration of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor shall in the case of a corporation be deemed to be satisfied only by the actual corporate name, which may be preceded or followed by the name of the particular division of the corporation. In the case of an individual, partnership, or association, the name under which the business is conducted shall be used.

(12) The statement of the place of business shall include the street address, city, state, and zip code; however, the street address may be omitted if it is listed in a readily accessible, widely published, and publicly available resource, including but not limited to a printed directory, electronic database, or Website.

§ 20-30.2-105 Permitting

(1) Application for Permit

A manufacturer must apply to the CNMI Department of Commerce. A permit to use the CNMI Product Seal shall be effective for one (1) year.

Applications for permits to use the CNMI Product Seal as prescribed by the CNMI Department of Commerce shall be submitted to the CNMI Department of Commerce, and shall include the following:

(a) The name of the firm applying for such permit;

(b) The mailing address and street address and/or location description, where appropriate, of the firm's manufacturing facility or facilities;

(c) A detailed description of the manufacturing process or processes in which the product for which the application is submitted will be produced;

(d) A copy of the firm's current business license shall also be attached to the application if applicable.

(e) The application shall be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of ($50.00) per 1-3 product lines and an additional 1-3 product lines of Twenty-Five ($25.00), payable to CNMI Treasury.

(f) Application forms shall be made available to prospective applicants at the CNMI Department of Commerce offices during regular office hours.

The CNMI Department of Commerce, upon receipt of an application for a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal shall:

(g) Investigate the firm's compliance with the eligibility requirements, stated in § 20-30.2-115 of these regulations, by inspecting the firm's manufacturing facility and production process;

(h) Obtain photographic documentation of the firm's production process or processes, and its product, to be included with the firm's completed application form in Department of Commerce files; and

(i) Assess compliance with both the value-added and substantial transformation requirements for permit eligibility.

(j) The CNMI Department of Commerce shall make its determination as to the eligibility of the applicant firm for use of the CNMI Product Seal within a period of thirty (30) working days.

(k) The firm is determined to be eligible for the use of the seal on its product, it shall be issued a permit for said use within a period of seven calendar days of such determination.

(l) If the firm is determined to be ineligible for the use of the seal on its product, it shall be so informed within a period of seven calendar days of such determination, in writing, with an explanation as to why the application has been denied.

(m) The effective term of a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal shall be one (1) calendar year, commencing on the date of the permit's issuance.

(2) Product permits

In order for a manufacturer to be eligible to use the CNMI Product Seal on its product, it must:

(a) The CNMI Department of Commerce shall determine whether or not the particular product or products, process, or establishment and the applicant can

comply with all relevant requirements for use of the seals. The applicant shall prove to the satisfaction of the department that the product or products, process, or establishment will meet all requirements for use of the seals.

(b) The department may reject an application when it is determined that the applicant has not demonstrated the ability to consistently comply with the requirements for use of the seals. If an application is rejected, the department or its authorized agent shall inform the applicant of the rejection. An applicant whose application has been rejected may request a review by the department or a hearing before the department within thirty days after the mailing date of a notice of rejection.

(c) If the application is approved, a license authorizing the use of the seals on the product or products, process, or establishment named on the application shall be issued.

(3) Distribution of Seals and Reproduction.

The CNMI Department of Commerce may make seals available at a reasonable cost and in such form as deemed most appropriate for the needs of the user.

(a) Seals shall not be transferred to, nor used by, any party other than the authorized user who requests and purchases these seals.

(b) An authorized user of a seal of star quality may have the seal reproduced for use on the authorized user's own packages or advertisements, however, must comply with these regulations.

(c) Permission to reproduce a seal is not transferable and any persons reproducing the seal may do so only to the extent specified in the written permission.

(d) Seal Issuance and Tracking:

To ensure accountability and proper financial control, the CNMI Department of Commerce shall implement a centralized tracking system for all official product seals issues. Each seal must be assigned a unique identifier and recorded with the following details: date of issuance, recipient name, quantity, product type, and corresponding payment information. These records shall be maintained for audit purposes and reconciled regularly. Any discrepancy or unauthorized issuance may result in penalties as provided under this regulation.

(e) The seal may be enlarged or reduced to fit its intended use, provided that the seal is resized proportionately and not distorted. In no case shall the Seal be reduced to a size that renders any lettering illegible.

