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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD

Buntal Fiber — Grading and Classification



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STANDARDS
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Foreword

This Philippine National Standard for Buntal Fiber - Grading and Classification, PNS/BAFS 204:2017, intends to provide specification on the requirements and grading quality of buntal fiber for local consumption and international trade.

A Technical Working Group (TWG) for the crafting of the said standard was created through Special Order No. 944 Series of 2016 spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) with representation from the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA), farmers, processors, and traders.

This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the BPS Directives, Part 3.

1 Scope

This Standard specifies requirements and establishes a system of grading and classification of commercial grades of hand-pulled and retted buntal fiber extracted from the petioles of buri plant.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Bureau of Fiber Inspection Service. (1961). *Official Standard for Buntal Fiber*.

Fiber Industry Development Authority. (1999). *FIDA Revised Administrative Order NO. 1 s.1999. Revised Rules and Regulations to Govern Licensing, Baling, Tagging, Marking, Inspection, Certification and Shipment of Philippine Commercial Fibers*.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this Standard, the following terms and definitions apply:

3.1

buntal fiber

cylindrical fiber extracted from the petioles of buri plant by means of hand pulling or retting

3.1.1

hand-pulled buntal fiber

fiber that is extracted from the petiole of buri plant by hand-pulling

3.1.2

retted buntal fiber

fiber extracted from cut petioles that are soaked in fresh or brackish water (preferably running water) for 12 days to 25 days

3.2

huri plant

palm scientifically known as *Corypha elata* Roxb with large, fan-shaped leaves and stout trunk with height reaching up to 15 meters to 20 meters on the average

3.3

grade

fiber quality as designated by an alphanumeric code generally described as special, ordinary and residual

3.4

Grading/Baling Establishments or GBE

firm engaged in buying, grading/baling and selling commercial fibers for domestic and/or foreign consumption fully equipped with the required equipment, facilities, and manpower

3.5

length

attribute of buntal fiber as it is extracted from the cut petioles

3.6

texture

basic quality of buntal fiber which refers to the necessary flexibility or pliability – that is, the fiber must be soft, medium or hard before it can be graded in any of the principal standard grades

4 Cleaning classification

4.1 Extra fine

Buntal fibers produced or extracted in the form of pure soft fiber of the size less than $\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters in diameter.

4.2 Fine

Buntal fibers produced or extracted in the form of pure fiber ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters to $\frac{3}{4}$ millimeters in diameter.

4.3 Coarse

Buntal fibers produced or extracted in the form of pure fiber ranging over $\frac{3}{4}$ millimeters but generally not exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters in diameter.

5 Minimum requirements

In all special and ordinary grades subject to the special provisions for each grade under Section 6 and the tolerances allowed, buntal fiber shall meet the following requirements:

- 5.1 The fiber length shall not be less than 60 centimeters.
- 5.2 The buntal fiber of a certain grade must not be mixed with other grades of buntal fiber.
- 5.3 The buntal fiber must not be soiled, stained or discolored and must be free from foreign matter.

6 Additional requirements

In all special and ordinary grades subject to the special provisions for each grade under Section 6 and the tolerances allowed, buntal fiber may additionally meet the following requirement:

- 6.1 The buntal fiber must be of uniform color that ranges from ivory to light brown.

7 Grading

Buntal fibers may be graded mainly based on its length, texture, and cleaning.

7.1 Special grade

The grade which consists of fibers with extra soft texture with $\frac{1}{2}$ millimeter or less in diameter and is usually 60 centimeters to 120 centimeters in length.

7.2 Ordinary grade

The grade which consists of fibers with soft to hard texture and length in the range of 60 centimeters to 120 centimeters.

7.3 Residual grade

The grade designated by either BUN-Y or RBUN-Y and consists of:

7.3.1 partly soiled or stained fibers;

7.3.2 too hard (brittle) due to long storage; and/or

7.3.3 length with less than the minimum requirement of 60 centimeters.

Table 1—Characteristics of hand-pulled buntal fiber

Grade		Characteristics		
Name	Alphanumeric code	Texture	Length cm	Cleaning
Buntal Special	BUN-A	Soft	60 to 120	Extra fine
Buntal Soft Fine	BUN-1	Soft	60 to 120	Fine
Buntal Soft Coarse	BUN-2	Soft	60 to 120	Coarse
Buntral Medium Fine	BUN-3	Medium	60 to 120	Fine
Buntal Medium Coarse	BUN-4	Medium	60 to 120	Coarse
Buntal Hard Mixed	BUN-X	Hard	60 to 120	Fine and Coarse

Table 2 – Characteristics of retted buntal fiber

Grade		Characteristics		
Name	Alphanumeric code	Texture	Length cm	Cleaning
Buntal Fine	RBUN-1	Hard	60 to 120	Fine
Buntal Coarse	RBUN-2	Hard	60 to 120	Coarse

8 Tolerances

In all special and ordinary grades, a 5% tolerance level for the cleaning process and length shall be allowed wherever applicable.

