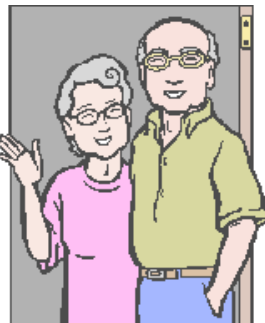




**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ON THE
5% Senior Citizens
Discount**



**Department Administrative
Order No. 03, Series of 2005**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON SENIOR CITIZENS DISCOUNT

Q. What is Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 03, S2005?

A. DAO No. 03, Series of 2005 is a set of Guidelines on Granting Special Discounts in Special Programs for Senior Citizens implementing Section 2, Paragraph L of *Republic Act No. 9257*, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 and Rule V, Section 14 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Q. When did DAO 03, S2005 (hereinafter referred to as Guidelines) take effect?

A. May 21, 2005.

Q. What are the legal bases of the Guidelines?

A. It is based on Section 2 (L) of *Republic Act No. 9257* otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, which provides: "To the extent possible, the government may grant special discounts in special programs for senior citizens on purchase of basic commodities, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the Department of Trade and Industry..." and

Rule V, Section 14 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of *R.A. No. 9257* which in part declares "...provided, that such programs and their guidelines shall be developed by the concerned department within the concerned department's jurisdiction."

Q. How was the Guidelines formulated?

A. The Guidelines was an end result of public consultations conducted by the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP) which were attended by representatives of the senior citizens, consumer groups, the retail business sector and other proper government agencies.

Q. Who are covered by these Guidelines?

A. Filipino senior citizens aged 60 years and above, regardless of income, and the retailers as defined under DAO 03, S2005.

Q. In particular, what retailers are covered in the Guidelines?

A. Corporate, partnership or individually owned supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience and mini-convenience stores and shops, and bakeries are the retailers contemplated under the Guidelines.

Q. How about sari-sari stores and groceries operating inside wet markets? Are they also bound to grant the 5% discount?

A. *Sari-sari* stores, as well as *talipapa*, wet markets; and cooperative stores are exempted from granting the 5% discount to senior citizens. *Sari-sari* stores refer to “mom and pop” type of establishments that are engaged exclusively in retail business, specifically selling an assortment of commodities in “*tingi*” or in small quantity solely to end-users.

Groceries operating inside the wet markets are covered by the Guidelines to grant the special discount on select goods.

Q. What privilege/entitlement does senior citizens have under these Guidelines?

A. Senior citizens are entitled to 5% discount on selected basic necessities and prime commodities.

Q. Specifically, what products are subject to the 5% discount?

A. Products that may be subject to the 5% discount are as follows:

- canned sardines;
- tuna;
- evaporated filled milk (e.g. Alaska, Alpine, Carnation, Liberty, Evaporated Creamer, and Angel);
- condensed filled milk (e.g. Alaska, Carnation, Liberty, Condensed Creamer, and Milkmaid); and
- powdered milk (e.g. Alaska, Bear Brand; and Nido Full Cream);
- coffee;
- bread;
- white and brown sugar;
- cooking oil;
- instant noodles;
- luncheon meat;
- meat loaf;
- corned beef;
- ready-to-cook (processed) pork, beef, and chicken whether frozen/refrigerated/preserved;
- powdered, liquid, bar laundry, and detergent soap.

Milk products that are not listed above as basic necessities or prime commodities but with doctor's prescription for therapeutic purposes will be considered as medicine. Hence, the senior citizen can avail of the 20% discount when these milk products are purchased with prescription from a drug store. However, if the senior citizen buys the said milk products from groceries or supermarkets, he/she could not avail of the discount.

Q. Why is the discount limited to select goods?

A. The above enumerated products are among the basic necessities and prime commodities under Department of Trade and Industry's jurisdiction pursuant to R.A. 7581 (The Price Act).

Q. Instead of 20% discount generally provided in R.A. 9257, why only 5% can be deducted from the retail price of the said goods?

