



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila



PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF SANITARY ENGINEERING

Resolution No. 06

Series of 2023

ADOPTING THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS A
REFERRAL ENGINEERING PLUMBING CODE FOR SANITARY ENGINEERING
STUDENTS AND SANITARY ENGINEERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8981, or the "PRC Modernization Act of 2000", vests to the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission) the power, function and responsibility to review, revise, and approve resolutions, embodying policies promulgated by the Professional Regulatory Boards in the exercise of their powers and functions or in implementing the laws regulating their respective professions and other official actions on non-ministerial matters within their respective jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 856, or the "Code on Sanitation of the Philippines", states that all efforts of public services should be directed towards the protection and promotion of health;

WHEREAS, P.D. No. 856 defines "Engineer" as Sanitary Engineer;

WHEREAS, P.D. No. 856 has provisions on the areas which require the approval of the Secretary of Health, such as but not limited to, the delivery of water to consumers from new or recently repaired water systems (Section 10, Chapter II) and those related to sewage collection and disposal, excreta disposal and drainage (Section 72, Article XVII);

WHEREAS, in Chapter IX on Sanitation under P.D. No. 1096, or the "National Building Code of the Philippines", it is provided that: "*Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Civil Code of the Philippines on Property, Ownership, and its Modification, all buildings hereafter erected, altered, remodeled, relocated or repaired for human habitation shall be provided with adequate and potable water supply, plumbing installation, and suitable wastewater treatment or disposal system, storm water drainage, pest and vermin control, noise abatement device, and such other measures required for the protection and promotion of health of persons occupying the premises and other living nearby*";

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 1364, or the "Sanitary Engineering Law", provides that the practice of Sanitary Engineering shall embrace the following activities: sanitary surveys, reports, design, direction, management, consultation, and investigation of water purification plants, water collection and distribution systems, reservoirs, drainage and sewer systems, sewage treatment plants, malaria control structures, sewage disposal tanks, and other structures for public health and welfare, among others;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of R.A. No. 1364 vests to the Professional Regulatory Board of Sanitary Engineering (Board) the authority to discharge such other power and duties as may affect ethical and technological standards of the Sanitary Engineering profession in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 98 (s. 2017) was issued on the Revised Policies, Standards and Guidelines for the Bachelor of Science in Sanitary Engineering (BSSE) which requires outcome-based

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quality assurance system as advocated under CMO No. 46 (s. 2012),¹ and as addendum to CMO No. 37 (s. 2012),² and eventual competency-based professional practice;

WHEREAS, the Board issued Resolution No. 02 (s. 2022) on the adoption, issuance, promulgation of the enhanced syllabi and tables of specifications for the subjects in the Sanitary Engineers Licensure Examination wherein '*Sanitary Science as Applied to Buildings*' is recognized as a major subject;

WHEREAS, current practice in sanitation products material and manufactured products acceptance is presently based on industry acceptance rather than local code compliance;

WHEREAS, because of the absence of a local Engineering Referral Plumbing Code, the academe, design engineers, and plumbers rely on foreign Codes as technical references to keep abreast with the developments in the building industry;

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding, dated 18 October 2011, was entered into between the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and the Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers, Inc. The MOU provides for the development of a plumbing code modelled after the Uniform Plumbing Code, specifically for Philippine use, which is to be known as the "Uniform Plumbing Code – Philippines" (UPC-Philippines). The UPC-Philippines shall contain modified versions of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) of the United States of America, adopted and produced for Philippine use;

WHEREAS, the UPC has been adopted by several countries such as India, China, Australia and New Zealand, among others;

WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize the relevance of international codes and standards, as well as affiliations to international organizations, because of the requirements of globalization and technological advancements, taking into consideration, at the same time, the local needs and conditions;

WHEREAS, the Board supports and recommends the adoption of the UPC-Philippines as it conforms not only with the international standards but also with the provisions of R.A. No. 1364;

WHEREFORE, subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board **RESOLVES**, as it is hereby **RESOLVED**, to adopt the Uniform Plumbing Code of the Philippines (UPC-Philippines) [**Annex A**] as a referral code for Sanitary Engineering students and Sanitary Engineers, subject to the following rules:

1. The UPC-Philippines is primarily intended for Sanitary Engineering discipline in design practice, design implementation supervision, sanitation systems management, research and engineering education; sanitary engineering works on surveys, reports, design, direction, management, consultation, and investigation works applicable on systems under P.D. 1096, Chapter IX Sanitation, Sections 901, 902, 903, 904 and 907; and consistent with the Sanitation Code (P.D. 856) Chapter II - *Water Supply* and Chapter XVII - *Sewage Collection and Disposal, Excreta Disposal and*

¹ Policy-Standard to Enhance Quality Assurance (QA) in Philippine Higher Education through an Outcomes-Based and Typology-Based QA

² Policies, Standards and Guidelines in the Establishment of an Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) System in Higher Education Institutions offering Engineering Programs

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Drainage. However, other engineering disciplines and manufacturers may also may make use of the UPC-Philippines for their own purposes.

2. The UPC-Philippines may likewise be used by legal practitioners in arbitrations, litigations and other legal aspects.
3. The UPC-Philippines has Green Building Design Standards that are attuned with the Philippine Green Building Code. The UPC had these provisions for decades and which had been adopted and made part of the UPC-Philippines.
4. The UPC-Philippines shall be used primarily as an educational tool and a referral code for engineering, manufacturing reference and for other legal purposes, as may be applicable.
5. The UPC-Philippines is not replacing the *Tradespersons' Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines* but is intended as a referral code for architects, engineers, manufacturers, and lawyers.


This Resolution and its Annex shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Let a copy of this Resolution and its Annex be furnished the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Done in the City of Manila this 6th day of December, 2023.


CORAZON DLR. ROMERO
Chairperson


ANTHONY JEROME M. LARA
Member


GRACIANO B. CALAYAN, JR.
Member

ATTESTED BY:


Atty. Lovelika T. Bautista
Chief, PRB Secretariat Division

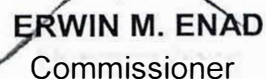
DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE

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APPROVED:


CHARITO A. ZAMORA
Chairperson


JOSÉ Y. CUETO, JR.
Commissioner


ERWIN M. ENAD
Commissioner