

chemical interaction between the MWF and the human respiratory system. Exposure to MWF mist or aerosol may also aggravate the effects of existing lung disease. A number of studies have found an association between working with MWF and a variety of cancers, including cancer of the rectum, pancreas, larynx, skin, scrotum, and bladder.

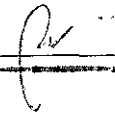
This bill seeks to address the health and safety concerns posed by MWF use in the workplace.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

10 JUL 19 07

SENATE
S. No. 1611

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 REGULATING THE USE OF
3 METALWORKING FLUIDS IN THE WORKPLACE

4 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
5 *Congress assembled:*

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “MWF Regulatory Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act, the term–

8 (A) “Metalworking fluids” or MWF refer to a range of oils and other liquids that are used
9 to cool and/or lubricate metal work pieces when they are being machined, ground, milled,
10 or industrially processed;

11 (B) “Department” means the Department of Labor and Employment;

12 SECTION 3. *Requirements for a workplace using MWFs.* – an employer must observe
13 the following requirements if he uses MWFs in his place of business–

14 (A) Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) from the supplier to know exactly what
15 type of MWF they are working with and what precautions to take;

16 (B) Obtain technical bulletins that may provide additional health and safety information;

17 (C) Choose MWFs with the least toxic materials, whenever possible;

18 (D) Proper design and operation of the MWF delivery system— Use a system designed to
19 generate a minimum amount of fluid mist. It is prohibited to use compressed air to
20 blow clean parts covered with MWF as the air pressure causes the MWF to be
21 airborne;

22 (E) Install complete enclosures or splash guards, depending on the operation, to keep the
23 metalworking fluids contained and away from the operator;

1 (F) Use exhaust ventilation to prevent accumulation and recirculation of airborne
2 contaminants;

3 (G) Proper maintenance of equipment— Reduce the amount of contamination into the
4 MWFs, such as hydraulic oils and other "tramp" oils, by keeping equipment in good
5 working order.

6 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— The Department shall adopt the
7 Implementing Rules and Regulations for this Act which shall include the following:

8 (A) Adoption of administrative controls in the form of good work practices;

9 (B) Guidelines for the mandatory use of personal protective equipment and clothing
10 where necessary;

11 (C) Proper engineering controls to minimize the deleterious effects of MWFs.

12 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – The Department is empowered to establish and assess penalties
13 or fines against an employer for violations of this Act or regulations adopted under this Act. In
14 no circumstance will any penalties or fines exceed P10,000.00 for each day the permit holder
15 remains in violation.

16 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
18 valid and subsisting.

19 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
20 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
21 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

22 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

24 Approved,