(f) Seals Star of Quality; description:

1. **SEAL OF STAR QUALITY (Exhibit 1): Made in the Marianas**
   Products with a minimum of fifty percent (50%) added value generated within the CNMI, including those whose raw materials are grown or sourced in the CNMI and whose manufacturing, processing, packaging, or other production activities occur within the CNMI.

   The Star Quality Seal is a circular blue and white seal bearing the words "Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," "Made in the Marianas," and "Seal of Star Quality," as shown in the exhibit 1.

2. **FRESH STAR QUALITY (Exhibit 2)**: **Grown in the Marianas**
   Any and all agricultural or livestock products grown in the Marianas.

   The Fresh Star Quality Seal is a circular green and gold seal bearing the words "Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," "Grown in the Marianas," and "Fresh Star Quality," as shown in the exhibit 2.

3. **MONOCHROMATIC PRODUCT SEALS (Exhibits 3 & 4)**:
   Meant for transparent or clear product packaging, single-color printing, or other applications where color printing would reduce legibility.

   A monochromatic version of the Star Quality and Fresh Star Quality seals may be used in black, with white elements appearing as white or transparent, as shown in exhibits 3 & 4.

(4) Renewal of the Permit

(a) For the continued use of the CNMI Product Seal, a firm must renew its permit to use the CNMI Product Seal annually. Application for renewal shall be in the same form and meet the same criteria as specified in § 20-30.2-105 of this regulation.

(b) A holder of a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal may apply for renewal of said permit at any time after sixty (60) calendar days prior to the expiration of its existing permit.

(c) Should a firm holding a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal allow its expiration date to pass without renewing said permit, it shall be granted an extension period of thirty (30) calendar days to renew the permit, however; should the holder of a permit which has not been renewed fail to renew the permit within said thirty

(30) day period, the firm shall be liable for any violations of these regulations during that thirty (30) day period as if it had never held a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal.

i. Use of the Seal shall be limited to the period during which a permit is valid. Upon expiration, suspension, or revocation of a permit, the Seal shall not be displayed or used in any manner that represents or implies current authorization by the Department.

(d) Any permit to use the CNMI Product Seal that is renewed within sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the permit holder's permit or within thirty (30) days subsequent to said expiration date shall have as its effective date that date upon which the permit being renewed would or did expire.

§ 20-30.2-110 Authorized Use and Variations

The CNMI Department of Commerce may establish administrative guidelines, technical specifications, or other written instructions governing the approved variations, placement, size, format, and authorized methods of use for the CNMI Product Seal.

The Department may authorize the use of the CNMI Product Seal in different forms, including physical stickers, labels, tags, wrappers, containers, printed packaging, decals, stamps, engraving, molding, advertisements, displays, or other approved formats.

A permit holder shall not reproduce, resize, alter, print, display, or apply the CNMI Product Seal unless the Department has approved the size, placement, color, format, and manner of use. The Department may approve different sizes or formats when necessary to accommodate the product, packaging, or method of display, provided that the seal remains clear, visible, and consistent with the official design.

The Department shall prohibit any unapproved, misleading, altered, or unauthorized modification or use of the CNMI Product Seal.

§ 20-30.2-115 Compliance

(1) Any firm holding a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal shall allow unrestricted access to its facilities for Department of Commerce personnel during its hours of operation. Such facilities shall include all spaces owned, rented or leased by the firm in connection with its manufacturing operations, including but not limited to its manufacturing plant, storage, and office spaces.

(2) Department of Commerce personnel who are responsible for the enforcement of these regulations shall have unrestricted access to the public areas of all wholesale and retail

establishments in the CNMI during their ordinary business hours. Should such personnel have reasonable cause to believe that a wholesale or retail establishment is in violation of these regulations, such access shall extend to all storage areas and all other areas in which the business of that establishment is conducted that is owned, rented, or leased by the firm.

(3) The label of a consumer commodity shall bear a declaration of the net quantity of contents separately and accurately stated on the principal display panel.

(4) The declaration of net quantity shall appear as a distinct item on the principal display panel, shall be separated (by at least a space equal to the height of the lettering used in the declaration) from other printed label information appearing above or below the declaration and, shall not include any term qualifying a unit of weight or mass, measure, or count such as "jumbo quart," "giant liter," "full gallon," "when packed," "minimum," or words of similar import. The declaration of net quantity shall be separated (by at least a space equal to twice the width of the letter "N" of the style of type used in the net quantity statement) from other printed label information appearing to the left or right of the declaration. However, the "e" mark shall not be considered to be a qualifying word or phrase and may be used as part of the statement of the net quantity of contents where warranted. When used, the "e" mark shall be at least 3 millimeters (approximately 1⁄8 in) in height. The declaration of net quantity of contents shall be placed on the principal display panel within the bottom 30 percent of the area of the label panel in lines generally parallel to the base on which the package or commodity rests as it is designed to be displayed.