A. This is a special privilege granted by DTI and DA.

Q. Is there a maximum amount a senior citizen may enjoy?

A. Yes. A senior citizen can purchase up to a maximum of P650.00 worth of basic goods per calendar week.

Q. If a senior citizen was not able to use up the P650.00 purchase cap in a given week, can he/she add the balance to his/her next weeks' purchases?

A. No. The P650 weekly purchase allowance is not cumulative. Previous week's purchase balance cannot be carried over to the succeeding week/s.

Q. Is a senior citizen allowed to spend the P650.00 weekly purchase cap on bulk purchases?

A. No. Bulk purchases are deemed for resale purposes and is therefore not permitted. A senior citizen may avail of the 5% discount on procurement of a week's supply of select goods for his/her personal consumption.

Q. Why is a senior citizen allotted with P650.00 maximum purchase per calendar week only?

A. P650.00 is the agreed amount of how much an elderly needs to purchase a week's supply of the select goods for his/her exclusive use.

Q. What does "calendar week" mean?

A. A calendar week shall mean the period of seven days, starting on Sunday and ending on a Saturday.

Q. Can the 5% discount apply on top of the special/promotional discounted price of select commodities?

A. No. The 5% discount shall apply only to the regular retail price of the goods.

Q. Shall a senior citizen entitled to avail a special discount on newly manufactured products?

A. Granting of senior citizen discounts for newly manufactured products to be categorized as basic necessities/prime commodities should be clarified with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board under Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Q. Can senior citizens avail of the 5% discount in retail stores located outside of their respective municipalities/cities/provinces?

A. Yes, they can avail of the 5% discount in retail stores nationwide.

Q. How can a senior citizen avail of the discount?

A. A senior citizen must present to the retailer his/her identification card issued by the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) of the city/municipality where he/she resides, together with the OSCA issued purchase booklet that bears his/her name.

Q. Does a retailer have the right to verify the identity of the senior citizen?

A. When there is a reasonable ground to doubt the identity of the senior citizen availing the discount, the retailer may ask the former to present other identification documents, issued by the local or national government agency such as the following:

- Voter's ID by the Commission on Election
- SSS Membership card by the Social Security System
- Postal ID by the PhilPost Corp.
- Passport by the Department of Foreign Affairs
- PRC Card by the Professional Regulation Commission
- IBP Membership cards by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines
- Driver's license by the Land Transportation Office
- GSIS e-card by the Government Service Insurance System
- Other identification cards with pictures issued by government agencies, offices, authorities, and instrumentalities to their employees, to verify the identity of the cardholder.

Q. Can a senior citizen send a representative to purchase goods on his/her behalf?

- A. Yes, provided that such representative present to the retailer the following:
- an authorization letter signed by the senior citizen whom he represents;
 - OSCA ID and OSCA-issued purchase booklet of the senior citizen; and
 - A valid government-issued identification card of the representative.

Q. Are ID cards issued by schools, private establishments, and the like considered valid identification document for purposes of these Guidelines?

- A. Yes.

Q. What courses of action may be brought against retailers who fail or refuse to grant the senior citizens of the entitlement under these Guidelines?

- A. A criminal and/or administrative case may be filed against any retailer who refuses to honor the right of senior citizens to a special discount and such other privileges or entitlements provided for under R.A. No. 9257.

Q. In particular, what can DTI do if a retailer fails to abide by the provisions of these Guidelines?

- A. The DTI, upon filing of the appropriate complaint and after due notice and hearing, may impose administrative sanctions to retailers violating the Guidelines. Administrative penalties include the cancellation or revocation of the business licenses or similar privileges granted by DTI to any business entity that fails to abide by the provision of the RA No. 9257.

Q. What happens if a senior citizen or any person abuses the special discount privileges or other entitlements provided for under the R.A. No. 9257?

A. Any person who abuses the privilege granted herein shall be punished with a fine of not less than P5,000.00 but not more than P50,000.00 and an imprisonment of not less than 6 months.

Q. Is a retailer shop, grocery, and convenience store required to provide a special lane with specific time and day for senior citizen?

A. Section 6 of the DTI and DA guidelines provide that whenever practicable, a special lane shall be installed in retail shops or grocery stores.

For convenience stores, a signage for senior citizens shall be posted in the cashier with the note, *"Please give priority to senior citizen"*.

