

TEC approves the rules on certification of first aiders and accreditation of first aid training providers

The Tripartite Executive Committee, during its 28 February 2022 meeting, approved in principle the draft Rules on Certification of First Aiders and Accreditation of First Aid Training Providers, which was first presented by the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) during the 25 January 2022 TEC meeting. With the endorsement of the TEC, the draft Department Order would be deliberated in the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC).

The proposed Department Order was an offshoot of the amendments introduced by Republic Act No. 11058 as implemented by DOLE Department Order No. 198, Series of 2018, specifically the requirement of first aiders in proportion to the total number of workers and the risk or hazard involved in covered workplaces.

It provides that only the Philippine Red Cross, Department of Health, Bureau of Fire Protection, DOLE-accredited TVIs with TESDA-registered Emergency Medical Service National Certification program, and other first aid training providers duly accredited by DOLE can provide first aid certification training course and accordingly certify first aiders. The first aid certification shall be valid for three (3) years from date of issuance.

The draft Department Order further enumerates the documentary requirements for accreditation, modes of submitting the same, as well as the responsibilities of an accredited first aid training provider. The certificate of accreditation shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of its issuance, unless earlier cancelled. A final resolution suspending or cancelling a certificate of accreditation, or permanently prohibiting a training provider to apply for accreditation may be appealed to the Office of the Secretary.

In addition, the draft Department Order suggests three (3) classifications of first aid training based on employment size and risk level: Emergency First Aid Training, Occupational First Aid and Basic Life Support Training, and Standard First Aid and Basic Life Support Training.

The TEC is the technical and implementing arm of the NTIPC, which was institutionalized pursuant to Republic Act No. 10395 as the main consultative body for tripartite advisement and consultation among the labor, employer, and government sectors in the formulation and review of labor, employment, and social policies at the national level.

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