

Work Environment Conditions of Local Government Units in Metro Manila

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Abstract

Occupational safety and health in the workplace, particularly in the government sector, is one of the most important factors to achieve an efficient public service. The OSHC, as the research and training arm of the Department of Labor and Employment, is currently undergoing a research study to determine the workplace environment conditions of local government offices in Metro Manila. The study aims to determine the work environment conditions of local government offices, to encourage agency heads in developing and implementing occupational safety and health programs in the workplace in conformance with the requirements of Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 33 (CSC MC # 33, s. 1997), and to promote OSH standards among government employees.

The study will focus on the exposure of employees to various chemicals such as formaldehyde, dust, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds through the conduct of Work Environment Measurement. Illumination levels and existing ventilation systems in the offices will also be assessed. Evaluation of physical and chemical hazard exposure of employees will be limited to three (3) offices of each municipality: the Civil Registry, Treasury and City Engineers' Office. Questionnaires containing information on building structure and employees' welfare on safety and health will be administered to selected respondents from the seventeen (17) local government units in Metro Manila.

The results of the study will provide baseline data on the prevailing conditions in the local government offices of Metro Manila. It will also include recommendations in improving their work environment to lessen or minimize the exposure of workers to physical and chemical hazards. Employees and management of the concerned agencies will be enlightened in prioritizing and facilitating requirements to achieve occupational safety and health in the workplace.