The law does not specifically provides/sets/requires for a dedicated time or day to assist senior citizen in purchasing their groceries.

Q. Are imported and local basic commodities also included for availing the special discounts?

A. Yes. All listed items specified under DAO 3, Series of 2005 defined as basic necessities and prime commodities whether imported or locally produced are subject to the 5% discount.

Q. Can a senior citizen pay their purchases thru credit card?

A. Yes. Under Republic Act No. 9257 otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003, a credit card may be used in purchasing medicines/prescription drugs. However, the Senior Citizen Sectoral Council suggested that purchasing of basic necessities and prime commodities with a total value of P650.00 and less be paid in cash.



DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03 Series of 2005

Guidelines on granting special discounts in special programs for senior citizens Under Section 4, Paragraph (L) of Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003" and Rule V, Section 14 of its implementing Rules and Regulations.

Section 1. Scope and Coverage – This Order shall apply to all senior citizens and retailers as defined under Section 2 hereof.

Section 2. Definition of Terms – For purpose of this Order, these terms are defined as follows:

(a) Basic Necessities and Prime Commodities:

1. Canned Sardines, Tuna;
2. Evaporated, Condensed and Powdered Filled Milk
3. Coffee
4. Bread
5. White and Brown sugar
6. Cooking Oil
7. Instant Noodles
8. Luncheon Meat, Meat Loaf, Corned Beef, Frozen/refrigerated/preserved, ready-to-cook pork, beef, chicken;
9. Powdered, liquid, bar laundry and detergent soap

(b) "OSCA" shall refer to the Office for Senior Citizen Affairs established in cities and municipalities under the Office of the Mayor headed by a Senior Citizen.

(c) "Retailer" shall mean any person engaged in the business of selling consumer products directly to the consumers, which shall include among others, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience and mini-convenience stores and shops bakeries, but excluding sari-sari stores, wet markets, talipapa and cooperative stores.

(d) "Senior Citizen or Elderly" shall refer to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

Section 3. Discount – Every senior citizen shall enjoy a special discount of Five Percent (5%) of the regular retail price of basic necessities and prime commodities as listed under Section 2(a) of this Order.

The total amount of the said purchase shall not exceed the amount of Six Hundred Fifty Pesos (P650.00) per calendar week without carry over of the unused amount.

Section 4. Valid Identification Documents – To avail of the discount a senior citizen must present his/her identification card issued by the OSCA of the city/municipality where he/she resides.

In the event that the retailer has reasonable doubt as to the identity of a senior citizen availing of such special discount, the retailer may request the senior citizen to present any other government issued identification document, whether national or local.

Section 5. Purchase Booklet – A purchase booklet shall be presented to the retailer every time a purchase of basic necessities and prime commodities is made. The purchase booklet shall be distributed by the OSCA. It shall contain the name of the senior citizen, the list of basic commodities and prime commodities under section 2(a) of this Order, the retailer name and address, date of purchase, and the amount.

Section 6. Special Lane – Whenever practicable, retailers shall provide a special lane for senior citizens.

Section 7. Authorized Representative – A senior citizen who cannot personally purchase basic necessities and prime commodities under Section 2 (b) of this Order may, by written authority, appoint a representative to transact with the retailer on his/her behalf. The authorized representative shall be required to present a valid government issued identification document together with the OSCA-issued identification document of the concerned senior citizen and an authorization letter.

Section 9. Effectivity – Thus Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

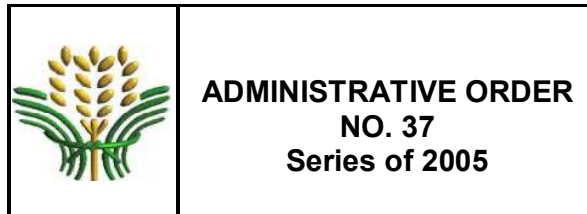
Issued this 28th day of April 2005 in Makati City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) JUAN B. SANTOS
Acting Secretary
Department of Trade & Industry

Recommended by:

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Director IV
Bureau of Trade Regulation
and Consumer Protection
Department of Trade & Industry

