

ASSESSMENT OF THE NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING PROCEDURE ON OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES OF SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

This research is a collaboration between Occupational Safety and Health Center and International Labour Organization through the latter's global project on occupational safety and health called "Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers – SafeYouth@Work Project", funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). Philippines was identified as one of its pilot countries alongside Viet Nam and Myanmar. Assessment of the notification and recording system for work-related injuries and illnesses in the Philippines will make way for the project to support the development of recommendations for the improvement of existing regulations governing the said procedure in the enterprise-level.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the research is to assess the notification and reporting system of occupational injuries and illness of the selected establishments from agriculture, construction and manufacturing industry both internally and reportorial requirements to DOLE Regional Offices.

METHODS

Data were gathered through focused group discussion with the members of the safety and health committee, selected employees and union members with the use of a questionnaire tool that focused on the internal reporting system of occupational injuries and illnesses of target companies. Also conducted was the review of the Work Accident/Illness Report and Annual Accident/Illness Exposure Data Report submitted to DOLE Regional Offices.

FINDINGS

In the preparation of notification and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses to DOLE, most of the personnel have the difficulty in identifying what to be reported, what to input in the form due to the absence of guide in filling up the form, some on what documents must be accomplished and where to retrieve these forms. For the sake of compliance, incomplete and inaccurate reports were submitted to DOLE and different timelines were observed in the pilot enterprises.

Lack of guidance from DOLE labor inspectors who will visit companies and in the process guide the latter in complying with the reporting requirements under the OSHS.

In addition, some of the companies do not have an established safety and health committee and insufficient number of occupational safety and health personnel that may lead to the initial gaps.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The need to integrate and simplify the form used for reporting of accident/illness and establish the terms reflected in the form. There should be provision of instructions and guides in filling up the forms, timeline of submission and identification of who will notify and report that will be cascaded through trainings and orientations.

Conduct intensive training of the labor inspectors who will look on the companies which includes their capability to fill up reportorial requirements to DOLE and the need to consolidate and analyze submitted reports on accident/illnesses in order to come up with a national data.

Furthermore, the need to strengthen the organization in agricultural sector through barangay-level safety and health committee that may be considered with the support and guidance of DOLE.