

# **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD**

**PNS/BAFS 74:2018  
ICS 65.080**

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## **Coco peat – Grading and classification**



### **BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STANDARDS**

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## **Foreword**

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) envisioned to promote and aggressively market coconut by-products in both local and international trade including coconut peat. In response, the existing Philippine National Standard Coconut Peat – Grading and Classification (PNS/BAFPS 74:2009) was reviewed to ensure that the quality of locally produced coco peat is globally competitive.

A Technical Working Group (TWG), spearheaded by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) in collaboration with PCA, was organized in order to review, revise and develop recommendations based on scientific and acceptable practices and specifications which would enable Philippine products become globally competitive. The TWG was authorized by the Special Order No. 642 and 854 Series of 2017.

The revision of PNS/BAFPS 74:2009 was undertaken after the deliberation of the TWG. Modifications were made especially in the system and specifications for grading and packaging coco peat to tailor fit the Standard based on the existing commercial practices and requirements in the local and international markets. The new PNS provided specifications on grading and compression however, may vary according to buyer's preferences.

This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

This Standard cancels and repeals PNS/BAFPS 74:2009.

## 1 Scope

This standard specifies requirements and establishes a system of grading and classifying coco peat, a product from extraction of coir from coconut husks. This standard covers the use of coco peat as a growing medium in various grades and finished products for agricultural application.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references used in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **bale**

compressed coco peat packed in suitable materials

### 3.2

#### **block/brick**

coco peat packed into high density compression

### 3.3

#### **coco peat**

also known as coir pith/coir dust; fine spongy material left after the extraction of the coir from the coconut husk

### 3.4

#### **coco husk chip**

chopped husk in different forms and sizes

### 3.5

#### **electric conductivity**

indicator or measurement of total salt content in coco peat

### 3.6

#### **grade**

designation of coco peat quality according to the establishment government standard

### 3.7

#### **grow bag**

mechanically compressed coco peat in different forms

#### 4 Grading

There shall be three (3) types of grading system for coco peat.

**Table 1 – Grading of coco peat**

Grade	Electrical Conductivity (EC)	pH	Moisture Content (MC)
	mS/cm		%
<b>A (Premium)</b>	<0.5	5.5 - 6.8	15 to 20
<b>B (Regular)</b>	<1.0	5.5 - 6.8	>20 to 35
<b>C (Fresh Coco peat)</b>	<1.0	5.5 - 6.8	>35

**NOTE** EC expressed as milliSiemen per centimeter

#### 5 Compression

There are four (4) forms of compressed coco peat.

**Table 2 - Forms of compressed coco peat**

Compression factors	Types of compression			
	Brick	Block	Bale	Grow bag
<b>Size (LWH), cm</b>	20 x 10 x 5 (±1.0)	30 x 30 x 14 (±4.0)	None	None
<b>Weight, kg</b>	0.650±0.05	5 ±1.0	None	None
<b>Compression ratio</b>	8:1	5 to 6:1	2 to 2.5:1	5 to 6:1

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