(Sgd.) Asst. SEC. J. NORMAN R. HOCSON
Officer-in-Charge, Consumer Welfare
and Trade Regulation Group
Department of Trade & Industry



SUBJECT: Implementing Rules and Regulations on the Grant of Special Discounts to Senior Citizens on the Purchase of Basic Necessities or Prime Agricultural Commodities pursuant to Section 2 of R.A. 9257, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003

WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) 9257 also known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003" was signed into law on February 26, 2004 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo amending R.A. 7432 and granting additional benefits and privileges to senior citizens;

WHEREAS, Section 4, paragraph (l) of R.A. 7432 as amended by Section 2 of R.A. 9257 provides that "to the extent possible, the government may grant special discounts in special programs for senior citizens on purchase of basic commodities, subject to the guidelines to be issued for the purpose by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA)";

NOW, THEREFORE, I DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with Section 4, paragraph (l) of R.A. 7432 as amended by Section 2 of R.A. 9257 also known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003, do hereby issue this Order providing special discounts to senior citizens on the purchase of basic necessities or prime agricultural commodities under DA jurisdiction:

Section 2. Definition of Terms – For purposes of this Order, these terms as defined as follows:

- (a) “Basic Necessities and Prime Commodities” are as follows:
- Rice (except rice sold and retailed by the National Food Authority);
 - Food grade corn and corn grits;
 - Fresh fish and other marine products;
 - Fresh chicken eggs;
 - Fresh pork, beef, and poultry meat;
 - Fresh vegetables including root crops;
 - Fresh fruits; and
 - Onion and garlic.

(b) “OSCA” shall refer to the Office for Senior Citizen Affairs established in cities and municipalities under the Office of the Mayor headed by a senior citizen;

(c) “Retailer” shall mean any person engaged in the business of selling consumer products directly to consumers, which shall include among others, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience and mini-convenience stores and shops, but excluding sari-sari stores, public and private wet markets, “talipapa” and cooperative stores;

(d) “Senior Citizen or Elderly” shall refer to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

Section 3. Discount – Every senior citizen shall enjoy a special discount of Five Percent (5%) of the regular retail price of basic necessities and prime commodities listed under Section 2 (a) of this Order. The total amount of said purchase shall not exceed the amount of Six Hundred Fifty Pesos (P650.00) per calendar week without carry over of the unused amount. Provided, that said amount shall be spent on at least four (4) kinds of items listed under Section 2 (a) of this Order.

Section 4. Valid Identification Documents – To avail of the discount, a senior citizen must present his/her identification card issued by the OSCA of the city-municipality where he/she resides.

In the event that the retailer has reasonable doubt as to the identity of a senior citizen availing of such special discount, the retailer may request the senior citizen to present any other government-issued identification document, whether national or local.

Section 5. Purchase Booklet – A purchase booklet shall be presented to the retailer every time a purchase of basic necessities and prime commodities is made. The purchase booklet shall be distributed by the OSCA. It shall contain the name of the senior citizen, the list of basic necessities and prime commodities under Section 2 (a) of this Order, the retailer name and address, date of purchase, and the amount.

Section 6. Special Lane – Whenever practicable, retailers shall provide a special express lane for senior citizens; in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to them.

Section 7. Authorized Representative – A senior citizen who cannot personally purchase basic necessities and prime commodities under Section 2 (a) of this Order may, by written authority, appoint a representative to transact with the retailer on his/her behalf. The authorized representative shall be required to present a valid government-issued identification document together with the OSCA-issued identification document of the concerned senior citizen and an authorization letter.

Section 8. Penal and Administrative Sanctions – Penal and administrative sanctions are those which are provided under R.A. 9257.

Section 9. Effectivity – This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Issued this 12th day of December 2005 in Quezon City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Secretary

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Under Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9257: AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall suffer the following penalties:

- (1) For the first violation a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years; and
- (2) For any subsequent violation, a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) and imprisonment for not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years.

Any person who abuses the privileges granted herein shall be punished with a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), and imprisonment of not less than six (6) months.

If the offender is a corporation, organization or any similar entity, the officials thereof directly involved shall be liable therefore.

