

## Safety and Health Practices in the Transport, Storage and Communications Industry: 2008

*(Sixth of a series on Industrial Relations Practices)*

The Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) in coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices conducted the 2007/2008 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) covering 6,460 non-agricultural sample establishments employing 20 or more workers nationwide. The main objective of the survey is to generate integrated data sets on employment of specific groups of workers, occupational shortages and surpluses, safety and health practices, occupational injuries and diseases and labor cost of employees.

This issue presents the survey highlights of the safety and health practices adopted and implemented by establishments in the transportation storage and communication industry as of June 30, 2008. It provides information on the safety and health of persons at work, as well as on the protection of other individuals against risk to their safety and health in connection with or as affected by activities of persons at work.

### OVERVIEW

The industry on transport, storage and communications is considered as one of the vital industries in the country today. Majority of other industries depend on access to transportation, storage and communication services for their day to day operations. Firms transport goods to their customers by air, rail, road, or sea and they store their merchandise or supplies in warehouses. Through mail, courier, telephone, internet and mobile telephone, the latter of which had showed staggering growth over the last few years, the role of communication not only in most businesses but also in our everyday lives cannot be overemphasized. As such, the growing sector on transport, storage and communications services should provide the necessary health and safety precautions at the worksites for its growing number of employees.

As enshrined under the Labor Code, every employer is mandated to keep and maintain his workplace free from work hazards that are causing or likely to cause physical harm to the workers or damage to property.

### SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the health and safety practices implemented by establishments engaged in transport, storage and communications include the following:

#### **... as to available facilities provided**

Almost all establishments in transport, storage and communications had available water tank and functioning fire extinguishers (96.7%), adequate lighting including emergency lights (95.8%) and adequate supply of safe drinking water (93.2%).

Meanwhile, only 261 (18.4%) of total establishments provided facilities for persons with disabilities. (Table 1)

The leading reasons cited by establishments that did not provide some of the facilities were as follows: no need for the facilities/not necessary (59.5%); not applicable/suitable (43.6%); and too costly (21.3%).

### **... as to occupational health programs/services implemented**

Two of the most popular occupational health programs/services adopted by establishments in the transport, storage and communications industry were the availability of first aid kits (88.9%) and regular conduct of inspection and maintenance of equipment (85.7%). Almost two-thirds of them imposed drug-free workplace policies (64.2%) and accident prevention programs (63.1%).

Meanwhile, only 2 out of 10 establishments had HIV/AIDS programs (25.1%) and family planning programs (24.2%). (*Table 2*)

### **... as to preventive and control measures implemented**

Portable/built-in fire extinguishers were available in 9 out of 10 establishments in the transport, storage and communications industry. Likewise, majority of the establishments regularly maintained their mechanical and electrical facilities (87.2%) at the worksite.

However, only 3 out of 10 establishments had sewage treatment plan while only one-fourth had available Material Data Safety Sheets (MDSS) for chemicals. (*Table 3*)

### **... as to occupational safety and health trainings and seminars provided**

Majority of the establishments recognized the importance of occupational health and safety trainings and seminars as part of their employees' welfare. Nearly three-fourths provided trainings on safety work procedures (73.7%) and first aid trainings (70.8%).

A lesser proportion provided trainings/seminars on the principles of ergonomics (28.6%) and on family planning and reproductive health (20.6%). (*Table 4*)

Assistance in the conduct of the above trainings/seminars were mostly provided by the DOLE Regional Offices

(28.1%), Occupational Safety and Health Center (25.7%), NGOs/Universities/Academic institutions (24.9%), and DOLE Accredited Safety Training and Consultancy Organizations (23.6%).

DOLE Regional Offices	28.1%
Occupational Safety and Health Center	25.7%
NGOs/Universities/Academic Institutions	24.9%
DOLE Accredited Safety Training and Consultancy Organizations	23.6%
Industry Associations	17.9%
Employers Associations	13.6%
Bureau of Working Conditions	11.9%
Trade Unions/Federations	9.0%
Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines, Inc.	6.5%
Other Agencies	27.8%

### **... as to person responsible in the overall implementation/monitoring**

Almost half of the establishments in the transport, storage and communications industry had their safety and health practices implemented and monitored by the Human Resource Managers (48.5%) and General Managers (48.2%). Others were monitored by Managing Proprietors/Owners (38.8%) and Production or Operations Managers (30.9%).