(5) All fees for the CNMI Product Seal shall be paid directly to the CNMI Treasury. Upon approval of an application and confirmation of payment, the Department may authorize the issuance of official stickers, impressions, or other approved formats consistent with these regulations.

(6) Official CNMI Product Seal stickers issued by the Department shall be printed only by a Department-authorized printer or other approved source and must meet Department-approved specifications. Stickers may include serial numbers or other tracking measures as determined by the Department. Unauthorized reproduction, duplication, alteration, sale, or distribution of the CNMI Product Seal is prohibited and may result in penalties. Nothing in this section prevents the Department from approving other authorized uses of the seal, including labels, tags, wrappers, printed packaging, advertisements, displays, or other approved formats.

(7) Vendors are strictly prohibited from contacting or engaging the printer directly without written authorization from the CNMI Department of Commerce.

(8) Safeguards

a. No color variations or revisions to the seal are permitted.
b. Random checks and audit rights apply.
c. Penalties may be issued for non-compliance or false declaration.

§ 20-30.2-120 Investigation

During the course of investigations, Department of Commerce personnel shall be unobstructed in gathering information in any way, and shall be allowed to interview the firm's employees, photograph both in the interior and on the exterior of the firm's facilities, and shall be provided with any and all documentary information regarding the firm's costs of production, production process(es), and sales, upon request.

§ 20-30.2-125 Enforcement

Enforcement of the CNMI Product Seal law and these regulations will require inspections at CNMI ports of entry, at manufacturing facilities, and at wholesale and retail establishments within the CNMI. The CNMI Department of Commerce, including the Customs and Quarantine officers, shall perform these inspections.

This regulation shall be administered by the CNMI Department of Commerce under the authority of the Secretary, as prescribed by applicable laws.

(1) **Enforcement at Port of Entry**

(a) If the inspector of Customs or his authorized representative detects, during the course of inspections at any of CNMI ports of entry, any product bearing the CNMI Product Seal or any reasonable likeness of the CNMI's Product Seal not identical to the CNMI Product Seal, the Collector or his authorized representative shall seize and hold such product in custody at the risk and expense of the importer or consignee.

(b) In order to gain the release from Customs custody of a product seized because it bears the CNMI Product Seal or any reasonable likeness of the CNMI Product Seal not identical to the CNMI Product Seal, the importer or consignee shall provide both a current permit to use the CNMI Product Seal on that product and a shipper's export declaration, giving sufficient evidence that the product meets the eligibility requirements for the use of such seal.

(c) If a product seized by Customs because it bears the CNMI Product Seal or any reasonable likeness of the CNMI Product Seal not identical to the CNMI Product Seal is not released or re-exported within thirty (30) days of such seizure, it shall be forfeited to the CNMI Department of Commerce and subsequently destroyed.

(d) Entry of products marked with or bearing the words "Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Rota, Tinian, Saipan, or any Island to the north of Saipan, 'Chamorro', or 'Carolinian' or a derivation of such words on the product if such product was not manufactured in the CNMI, unless the place where the product was manufactured is clearly labeled on the product; Disposition.

(1) If the Inspector of Customs or his authorized representative detects, during the course of inspections at any of the CNMI's ports of entry, any product marked with or bearing the word *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Rota, Tinian, Saipan, or any Island to the north of Saipan, 'Chamorro', or 'Carolinian' or a derivation of such words* on the product, the Inspector or his authorized representative shall seize and hold such product in custody at the risk and expense of the importer or consignee, unless the country of origin of the product, preceded *by Made in, Product of,* or other words of similar meaning, is marked, legibly and in a conspicuous place, on the product or the package in which it will be sold to the consumer.

(2) In order to gain the release from Customs custody of a product seized, the importer or consignee must mark the product in such a way that it conforms to the requirements for entry under § 20-30.2-125 of these regulations or provide for re-export of the product.

(3) If a product seized by Customs under § 20-30.2-125 (d)(1) of these regulations is not released or re-exported within ninety (90) days of such seizure, it shall be forfeited to the government and subsequently destroyed.

