

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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OSH PROGRAM FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS, UNDERWAY

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental, and social well-being of workers in all occupations. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has long envisioned workplaces as an ideal venue for safety and health promotion, since there are existing mandatory committees and health services to effectively implement such activities. But this could not be said for the public sector which is at present is devoid of such organizations.

As the central agency of the government for human resource, the Civil Service Commission aimed at implementing OSH in the public sector to foster equity of access to services, benefits and protection among the country's public servants. Recognizing the disparity between private and public sector workers in terms of safety and health, the DOLE, CSC and the Department of Health will soon be issuing a Joint Memorandum Circular on OSH for Workers in the Public Sector. This JMC is a product of series of consultation among the different stakeholders.

The proposed joint issuance has the following salient features:

1. The proposed guideline ensure that OSH standards and regulations are institutionalized, integrated, enforced and implemented in the public sector.
2. The policy seeks to address the need for all government agencies to establish a set of OSH Standards to protect public sector workers from the hazards of injury, sickness or death.
3. The draft policy is replete with provisions on the requirements for OSH personnel welfare facilities, conduct of accident and OSH investigations as well as monitoring and evaluation of OSH Programs.
4. The different roles of the three agencies were outlined in the proposed policy.
5. Inclusion of job orders, contracts of service, institutional and individual contractors in the coverage.
6. Provision for Emergency Preparedness.
7. Revival of clinics or treatment rooms in government agencies.
8. Provision of recreational areas, day care facilities and work accommodation for differently abled workers.

The JMC draws its legal mandate from Section 31 of Republic Act No. 11058 which provides for the Inter-Government Cooperation and Coordinating Committee of named agencies therein.

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