9 Hanking

Buntal fiber should be hanked in the following manner:

- 9.1 Buntal fibers shall be tied into hanks or marissas of 2 centimeters to 3 centimeters in diameter and the tie shall not be less than 8 centimeters nor more than 10 centimeters from the butt end of each hank or marissa.
- 9.2 The hank or marissa shall be bound together to prevent the fibers from falling.
- 9.3 The strand used in tying the hanks or marissas of the buntal fiber shall be of the same kind and grade as that of the fiber forming the hank or marissa.

10 Baling

Buntal fiber should be baled in the following manner:

- 10.1** Every bale of fiber shall contain only dry fibers of the same kind of cleaning grade and province of origin. The fibers must, more or less, be of the prescribed length and free from plastic and other foreign matter.
- 10.2** The hanks or marissas shall be laid straight full length in the bale and in layers, the head of each layer alternating with the tips of the other.
- 10.3** A bale of buntal fiber shall weigh 50 kilograms net and shall be composed of 2 separate bundles each weighing approximately half the total weight of the bale.
- 10.4** Each bundle shall be wrapped with thick paper and the two bundles tied together with a rope of good material.
- 10.5** The bale shall be wrapped with good quality material suited for the purpose and sewed properly. This is then tied with rope or cords of any suitable material to securely hold the bale.
- 10.6** The approximate dimensions of the bale shall be 125 centimeters by 35 centimeters by 45 centimeters.

11 Labelling

The tagging and marking of bales shall be as follows:

- 11.1** For local use, each bale shall bear a tag known as the long cloth tag with measurement of not less than 58 centimeters long and 10 centimeters wide.

The one end of which shall be securely tied to the ties of either bundle composing the bale and must be placed between bundles. For export, long cloth and square tag with measurement of 35 centimeters by 35 centimeters shall be used. The tag shall be made of unstarched raw cotton of good quality material.

In case of bales of short fibers where tying of the long cloth tag is not practical, one end of the long cloth tag shall, instead, be knotted and securely tied to the ties of either bundle composing the bale and must be placed between bundles.

- 11.2** The following data in their order shall be stamped, one below the other, on the long cloth tag placed inside the bale:
 - 11.2.1** The full or abbreviated name of the Grading/Baling Establishment or GBE;
 - 11.2.2** The name of the municipality or city where the establishment is located;
 - 11.2.3** The establishment and lot number separated by a dash;
 - 11.2.4** The full or abbreviated name of the province of origin;
 - 11.2.5** The date of pressing or baling; and
 - 11.2.6** The initial of the station, the registered mark of the establishment, and the letter designation of the grade, the 3 forming one line separated from one another by bars.
- 11.3** The classifier's license number shall be indicated on the upper portion of the long cloth tag tied inside the bale.
- 11.4** The other end of the long cloth tag projecting out of the bale shall be divided into 2 sections. The one adjacent to the bale shall bear the same data stamped in the upper end of the tag in the same order, except the classifiers license number, and the rest of the long tag shall be reserved for the official stamps of the Authority.
- 11.5** All markings on the cloth tag, whether letters or numerals, shall be stamped with clear indelible stamping ink and shall not be less than 1 centimeter in height except the name of the municipality / city where the establishment is located and the date of pressing which shall not be less than 8 millimeters.
- 11.6** For fiber bales for export, another cloth tag of the same or better material than the long cloth tag provided herein may be placed,

on one side of the bale underneath the binding or ties, or placed over the mat, in case of bales wrapped with a mat. Upon it, the following data in their order shall be stamped or stenciled, one below the other, clearly in letters not less than 5 centimeters high except the words 'PRODUCT OF THE PHILIPPINES' which shall have a measurement of not less than 1 1/2 centimeters in height:

- 11.6.1** The words ' PRODUCT OF THE PHILIPINES';
- 11.6.2** The initial of the station where the establishment is located;
- 11.6.3** The registered mark of the establishment;
- 11.6.4** The alphanumeric code of the grade of fiber contained in the bale.

In the absence of the square cloth tag the data required to be placed thereon shall invariably appear clearly on the exposed surface of the wrapping materials on either side of the bale.

- 11.7** Distinguishing marks, signs or numbers of the fiber required by the importer may only be stamped on the square tag or wrapping, as the case maybe, after the bale has been inspected and approved in such a way as not to blur, cancel, or confuse the marks appearing on the square tag.

These marks, signs or numbers however, may be permitted in special cases to be placed on the square cloth tag before inspection upon the written authorization of the Authority.

- 11.8** Data/marks required herein to be placed upon the square cloth tags shall be stamped or stenciled in black paint, printer's ink, Chinese or Indian ink. Free hand marking shall not be accepted.

Except those specified in this section unless requested and granted by the authority, no other data marks whatsoever shall appear on the tags of any bale of fiber before inspection.

12 Sampling

Sampling method to be used for ascertaining conformance to the requirements of this specification shall be in accordance with the established procedures used by the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA).

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Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority. *Philippine Natural Fibers*.

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards

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