(2) **Enforcement at Manufacturing Facilities.**
Enforcement at the facilities of firms holding CNMI Product Seal use permits:

(a) Any firm holding a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal shall allow unrestricted access to its facilities for Department of Commerce personnel during its hours of operation. Such facilities shall include all spaces owned, rented or leased by the firm in connection with its manufacturing operations, including but not limited to its manufacturing plant, storage and office spaces.

(b) During the course of investigations, Department of Commerce personnel shall be unrestricted in gathering information in any way, and shall be allowed to interview the firm's employees, photograph both the interior and exterior of the firm's facilities, and shall be provided with any and all documentary information regarding the firm's costs of production, production process(es), and sales, upon request.

Enforcement at the facilities of firms not holding the CNMI Product Seal use permits:

(c) Should the CNMI Department of Commerce have information regarding a possible violation of the CNMI Product Seal law (P.L. 20-89) by a firm, the CNMI Department of Commerce personnel shall conduct an investigation and obtain a search warrant supported by probable cause, describing the place to be searched and the items to be ceased.

(3) **Enforcement at Wholesale and Retail Establishments.**

(a) Department of Commerce personnel who are responsible for the enforcement of these regulations shall have unrestricted access to the public areas of all wholesale and retail establishments in the CNMI during their ordinary business hours. Should such personnel have reasonable cause to believe that a wholesale or retail establishment is in violation of these regulations, such access shall extend to all storage areas and all other areas in which the business of that establishment is conducted that are owned, rented or leased by the firm.

(b) During the course of investigations, Department of Commerce personnel who are responsible for the enforcement of these regulations and who have reasonable cause to believe that a wholesale or retail establishment is in violation of these regulations shall be unrestricted in any way in gathering information relating to such possible violations, and shall be allowed to interview the firm's employees, photograph both in the interior and on the exterior of the establishment's facilities, and shall be provided with any and all documentary information regarding the establishment's purchases of goods or receipt of goods on consignment, as it relates to products manufactured or represented as being manufactured in the CNMI, upon request.

§ 20-30.2-130 Violations

(a) Pursuant to § 54007; It shall be a violation of the law for any business to place a CNMI Product Seal on a product if the business does not have a current permit allowing the product to have such a seal.

(b) It shall be a violation for any business establishment to state or imply in an advertisement or display of any type, including packaging that a manufactured product is made in the CNMI unless the product has a CNMI Product Seal on it or the product was manufactured in the CNMI.

(c) It shall be a violation for persons or any retail store, wholesaler, manufacturer, importer, distributor or business establishment to sell a product that has the words 'Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Rota, Tinian, Saipan or any island to the north of Saipan', 'Chamorro', or 'Carolinian' or a derivation of such words on the product if such product was not manufactured in the CNMI, unless the place where the product was manufactured is clearly labeled on the product.

(d) It shall be a violation of these regulations for the CNMI Product Seal or any reasonable likeness of the CNMI Product Seal not identical to the CNMI Product Seal to appear on any product held for sale which was not manufactured under a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal.

(e) Any manufacturer who uses the CNMI Product Seal must exhibit the permit to use such seal in a conspicuous place within the manufacturing facility.

(f) Any wholesale or retail firm, other than a manufacturer, must maintain copies of invoices for products bearing the CNMI Product Seal sufficient to show that those products were purchased from a manufacturer holding a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal, and the words "CNMI Product Seal" shall succeed the description of the product on those invoices.

(g) Should the CNMI Department of Commerce have information regarding a possible violation of the CNMI Product Seal law (PL 20-89) by a firm, Department of Commerce personnel shall have access to the firm's facilities regardless of whether the firm holds a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal.

§ 20-30.2-135 Recovery of Merchandise.

Any manufacturer or importer who places the CNMI Product Seal or any reasonable likeness of the CNMI Product Seal not identical to the CNMI Product Seal upon any product which was not manufactured under a permit to use the CNMI Product Seal shall be ordered by the Director of Commerce to recover from wholesalers and retailers all units of the product.

(a) In the case of merchandise delivered by the manufacturer to a wholesaler or retailer on consignment, the merchandise shall be returned to the manufacturer by the wholesaler or retailer without charge; any merchandise not returned, within one week of documented request, shall subject the wholesaler or retailer to the same penalties as if the wholesaler or retailer had been the manufacturer of the product, and absolve the true manufacturer of further liability in connection therewith.