If the offender is an alien or a foreigner, he shall be deported immediately after service of sentence without further deportation proceedings.

Upon filing of an appropriate complaint, and after due notice and hearing the proper authorities may also cause the cancellation or revocation of the business permit, permit to operate, franchise and other similar privileges granted to any business entity that fails to abide by the provision of this Act.

STANDARD FORM FOR OSCA PURCHASE BOOKLET



Republic of the Philippines
City/Municipality
Office for Senior Citizens Affairs



PASSPORT
SIZE
PHOTO

This

PURCHASE BOOKLET

Belongs to:

Name: _____
OSCA I.D. No.: _____
Address: _____
Telephone No.: _____
Signature: _____

OSCA HEAD (Name & Signature)

MAYOR (Name & Signature)

**STANDARD FORM FOR OSCA PURCHASE BOOKLET
"DTI's PURCHASE MATRIX" (FOR 1 month)**

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)
Month Coverage _____, 2007

Day	Date of Purchase	Name of Basic Necessities/Prime Commodities	No. of Items Purchased Subject to 5% Discount	Amount of Purchased Items Subject to 5% Discount	Remaining Balance for the Week	Name of Establishment/Store	Signature of Retailer/Authorized Representative	Signature of Senior Citizens/Authorized Representative
1 st week of the month								
2 nd week of the month								
3 rd week of the month								
4 th week of the month								
TOTAL								

* Indicate only the corresponding letter of the Basic/Prime Commodities. Please refer on the table below.

(Retailer/Retailers Authorized Representative's Guide)
* At least P650.00 per week.

A. Canned Sardines; Tuna	E. White & Brown Sugar	I. Luncheon Meat, Meatloaf, Corned Beef, Frozen/Ringlets/Freshed/Ready-to-Cook Pork, Beef & Chicken
B. Evaporated, Condensed & Powdered Filled Milk	F. Cooking Oil	
C. Coffee	G. Instant Noodles	
D. Bread	H. Powdered, Liquid, Bar Laundry & Oatgerstl Supp	

STANDARD FORM FOR OSCA PURCHASE BOOKLET "DA's PURCHASE MATRIX" (FOR 1 month)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA)
Month Coverage: _____, 2007

Day	Date of Purchase	Name of Basic Necessities/Prime Commodities	No. of Items Purchased Subject to 5% Discount	Amount of Purchased Items Subject to 5% Discount	Remaining Balance for the Week	Name of Establishment/Store	Signature of Retailer/Authorized Representative	Signature of Senior Citizen/Authorized Representative
1 st week of the month								
2 nd week of the month								
3 rd week of the month								
4 th week of the month								
		TOTAL						

* Indicate only the corresponding letter of the Basic/Prime Commodities. Please enter on the table below.

(Retailer/Retailer Authorized Representative's Guide)
 * At least four (4) kinds of items and at least P950.00 per week.
 A. Rice (except rice sold by National Food Authority)
 B. Food grade oim and oim grits
 C. Fresh fish and other marine products
 D. Fresh chicken eggs
 E. Fresh pork meat
 F. Fresh beef meat
 G. Fresh poultry meat
 H. Fresh vegetables including root crops
 I. Fresh fruits
 J. Onion
 K. Garlic

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257

AN ACT OF GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES".

Section 4, privileges for Senior Citizens. The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

(1) to the extent possible; the government may grant special discounts in special programs for senior citizens on purchase of basic commodities, subject to the guidelines to be issued for the purpose of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

For complaints,
please contact the
Office of the Senior
Citizens Affairs (OSCA)
of the City or
the Municipality
where the senior citizen
resides.

For any questions on
the guidelines please contact:

Telephone No. 751.3330

City/Municipality (Place)
Office of Senior Citizens Affairs
Address
Telephone No.

Department of Social Welfare and Development
Policy Development & Planning Bureau
Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Tel. No. 951.7436

Department of Trade and Industry
Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection
2nd Floor, Trade and Industry Building
361 Senator Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 751.3330

Department of Agriculture
Agribusiness & Marketing Assistance Service
Ground Floor, Department of Agriculture Bldg.,
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Number: (02) 928.8741 to 46

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