

**Good News**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
**23 February 2021**

**Ventilation guidelines, in the works**

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Assistant Secretary Ma Teresita Cucueco presented the proposed ventilation guidelines for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in the workplace and public transportations at the Special Tripartite Executive Committee (TEC) Meeting last 16 February 2021 via Zoom videoconferencing.

Discussed in the meeting are the salient features of the guidelines, which includes the ventilation strategies such as installation and utilization of exhaust fans for the non-airconditioned and air-conditioned spaces and restrooms and water closets; ventilation concerns in air, rail, land, and sea vehicles, checklist on compliance; and such other measures to improve and maintain the quality of air in the workplace and public transportations.

As stated in Section II-B No. 5 of DTI-DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular No 20-04A, “adequate ventilation should be strictly enforced inside the workplace” as properly maintained ventilation within a building and other indoor workplaces eliminates contaminated air and reducing the risks of exposure to potentially virus-contaminated air. Asec. Cucueco reiterated that ventilation should be used together with the minimum public health standards such as wearing face masks and face shields, social distancing, and frequent disinfection.

The guidelines will cover all commercial and industrial establishments, including workplaces in the public sector, except in healthcare facilities requiring special considerations in the COVID-19 control as these facilities call for stricter rules.

In attendance at the meeting are the representatives from both the labor and employer sectors, while for the government sector are the Bureau of Working Conditions and the Bureau of Labor Relations as the secretariat.

Together with the DOLE, other government agencies such as the Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation, and Department of Tourism are to extend assistance and technical support to the employers and workers in complying with the guidelines.

The proposed guidelines will be elevated to the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC) for further consultations and concurrence next month.

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