(b) In the case of merchandise sold by the manufacturer to a wholesaler or retailer, the manufacturer shall recover the merchandise at a price agreed to by the wholesaler or

retailer, up to and including the price for which the merchandise is offered to the customers of the wholesaler or retailer; any merchandise not recovered, within one week of documented request, shall subject the wholesaler or retailer to the same penalties as if the wholesaler or retailer had been the manufacturer of the product, and absolve the true manufacturer of further liability in connection therewith.

(c) For the purpose of this section, a documented request shall be made in writing to the appropriate party or parties, witnessed by an official of the CNMI Department of Commerce.

(d) Failure to recover merchandise as ordered under this Section within ninety (90) calendar days of such order shall be grounds for revocation, subject to hearing by the Department of Finance, of the firm's business license.

(e) In the case of any violation of 4 CMC § 54007(a), the CNMI Department of Commerce shall order the firm to recover from wholesalers and retailers and to take off the market all products sold with a CNMI Product Seal for which the firm did not have a permit when the seal was placed upon the product.

§ 20-30.2-140 Fines

For each violation of § 107(a) of Public Law 20-89, the Department of Commerce shall levy a fine against the firm in an amount not less than two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500) and not more than five thousand dollars ($5,000) per type of product.

For each violation of § 107(b) or § 107(c) of Public Law 20-89, the Department of Commerce shall levy a fine against the firm in an amount not less than five hundred dollars ($500) and not more than two thousand dollars ($2,000) per type of product.

Separate fines shall be levied for each instance in which a business is found to have violated § 107 of Public Law 20-89.

All fines imposed under this section shall be payable to the CNMI Government and credited to the CNMI Product Seal Fund.

(a) Appeals from fines levied under this Section shall be made within fifteen (15) days, in writing, to the Secretary of Commerce. The Secretary shall respond, in writing, to all such appeals within thirty (30) days of their receipt.

(b) Failure to pay fines levied under this Section within ninety (90) calendar days of the date levied shall be grounds for revocation of business license, subject to hearing by the

Licensing Division of the Department of Revenue and Taxation, of the firm's business license.

(c) The Department of Revenue and Taxation shall not renew the business license of any firm that has not paid any outstanding fine levied under this section.

§ 20-30.2-145 Penalties

(a) The Department of Finance shall revoke the business license of any firm if, after a hearing, it determines that the firm:

(1) failed to pay a fine levied pursuant to § 20-30.2-140 within ninety days after the fine was levied; or

(2) failed to recover merchandise in accordance with an order issued pursuant to § 20-30.2-135 within ninety days after the order was issued.

The Department of Finance shall not renew the business license of any if the business has not paid a fine levied pursuant to this Chapter.

§ 20-30.2-150 Collection

The Department of Finance is responsible for the collection of all application fees and fines levied by the CNMI Department of Commerce pursuant to 4 CMC § 54008. Provided, however, that one hundred percent (100%) of the fines collected shall be reserved for the CNMI Department of Commerce and shall be deposited into a revolving fund whereas (90%) for Enforcement and Compliance Division, (10%) for the Department of Finance, which is hereby authorized, which shall be created by the Secretary of Finance separate from the General Fund.

Part 200 Fees

§ 20-30.2-201 Fee Schedule

All fees collected under this section shall be deposited with the CNMI Treasury and are non-refundable.

A.

Program Fees	
Application Fee (processing)	$50.00 (Non-refundable) 1-3 Product Lines Additional 1-3 product lines $25.00 (Non-refundable)

ID Card Participation	$10.00	
Fee Schedule by Year		
Years of Operation	Total Fee	Coverage
Years 1 to 3	$160 per batch (up to 500 units	Includes application processing and authorized use of the CNMI Product seal in approved formats.
Years 4 and beyond	$170 per batch (up to 500 units)	Includes application processing and authorized use of the CNMI Product seal in approved formats.

B. Additional Units over 500

For any batch exceeding 500 units, an additional $5.00 will be charged for every 500 units or fraction thereof. Examples:

- 501 to 1,000 units = add $5
- 1,001 to 1,500 units = add $10
- 1,501 to 2,000 units = add $15

SEALS OF STAR QUALITY

Exhibit 1: Made in the Marianas SEAL

Exhibit 2: Grown in the Marianas SEAL

Exhibit 3 & 4: Monochromatic Version