

[DOLE DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 73-05, March 30, 2005]

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY AND PROGRAM ON TUBERCULOSIS (TB) PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE WORKPLACE

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 187, Instituting a Comprehensive and Unified Policy for Tuberculosis Control in the Philippines (CUP), the following guidelines for the implementation of the policy and program on the prevention and control of tuberculosis in the workplace are hereby adopted and promulgated:

A. COVERAGE

These guidelines shall apply to all establishments, workplaces and worksites in the private sector.

B. FORMULATION OF WORKPLACE POLICY AND PROGRAM ON TB PREVENTION AND CONTROL

1. It shall be mandatory for all private establishments, workplaces and worksites to formulate and implement a TB prevention and control policy and program.
2. The workplace policy and program shall be made an integral part of the enterprise's occupational safety and health and other related workplace programs. A workplace health and safety committee shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the workplace TB Policy and program
3. Management and labor representatives shall jointly develop the TB workplace policy and program aligned with EO 187 and the CUP.
4. In organized establishments, the workplace policy and program shall, as much as possible, be included as part of the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA).

C. Components of a TB Workplace Prevention and Control Policy and Program

The TB Workplace policy and program to be adopted by establishments shall include, among others, the following components: prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, compensation, restoration to work, and social policies.

1. PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

Programs on TB Advocacy, Education and Training, and measures to improve workplaces shall be carried out in all workplaces.

- 1.1. TB awareness program shall be undertaken through information dissemination.

1.1.1 Such awareness programs shall deal with the nature, frequency and transmission, treatment with Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS), control and management of TB in the workplace.

1.1.2 DOTS is a comprehensive strategy to control TB, and is composed of five components. These are:

- Political will or commitment to ensuring sustained and quality TB treatment and control activities.

- Case detection by sputum-smear microscopy among symptomatic patients.

- Standard short-course chemotherapy using regimens of 6 to 8 months for all confirmed active TB cases (i.e., smear positive or those validated by the TB Diagnostic Committee). Complete drug taking through direct observation by a designated treatment partner, during the whole course of the treatment regimen.

- A regular, uninterrupted supply of all essential anti-tuberculosis drugs and other materials.

- A standard recording and reporting system that allows assessment of case finding and treatment outcomes for each patient and of the tuberculosis control program's performance overall.

1.2 Workers must be given proper information on ways of strengthening their immune responses against TB infection, i.e. information on good nutrition, adequate rest, avoidance of tobacco and alcohol, and good personal hygiene practices. However, it should be underscored that intensive efforts in the prevention of the spread of the disease must be geared towards accurate information on its etiology and complete treatment of cases.

1.3 Improving workplace conditions:

1.3.1 To ensure that contamination from TB airborne particles is controlled, workplaces must provide adequate and appropriate ventilation (DOLE-Occupational Safety and Health Standards, OSHS, Rule 1076.01) and there shall be adequate sanitary facilities for workers.

1.3.2 The number of workers in a work area shall not exceed the required number of workers for a specified area and shall observe the standard for space requirement. (OSHS Rule 1062)