

# Safety, Health and Environment Conditions of Small-Scale Laundry Shops in Makati City

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## **Abstract**

The study aims to promote Zero Accident Program in Small-Scale Laundry Shops and Dry-Cleaning Establishments.

The safety, health and work environment hazards prevalent in three (3) small scale laundry shops were identified. Levels of illumination and noise were measured. Workers were interviewed to determine their exposure to the workplace hazards, accidents encountered or experienced, health complaints or discomforts experienced during work, and OSH trainings they have undergone related to their work activities. Occupational health problems affecting the workers, such as ergonomic hazards, were also determined and assessed.

The noise level measured in the three laundry shops were within the Permissible Noise Exposure Limit of 90 dB(a) for an eight hour working exposure per day, as prescribed by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards of the Department of Labor and Employment.

The illumination levels of the two shops measured were within the minimum illumination level requirement of 107.6 lux based on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of "Public Laundry" of the Code of Sanitation of the Philippines, and 100 lux based on the OSHS, DOLE. Only 1 shop did not meet the minimum lighting requirement.

All shops have no policy on occupational safety and health, nor records of health assessment of its workers. They also have not availed of the Work

Environment Measurement aimed in determining the magnitude of environmental hazards in their workarea. Absence of occupational safety and health programs for their workers was noted. However, key personnel were given training and orientation regarding specific laundry operations.

Most of the respondents believed that there are factors in their work that could affect their health. There are the presence of hazardous chemicals used in the laundry process, dust from clothes and powder detergents, noise, heat, poor ventilation of the workplace, tiredness and muscle pain, and other factors like prolonged standing and repetitive works. The most common complaints reported by the workers were referable to the musculo-skeletal system.

Measures should be taken to improve the working conditions in the laundry shops. Conduct of Work Environment Measurement and establishment of occupational safety and health programs should be implemented. Education and training of workers on occupational safety and health is also recommended. Employers must also provide medical examination for its workers.