

[**DOH, November 26, 1998**]

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF CHAPTER V —
"PUBLIC LAUNDRY" OF THE CODE ON SANITATION OF THE
PHILIPPINES (P.D. 856)**

To carry out the provisions of **Chapter V — "Public Laundry" of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856)**, these rules and regulations are hereby formulated for implementation and strict compliance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. SCOPE. — These implementing rules and regulations shall apply to all public laundry including commercial laundry such as laundromat, dry cleaning laundry, linen-supply laundry, diaper-supply laundry, and public laundry places such as a community laundry area, as well as institutional establishments with laundry equipment and facilities such as hotels, motels, massage parlors, dormitories, hospitals and other health-related institutions and other similar establishments operated by individuals, corporations, partnerships, government agencies, instrumentalities or institutions.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. — As used in these rules and regulations, the following terms shall mean:

2.1 CHEMICAL WASTE — comprises of discarded solid, liquid and gaseous chemicals. Chemical waste may be hazardous or non-hazardous. It is considered hazardous if it is toxic, corrosive (acids of pH<2 and bases of pH>12), flammable, reactive (explosive, water reactive, shock sensitive), or genotoxic (carcinogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic, or otherwise capable of altering genetic material). It is non-hazardous if it consists of chemicals other than those described above.

2.2 COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY — a type of laundry utilizing mechanized equipment, specialized facilities, and trained personnel to perform the operation. The service is charged with a fee. There are several types of commercial laundry depending on its specialization, these are:

2.2.1 DIAPER-SUPPLY — a type of laundry which exclusively supplies clean diapers for babies. The customer may own the diapers and use the service for laundering or rent the diapers along with the service.

2.2.2 DRY CLEANING — a process of removing dirt and stains from linens, leathers, fabrics and furs using liquid solvents other than water.

2.2.3 LAUNDROMAT — a type of neighborhood laundry establishment, which provides coin-operated washing machines, dryers and other laundry facilities.

2.2.4 LINEN-SUPPLY — a type of laundry which supplies uniforms and

other linens to such customers as offices, restaurants, hotels, motels, manufacturing plants, automotive shops and hospitals. It also supplies linens such as shop towels, dust mops, dust rags and other dust control items used in industry and other businesses.

2.3 COMMUNITY LAUNDRY AREA — a place provided with laundry stalls and other sanitary facilities where the public can wash their clothes for free or a certain fee.

2.4 CONTAMINATION — the presence of pathogenic organisms, suspended air emissions, heavy metals, chemicals and other pollutants in an article or substance.

2.5 DEPARTMENT — the Department of Health.

2.6 DETERGENT — any of the various surface-active agents used in removing dirt or other foreign matter from soiled surfaces such as clothes and linens and retaining it in suspension.

2.7 ESTABLISHMENT — a collective term construed to include all public laundry as well as laundry section in institutions which includes its premises, facilities, equipment and appurtenances thereto.

2.8 FOOT-CANDLE — a unit of illumination on a surface that is everywhere one foot from a uniform source of light of one candle and equal to one lumen per square foot. One Foot-candle is equal to 10.76 lux.

2.9 HEALTH CERTIFICATE — a certification in writing, using the prescribed form, issued by the local health officer to a person employed in the establishment after passing the required physical and medical examinations and immunizations.

2.10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT — the local political subdivision which refers to the province, city, municipality or barangay.

2.11 LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY — an official or employee responsible for the application of a prescribed health measure in a local political subdivision. For a province, the local health authority is the governor and for a city or municipality, the local health authority is the mayor.

2.12 LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER — the provincial, city or municipal health officer.

2.13 OPERATOR — the owner, manager, administrator, or the actual holder of the sanitary permit of the establishment.

2.14 PUBLIC LAUNDRY — a laundry established and operated for, and open to the public and/or to an exclusive clientele.

2.15 SAFETY — the state of being free from harm or danger which can cause accident or disease.

2.16 SANITARY ENGINEER — a person duly registered with the Board of Examiners for Sanitary Engineers (Republic Act 1364) who heads and/or works with the sanitation division/section/unit of the local health office or employed with the

Department of Health or its regional health offices.

2.17 **SANITARY PERMIT** — the permission or certification in writing by the local health officer or in his absence, by the chief of the sanitation division/section/unit attesting that the establishment complies with the existing sanitation requirements upon evaluation or inspection conducted in accordance with Presidential Decree Nos. 522 and 856 and its implementing rules and regulations and local ordinances.

2.18 **SANITATION INSPECTOR** — a government official or personnel employed by the local government unit, who enforces sanitary rules, laws and regulations and implements environmental sanitation activities under the supervision of the local health officer or sanitary engineer.

2.19 **SECRETARY** — the Secretary of Health.

