

Survey on OSH Condition in Metro Manila

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Abstract

A survey on occupational safety and health conditions in Metro Manila was conducted by the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. It covered 500 manufacturing establishments.

Its aims are to gather information and data on the prevailing safety condition of workplaces and to determine the level of concern on safety especially the management side through programs and activities instituted. Size of establishments were classified into Small Scale, Medium Scale and Large Scale based on the number of workers employed broken down as follows: Small Scale, 10 to 49 workers; Medium Scale, 50 to 199 workers and Large Scale, 200 workers and above.

Establishments were classified into food, 65 establishments; textile, 129; wood products, 33; paper, 52; basic chemicals rubber, 77; non-metallic mineral, 13; basic metal, 11; fabricated metal 99; and other, 21; for a total of 500 manufacturing establishments.

Based on the number of workers, of the food establishments, 46 were small scale, 12 medium scale and 7, large scale; of textile, 86, 28, 15; wood product, 23, 7, 3; paper, 41, 11, 0; basic chemicals rubber, 48, 21, 8; non-metallic mineral, 7, 3, 3; basic metal, 8, 2, 1; fabricated metal, 65, 24, 10 and others, 13, 7, 1. Of the 500 establishments, 337 or 67.4% are small scale; 115 or 23% are medium scale and 48 or 9.6% are large scale.

With regard to safety and health management, 200 establishments or 40% claimed that they have a written safety and health policy. One hundred eighty-seven (187) or 37.4% have safety and health committee. Safety programs exist in 157 or in 31.4% of the establishments. One hundred sixty-three (163) establishments employ physician or nurse while 146 have first aiders trained by the Philippine National Red Cross. Two hundred twenty-one (221) have agreement with a hospital within the required five-kilometer radius distance.

With regard to medical examination, 292 or 58.4% require pre-employment examination; 237 or 47.4% administer annual examination and 78 have their workers who are exposed to airborne contaminants examined.

Concerning welfare facilities, 146 establishments or 29.2% have treatment room or clinic; 322 or 64.4% have canteen or eating room and 187 or 37.4% provide sports facilities. In 11 small scale companies, toilet facilities are not provided and in 47 others, there is no potable water available for drinking.

Concerning safety training/education, 260 establishments train their newly hired employees on safety and health; in 114 establishments the supervisors/foremen have safety and health training. From among the 186 who have safety and health committee only 89 or 47.61% train their members on OSH.

With regard to accident record and investigation system, 343 or 68.6% keep records of occupational injuries, 39 of which use BWC Form, 275 use SSS Form, 12 use ECC Form, 37 use Company Form and others use hospital or

insurance forms. Only 23 out of 343 establishments or 4.6% perform statistical analysis of accident/illness cases.

For daily inspection and housekeeping activities, only 152 or 30.4% perform the toolbox meeting. In four hundred thirty- three companies passageways between machines are at least 69 cm. and 331 companies or 66.2% do not have tripping or slipping hazards. In 384 companies only 234 or 60.9% installed railing where necessary while 222 companies or 44.4% provided safety signs.

For fire protection and control, 273 companies or 54.6% have fire protection program but only 225 or 45% have fire brigade. Two hundred twenty-nine (229) or 48.8% conduct fire fighting drill and 155 or 31% conduct fire exit drill. Seventy-two (72) companies or 30.1% of 239 companies require "Hot Work Permit" for welding and flame cutting works.

With regard to inspection and maintenance of hazardous machines, 245 companies conduct inspection of their machine daily; 64, monthly; 25, quarterly; 10, semi-annually; 26, annually; 64 during breakdown and 67 on a weekly basis. Three hundred ninety-three (393) are inspected by labor inspection annually. Concerning control and measurement of work environment, 17 companies measure work environment monthly while 6 companies do so quarterly.

With regard to the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), very few companies use PPE. In 94 companies with noise hazard only 24 or 36.17% provide earmuff or ear plug to workers. In 88 of the 159 establishments with air

contaminants, respirators/dust masks are used. In 164 establishments where there are flying scraps/object, 124 or 75.61% make their workers use protective glass/spectacles. Helmet and safety shoes are used in only 75 companies.