

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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Safety Seal Program to safely reopen the economy

With the recent surge of the COVID-19 cases in the country, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Tourism (DOT), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), issued the Implementing Guidelines of the Safety Seal Certification Program, to enforce strict and robust compliance with the set Minimum Public Health Standards (MPHS) in the business establishments and major public areas.

Under the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 20-01, Series of 2021, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) had given the DOLE, DILG, DOT, DTI, and the Local Government Units the authority to issue the Safety Seal, to ensure and verify the compliance of the establishments with the MPHS and their use of the StaySafe.ph application for its contact tracing. The latter is an important tool that will help the government authorities closely track down the cases in the country.

A valid Safety Seal incorporates the Issuing Authority, Date of Issuance, and Safety Seal Number and must be verifiable with the Issuing Authority. Its validity will be six (6) months from the date of issuance to the establishment, while those issued to the DOT enterprises will be valid for one (1) year. The renewal will be one (1) month before its expiration, subject to continued compliance with the eligibility requirements as indicated in the JMC, such as: 1. Compliance with the registration or accreditation (for DOT enterprises) requirements; 2. Use of StaySafe.ph app; and 3. Implementation and compliance with the MPHS. An inspection will be conducted in the establishments to verify their compliance.

On the other hand, those business establishments granted with the Safety Seal which have been found to be non-compliant with the eligibility requirements, will be issued a Notice to Explain (NTE) by the appropriate Issuing Authority. The concerned establishment shall answer within forty-eight (48) hours or send their proof of compliance with the NTE; otherwise, their Safety Seal will be revoked. Similarly, the revoked Safety Seal may be reinstated by sending evidence of full compliance to the Issuing Authority and the conduct of re-inspection.

Establishment owners are reminded that obtaining the Safety Seal is free and voluntary. DOLE Assistant Secretary and Bureau of Working Conditions Director, Dr. Ma. Teresita Cucueco stated that having a Safety Seal in the establishment will boost the workers' confidence as they go to work. "If they comply with the minimum (public health standards), these protocols, and the other requirements of the safety seal, among these workers, meron na rin 'yung confidence na 'yes, our workplace is safe, and when I go to work, I will be assured na my risk for COVID will be very low."

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