

**[POEA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 04, S. 1986,
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AIDS TEST FOR SAUDI-BOUND WORKERS

Please be informed that in a formal Note Verbale to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, we were informed that "effective immediately, all Filipino contract workers entering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are required to bring with them their medical certificates... stating that they are free from the disease Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)".

Pursuant to this new requirement, the Joint MOH-MOLE Accreditation Committee for the Medical Examination of Overseas Contract Workers just issued the guidelines in the conduct of AIDS test for Saudi-bound workers. Quoted however are pertinent portions of the guidelines for the information by all concerned:

"1. AIDS Tests Separate from Standard Pre-Employment Medical Examinations - The AIDS test shall be conducted separately and apart from the standard pre-employment medical examinations defined in Section 8 of the Joint MOH-MOLE Rules and Regulations in the Conduct of Medical Examination for Contract Workers. In view thereof:

(a) A separate certificate (AIDS-FREE CERTIFICATE) shall be issued the workers;

(b) The AIDS test shall be conducted only upon request by the Agencies or Entities and only for Saudi-bound workers;

(c) The AIDS test and the standard pre-employment medical examination may be conducted by only one accredited and certified clinic or hospital or by two separate clinics or hospitals.

2. Nature and Methods of Test - An AIDS test conducted in accordance with any of the following World Health Organization (WHO) recommended test shall suffice for compliance with this requirement:

- a. ELISA — Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay
- b. IF — Immune Fluorescence
- c. WB — Western Blot Method

3. Certification of Clinics or Hospital Capability - Only accredited clinics and licensed hospitals willing to comply with the requirements set in these guidelines shall qualify to conduct the AIDS test for contract workers. For this purpose, the accredited clinic or licensed hospital shall file an application with the Committee Care of the Bureau of Medical Services, MOH, indicating therein the method of examination it wishes to