2.20 **SOIL** — visible dirt or debris such as organic matters, organic substances, residual soil, blood and body substances which may protect, harbor or assist the growth of microorganisms.

2.21 **SOLID WASTE/REFUSE** — all organic or inorganic non-liquid, and non-gaseous portions of the total waste mass. It consists of all putrescible and non-putrescible solid materials except for body waste.

2.22 **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT** — an integrated system, approach or process on the generation, segregation, storage, collection, transport, processing, recycling, recovery and final disposal or containment of solid waste.

2.23 **SOLVENT** — a common term of liquid substance used in dry cleaning process in place of water.

2.24 **STERILIZATION** — any chemical or physical process which kills and destroys all microorganisms.

2.25 **VERMIN** — a group of insects such as flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, lice, bugs, or small animals such as mice and rats which are vector of diseases.

2.26 **VERMIN ABATEMENT PROGRAM** — a series of preventive and control procedures and activities for vermin control.

SECTION 3. *SANITARY PERMIT*

3.1 The establishment shall secure a sanitary permit (EHS Form No. 101) issued by the local health officer before it could operate.

3.2 Any extension or additional construction or alteration in the establishment shall require a new sanitary permit before it could operate.

3.3 **Application or renewal of the sanitary permit.**

3.3.1 The application or renewal of the sanitary permit shall be filed with the local health office having jurisdiction over the establishment utilizing EHS Form No. 110.

3.3.2 The sanitary permit shall be issued upon compliance to at least a satisfactory rating utilizing the sanitary inspection of public places establishment form (EHS Form No. 103-B).

3.4 **Fees.** — The fees shall be paid to the local government office upon application, renewal, and noting of sanitary permit. The amount of fees shall be set through local ordinance.

3.5 **Noting Of Permit.** — Within fourteen (14) working days after any change in ownership or occupancy of the establishment, the new operator shall apply to the local health office to have such change noted in the records and permit certificate and shall pay the corresponding fee in respect for such noting.

3.6 **Validity.** — The sanitary permit shall be valid on the day of issuance until the last day of December of the same year, and shall be renewed every beginning of the year thereafter.

3.7 **Revocation/Suspension.** — Upon the recommendation of the local health officer, the sanitary permit shall be suspended or revoked by the local health authority upon violation of any sanitary rules and regulations.

3.8 **Posting Of Permit.** — The sanitary permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place of the establishment for public information and shall be available for inspection by authorized health and other regulatory personnel.

3.9 **Record of Sanitary Permit.**

3.9.1 Every local health office shall keep a record of all establishments which have been issued a sanitary permit and renewal thereof.

3.9.2 The record shall be in every case show the following:

- a) The name and address of the operator;
- b) The location of the establishment;
- c) The nature and kind of business for which the permit has been issued;
- d) The date the first permit was issued and the dates of any renewal thereof;
- e) Every change of occupation or management of the establishment since the first permit was issued;
- f) The sanitary conditions under which the permit was issued or any renewal thereof granted; and
- g) The revocation of the permit.

3.9.3 The record shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by any authorized officer of the Department of Health or local government unit.

SECTION 4. SANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL

4.1 Health Certificate

4.1.1 Any person who intends to work in the establishment shall be required to secure a health certificate (EHS Form No. 102-A, cream in color or EHS Form No. 102-B, light green in color) issued by the local health officer.

4.1.2 The health certificate shall be renewed at least once a year or as often as required by local ordinance.

4.1.3 The health certificate shall be clipped visibly in the upper left front portion of the uniform or garment worn by the employee while working. When such condition is not practical due to the nature of the work in the establishment, the health certificate shall be made available upon inspection.

4.1.4 Health certificates are non-transferable.

4.2 Personal Health and Hygiene Practices

4.2.1 Employees of the establishment shall at all times observe good personal hygiene such as, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Wearing of clean appropriate working garments including the wearing of caps, aprons, gowns, masks, rubber gloves, safety goggles and gadgets in areas required by health and safety personnel;
- b) Washing hands with soap and water before and after working, after smoking, after using the toilet, after coughing, sneezing into hands, or as often as necessary to remove dirt and contaminants; and
- c) Other hygienic practices called for the nature of work in the establishment.

4.2.2 Employees of the establishment shall at all times observe personal health and safety practices at the working area such as, but not limited to, the following:

- a) No smoking of tobacco;
- b) No drinking of alcoholic beverages;
- c) No spitting or blowing of nose;
- d) No littering; and.
- e) Other personal health and safety practices called for the nature of work in the establishment.

4.2.3 Personnel suffering from a communicable or contagious disease or severe respiratory infection (lots of coughing, sneezing, or nasal drainage) shall be immediately reported to the operator and referred for treatment.

4.2.4 No personnel with open wounds or break on the skin found on exposed areas