



# Implementation *Bulletin*



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VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 14 • OCTOBER 5, 2020 • PUBLISHED BY THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

## **RA 11058: AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS**

*This law outlines the duties of employers, workers, and other persons in ensuring that occupational safety and health (OSH) standards are met. It applies to all establishments, projects, sites, and all other places where work is being undertaken in all branches of economic activity (including those regulated by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority) except in the public sector.*

*It enshrines workers' right to know all types of hazards in the workplace, their right to refuse unsafe work, their right to report accidents to authorities, and their right to personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever necessary. Covered workplaces are required to have a safety and health program in place, an OSH Committee to ensure that the program is observed and enforced, and a Safety Officer to oversee the overall management of the program. Covered workplaces must also have on-site qualified occupational health personnel such as physicians, nurses, certified first aiders, and dentists alongside the required medical supplies, equipment, and facilities.*

*This law was approved on August 17, 2018 while its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) were issued on December 16, 2018.*

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Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) provided the Senate with the following updates on the implementation of this law.

### **PPEs and safety in the use of equipment**

The agency through its Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) conducts standard testing of PPEs such as safety footwear, protective headwear, eyes and face protective equipment, personal fall arrest system, and electrical rubber gloves. OSHC recently acquired a new dust respirator efficiency testing apparatus to effectively assess respiratory protective equipment. Commissioning is currently underway while technical staff are undergoing training on how to properly operate the machine. Usec. Aragon reported that in the first year of the law's implementation, "there has been a 69.04 percent increase for

the total number of PPE tests conducted as compared to 2018 or before the issuance of the law (546 requests received for 2019 versus 323 for 2018)”.

Meanwhile, to help ensure safety in the use of equipment, OSHC accredits testing organizations for construction heavy equipment as per DOLE Administrative Order No. 407, series of 2017. OSHC has so far accredited 24 organizations nationwide.

### **Occupational safety and health program**

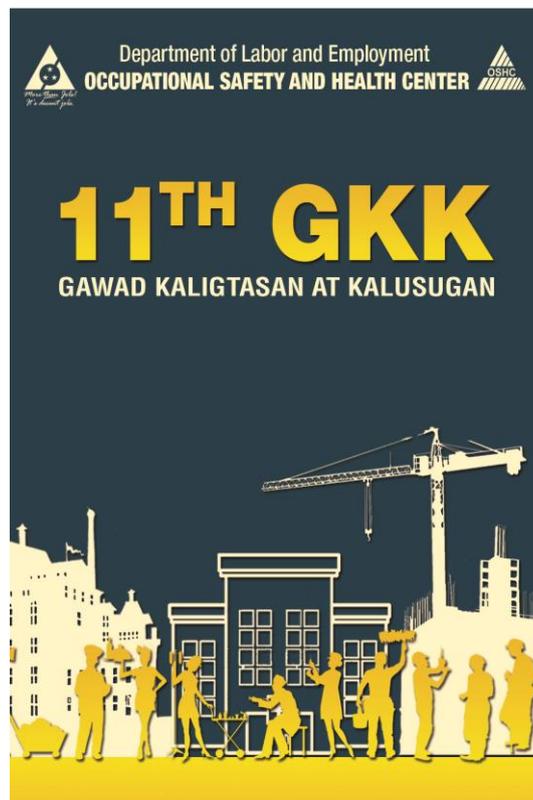
OSHC accredits safety consultancy organizations (SCO) that help establishments comply with occupational safety and health standards, including those specified under this law. It has so far accredited 17 SCOs nationwide.

To help establishments in their risk assessment evaluation and in establishing proper protocols, OSHC provides technical services such as occupational health (OH) examination (biological monitoring) and work environment measurement (WEM) activities, among other services. In 2019, it acted on 12 requests for OH examination (biological monitoring) and 115 requests for WEM. In 2020, 45 requests have so far been received for both OH examination (biological monitoring) and WEM services. It has also accredited 13 WEM providers that assist establishments in complying with WEM-related standards.

Meanwhile, OSHC recognizes the importance of communication and advocacy to improve compliance to this law. In 2019, it held 13 regional public information campaigns and the biennial Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan (GKK). In the first half of 2020, it posted 1,185 posts in its various social media accounts, six billboard advertisements, and three advertisements in railway transits. It held seven KamOSHtahan regional webinars and completed a set of infographics for the DOLE-Department of Trade and Industry Interim Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of Covid-19, Construction Safety Guidelines for the Implementation of Infrastructure Projects During the Covid -19 Public Health Crisis, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Public Sector, Occupational Safety and Health and Work From Home Arrangement, as well those on other OSH and Covid-related issues.

### **Safety and health training**

In 2019, there were 249 batches of both the *Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) for Safety Officer (SO) 2* and *Construction Safety and Health (COSH)* training courses. These are mandatory 40-hour training programs. Moreover, OSHC held 25 specialized occupational safety and health (OSH) training, 9



*The GKK is a biennial award given by the DOLE to companies and individuals with outstanding occupational safety and health practices, programs, innovations, and contributions.*

# PAALALA SA MGA GUMAGAMIT NG TINGGA (LEAD)

**TAMA**

**MALI**



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\* Masang maling impormasyon ay ipinapalagay sa kanilang mga artikulo sa mga pahinang ito.

*OSHC informational material for workers handling lead*

OSH orientation for the informal and marginalized sector, and 13 batches of OSH orientation for senior high school students. In 2020, OSHC has so far held 2 BOSH for SO2, 16 sessions with the regional Occupational Safety and Health Networks, and two batches of specialized OSH training courses before the start of the quarantine period. All OSH training, including BOSH and COSH are currently delivered online.

OSHC accredits safety training organizations (STO), and OSH consultants and practitioners to help establishments comply with the law. So far, 83 STOs, 330 consultants, and 3,876 practitioners have been accredited.

### Budget source to implement this law

OSHC derives the budget to implement this law from the State Insurance Fund. In 2020, it allocated PhP 51,701,444.56 for implementation, of which PhP 43,302,402.50 or 83.7 percent goes to Information Dissemination activities under the Occupational Safety and Health Promotion Program. Other items in the budget include the following: Training on Occupational Safety and Health: PhP 4,223,284.21, Technical Assistance: PhP 3,624,034.50, and accreditation activities: PhP 431,723.35.

### Technical Education and Skills Development (TESDA) activities

Meanwhile, TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña reported to the Senate that the agency issued Memorandum No. 32 s. 2019 providing all TESDA Offices the list of the approved laws with relevance to TESDA to serve as legal basis in the policy formulation and guidelines for applicable TESDA activities. In December 2019, TESDA conducted an Evaluation of Curriculum for RO/PO Unified TVET Program Registration and Accreditation System (UTPRAS) Focal, which highlighted the use of the Curriculum Checklist that incorporates requirements of occupational safety in the workplace.

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