

[LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS NO. 855, May 01, 1979]

CREATING AN INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

TO : Ministry of Labor
 Ministry of Health
 Ministry of Industry
 Employees' Compensation Commission
 The Social Security System
 The Government Service Insurance System

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish an expert industrial disease and occupational safety intelligence center that will help identify potential sources of dangerous chemical substances, noise pollution, and other hazards to workers in their working environment and organize a data bank and clearing house for sustained research on industrial accidents and occupational diseases in the country;

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Labor has been assigned under the Labor Code of the Philippines, expanded tasks and responsibilities to promulgate and enforce occupational health and safety standards to reduce or minimize occupational hazards in all workplaces;

WHEREAS, the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor on occupational health and safety extends to the continuing system of research and study in dealing with occupational health and safety problems in all places of employment, including the development and implementation of training programs in such fields;

WHEREAS, the Employees' Compensation Commission, of which the Minister of Labor is ex-officio Chairman, is empowered to initiate policies and programs towards adequate occupational health and safety and accident prevention in the working environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, do hereby direct as follows:

1. There is hereby created in the Ministry of Labor an Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, hereinafter referred to as the Institute, which shall be headed by an Executive Director, under the immediate supervision of the Minister of Labor.
2. The Institute shall have the following powers and functions:
 - (a) To undertake continuing studies and research on occupational health and safety of employees in their working environment;
 - (b) To lay the groundwork for establishing causal connection between diseases and occupations in environmental conditions;
 - (c) To develop medical criteria in determining the nature and extent of impairment or diminution in health, functional capacity, or life expectancy of employees as a result of their work and working conditions;