Human Resource Manager	48.5%
General Manager	48.2%
Managing Proprietor/Owner	38.8%
Production/Operations Manager	30.9%
Health Professionals	20.5%
Health and Safety Committee/Officer	18.0%
Labor Management Committee	6.3%

### **... as to the health personnel administering medical services**

In terms of the medical and health needs of their employees, majority of the establishments relied on the services of clinics or hospitals (76.1%) within the vicinity of their establishments. Some establishments had the following health personnel for administering medical services:

Trained First-Aider	29.7%
Physician	23.2%
Registered Nurse	20.5%

### **... as to occupational safety and health records maintained**

Almost half of the establishments kept records of Employees Work Accident/Illness Report (48.9%) and Annual Medical Report (48.6%). Only a few got records of Annual Work Accident/Illness Exposure Data (15.2%) and Minutes of Meeting of Health and Safety Committee (11.5%).

Employees Work Accident/Illness Report	48.9%
Annual Medical Report	48.6%
Annual Work Accident/Illness Exposure Data	15.2%
Minutes of Meeting of Health and Safety Committee	11.5%

### **... as to communication method used**

To communicate safety and health practices, establishments in the transport, storage and communications industry made use of the general assemblies/meetings (65.7%) and posters placed in conspicuous places in the establishments (33.6%). Others conducted drills (28.7%), while less than 20.0% communicated through the following methods:

Daily "Walk-through" the establishment by Senior Officials	14.3%
Quality Circles/Productivity Improvement Group Meetings	8.1%
Labor Management Cooperation/Council Meetings	7.7%

### **.... as to frequency of management consultation with employee representatives or union officers**

Management consultations with union officers/representatives were vital

components of safety and health programs implemented in many establishments in the transport, storage and communications industry.

More than half of the establishments (52.1%) "always" consulted with employee representatives or union officers on matters concerning occupational safety and health, while less than half (42.9%) conducted consultation "sometimes". The rest (4.2%) believed that consultation was "not applicable" to them.

### **... as to ISO certifications acquired**

Many organizations of today not only look forward in pursuing excellence in their products and services but also aspire for due recognition by acquiring certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This certification serves as a guarantee to their clients of the quality, environmental friendliness, safety, reliability, efficiency and interchangeability of their products and services.

Among the 1,416 establishments in the transport, storage and communications industry, 211 establishments (14.9%) were certified on Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2000). Meanwhile, only less than 5% acquired the following certifications:

<b>OHSAS 18001</b> – Occupational Health and Safety Management Standard	2.9%
<b>ISO 14001</b> – Environmental Management Standard	2.0%
<b>ISO 27001/27002</b> – Information Security Management	0.4%
<b>SA 8000</b> – Social Accountability Standard	0.1%

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#### **FOR INQUIRIES:**

Regarding this report contact **LABOR RELATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION at 527-3000 local 319**  
 Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES DATABANK at 527-3000 local 317**  
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**TABLE 1 – Number and Percent Share of Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers in the Transport, Storage and Communications Industry by Type of Facilities Available/Provided, Philippines: June 2008**

<b>FACILITIES AVAILABLE/PROVIDED</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% Share</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Availability of water tank and functioning fire extinguishers within reach	1,369	96.7
Adequate lighting (in work areas, aisles, passageways) including emergency lights	1,356	95.8
Adequate supply of safe drinking water	1,320	93.2
Adequate space that allow sufficient freedom of movement to perform duties	1,302	91.9
Access to clean and hygienic comfort rooms	1,296	91.5
Well-maintained office building	1,271	89.8
Proper ventilation in work areas	1,270	89.7
Parking space for employees' vehicles	1,262	89.1
Separate toilets for men and women	1,243	87.8
Adequate aisles/passageways	1,229	86.8
Unobstructed fire exits at the workplace	1,134	80.1
Adequate exhaust system	1,119	79.0
Pantry (small room used as eating area of employees)	1,084	76.6
Proper waste (including chemicals, pesticides & hazardous materials) disposal system	988	69.8
Designated smoking area/s	974	68.8
Washing facilities and facilities for changing/storing working clothes	966	68.2
Ergonomically designated seats/tools/machines (to prevent musculoskeletal disorders and related injuries)	941	66.5
Comfortable rest area for workers	889	62.8
Clean canteen for employees	608	42.9
Sports/recreational facilities	532	37.6
Medical/dental clinic or treatment room	492	34.7
Separate locker rooms for men and women	480	33.9
Elevator for building with at least four floors	398	28.1
Pipe-in music at the workplace	379	26.8
Facilities for persons with disabilities	261	18.4

*Note: Details do not add up to total due to multiple responses.*

*Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2007/2008 BLES Integrated Survey.*

