

**CONVERSION; AUTHORITY OF DAR TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE  
CONVERSION**

- The authority to reclassify lands is lodged with the local government units concerned pursuant to section 20 of R.A. No. 7160 (**Local Government Code**) while the **exclusive authority** to approve or disapprove applications for conversion belongs to the Department of Agrarian Reform as provided under Sections 4 (j) and 5 (l) of executive Order No. 129-A and Section 4 of presidential Memorandum Circular No. 54, series of 1993.

DAR Opinion No. 13, s. 2003  
August 28, 2003

**CONVERSION; LAND FALLING OUTSIDE AREAS NON-NEGOTIABLE FOR  
CONVERSION**

- If it falls outside areas non-negotiable for conversion then it may be given due course. Hence, the existence of the said provision in the penultimate paragraph of DAR Opinion No. 14, Series of 2001. The word "may" thereof is purposely to emphasize that the granting of conversion in this instance shall be on a case to case basis. This provision is in accord with Section 8 (a) of DAR Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 1999 which states that "Conversion may be allowed if the land subject of application is not among those considered non-negotiable for conversion"

DAR Opinion No. 23, s. 2002  
October 16, 2002

**CONVERSION; AUTHORITY OF DAR TO APPROVE CONVERSION WITHIN  
OR OUTSIDE URBAN CENTERS OR CITY LIMITS**

- If a piece of land is **agricultural**, whether it is **within or outside** urban centers or city limits, it is coverable under CARP and any change in the nature of its use to non agricultural may not be allowed except with the approval of DAR under its rules on conversion or exemption. When the law does not distinguish, we should not distinguish.
- Thus, the act or process of **changing the current use** of a piece of agricultural land into some other non-agricultural use necessitates DAR approval notwithstanding that said land is within city limits or urban centers, or, was already **reclassified** into non-agricultural **on or after** 15 June 1988 as provided above.

DAR Opinion No. 17, s. 2001  
September 10, 2001

**CONVERSION; COMMENCES UPON THE ISSUANCES OF A DAR ORDER  
APPROVING SAID APPLICATION**

- Pursuant to Section 4 of Memorandum Circular No. 54, series of 1993 of the Office of the President, in relation to Section 65 of R.A. No. 6657 and Sections 4 (j) and 5 (l) of Executive Order No. 129-A, actions on application for land use conversions shall remain as the responsibility of DAR. The DAR shall, in such applications, utilize as its primary reference, documents on the Comprehensive