**TABLE 2 – Number and Percent Share of Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers in the Transport, Storage and Communications Industry by Type of Occupational Health Programs/Services Implemented, Philippines: June 2008**

<b>OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAMS/SERVICES IMPLEMENTED</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% Share</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Availability of first-aid kits	1,259	88.9
Regular conduct of inspection and maintenance of equipment	1,213	85.7
Drug-Free workplace policy/program	909	64.2
Accident prevention program	894	63.1
Regular monitoring of hazards such as fumes, dust, noise level and heat in work areas	881	62.2
Emergency response preparedness program	881	62.2
Free health and/or accident insurance by a private insurance company	841	59.4
Random drug testing	841	59.4
Free health plan coverage by health maintenance organization (HMO)	742	52.4
Free/subsidized medical care other than those provided thru the HMO or private insurance (includes medicines, special laboratory exams for ancillary procedures on top of annual physical examination, hospitalization)	725	51.2
Anti-sexual harassment program	608	42.9
Substance abuse and employee assistance program	576	40.7
Physical fitness program	539	38.1
Tuberculosis prevention and control policy	481	34.0
HIV/AIDS policy/program	355	25.1
Family planning program	343	24.2

*Note: Details do not add up to total due to multiple responses.*

*Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2007/2008 BLES Integrated Survey.*

**TABLE 3 – Number and Percent Share of Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers in the Transport, Storage and Communications Industry by Type of Preventive and Control Measures on Safety and Health Implemented, Philippines: June 2008**

PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MEASURES ON SAFETY AND HEALTH IMPLEMENTED	Number	% Share
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Portable/built-in fire extinguishers	1,271	89.8
Regular maintenance of mechanical and electrical facilities	1,235	87.2
Proper posting of safety signages	1,072	75.7
Observance of proper operational procedures in doing the job	1,061	74.9
Regular pest control treatment	975	68.9
Provision of protective clothing/equipment to employees (e.g., gloves, head gear, footwear, etc.)	909	64.2
Emergency evacuation plan	892	63.0
Security measures to reduce violence	878	62.0
Availability of safety manuals, labels or maintenance procedures	866	61.2
Information or advisory services on occupational safety and health	864	61.0
Conduct of emergency drills (fire, earthquake, chemical spills, etc.)	847	59.8
Proper storage and labeling for chemicals, pesticides and hazardous materials	812	57.3
Correction action programs and performance audits	808	57.1
Instruction/training on health and safety	774	54.7
Appropriate number of trained health and safety officer	654	46.2
Use of video camera or alarm system	616	43.5
Provision of adequate machine guarding/railing or casing on moving parts	612	43.2
Institutionalization of health and safety committee	567	40.0
Conduct of process analysis for potential problems	535	37.8
Availability of safety measures to reduce exposures to radiation and airborne contaminants (e.g., solvent, heavy metals, mineral dust, virus, bacteria)	479	33.8
Sewage treatment plan	475	33.5
Availability of Material Data Safety Sheets (MDSS) for chemicals	351	24.8
Other preventive and control measures	4	0.3

*Note: Details do not add up to total due to multiple responses.*

*Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2007/2008 BLES Integrated Survey.*

**TABLE 4 – Number and Percent Share of Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers in the Transport, Storage and Communications Industry by Type of Occupational Safety and Health Trainings/Seminars Provided, Philippines: June 2008**

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAININGS/SEMINARS PROVIDED	Number	% Share
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Safety Work Procedures	1,044	73.7
First Aid	1,002	70.8
General Safety and Health Provisions	952	67.2
Safety Drills (e.g., fire, earthquake, etc.)	921	65.0
Safety Management	916	64.7
Good Housekeeping (e.g., 5S + 1)	774	54.7
Safeguarding the Environment	764	54.0
Prohibited Drugs	748	52.8
Handling of Hazardous Materials	719	50.8
Accident Investigation	686	48.4
Emergency Preparation to Work Hazards (provides overview of health and safety guides to various emergencies)	642	45.3
Total Quality Management	634	44.8
Safety Audit	552	39.0
Health Hazard Evaluation	549	38.8
Stress Management	498	35.2
Prescribed Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) Training	444	31.4
Conflict Management	432	30.5
Principles of Ergonomics (to address musculoskeletal disorders/injuries in the workplace)	405	28.6
Family Planning and Reproductive Health	291	20.6
Other OSH training/seminars on safety and health	7	0.5

*Note: Details do not add up to total due to multiple responses.*

*Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2007/2008 BLES Integrated Survey.*