



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 06
Series of 2022

To : ALL CONCERNED

Subject : Guidelines on the Resumption of Deployment of Agency-Hired Overseas Filipino Workers in Taiwan

Pursuant to the *Revised POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Landbased Overseas Filipino Workers of 2016 (2016 Rules)* and with the approval of the resumption of the deployment of migrant workers by the Taiwan Committee Epidemic Command Center (CECC) and Taiwan Ministry of Labor (MOL), the following guidelines are hereby issued to facilitate the deployment of our OFWs in the said country:

I. Coverage

These guidelines shall cover all agency-hired Landbased Overseas Filipino Workers bound for deployment to Taiwan, as well as Philippine Recruitment Agencies (PRAs) and Taiwan Manpower Agencies (TMAs).

II. Responsibilities of the OFWs, Licensed/Philippine Recruitment Agencies (PRAs) and Taiwan Manpower Agencies (TMAs).

1. The OFWs, Philippine Recruitment Agencies and their Taiwan Manpower Agencies shall ensure compliance with the deployment protocols and requirements set forth by this Memorandum Circular and by the Taiwan CECC and MOL;
2. During deployment, the OFW shall abide by, and strictly comply with, all the health and safety protocols and policies particularly those that are contained in the *Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist*;
3. The PRAs and/or their TMAs shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. Ensuring that all the necessary clearances and documentary requirements are updated and complete at the time of the

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deployment of the worker [i.e Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC), visa, verified/ authenticated employment contract, medical examination certificates, negative Covid-19 RT-PCR Results and certificates, Vaccination certificates or international certificate of vaccination (yellow card), Covid-19 health insurance and other required pre-departure documentary /travel requirements];

- b. Monitoring the strict compliance of the OFW with the *Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist* prescribed by Taiwan and with the requirements set by this Memorandum Circular;
- c. Providing appropriate briefing to their workers on the requirements and protocols prior to their departure and upon arrival in Taiwan;
- d. Submitting to the POEA Landbased Center the seven (7) day *Daily Self- Health Monitoring Form (Annex A)*, Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist and other documentary requirements for assessment, verification and stamping;
- e. Appointing and identifying specific personnel that would monitor the daily health conditions of their departing workers.;
- f. Providing the appropriate free COVID 19 RT-PCR testing to its workers, as required by the employer and Taiwan, as well as meals, accommodation, and transportation from the point of hire to the intended destination in order to ensure that the deployed workers are negative for COVID-19 prior to the deployment;
- g. Assisting the workers in securing a facility where the workers can have the required self-quarantine prior to their departure for Taiwan; and
- h. Coordinating with the relevant medical facilities for emergency medical assistance and appropriate treatment for their workers that will be tested positive for COVID -19 prior to their deployment.

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III. Requirements for Departing OFWs

a. COVID- 19 Testing Requirement

Departing workers are required to provide a certificate of COVID-19 RT-PCR negative result prior to their flights and must observe the period required by the Taiwan government as to the validity of the results.

(Note: In compliance with the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control announcement; as from 04 January 2022; every arriving passenger is required to provide a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test result that is based on specimen collection date within two days prior to the flight schedule time.)

As required by the *Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist*, workers who will be undergoing training must undergo and be tested negative for COVID-19 three days before commencing with their respective training.

The RT-PCR tests can be only administered by testing centers which are duly accredited by the Taiwan CECC based on the list provided by the Philippine authorities.

b. Vaccination Requirements

Departing workers must be fully inoculated against COVID-19 with recognize vaccines authorized for emergency use by Taiwan health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Workers who are fully vaccinated locally shall secure an official digital vaccination certificate through the VaxCertPh portal, while those who were vaccinated overseas may present an International Certificate of Vaccination (ICV) duly issued by the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) or by the competent authority of the country where the vaccines were administered.

Before entering Taiwan, the workers must upload their vaccination certificate to the Ministry of Labor's Immigration Service Airport Care Service network for Overseas Migrant Workers (<https://fwas.wda.gov.tw/>) and have been check.

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c. Compliance with Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist

As a condition for the entry of migrant workers, the Taiwan CECC released a *Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist (Annex B)* which provides for requirements that must be strictly complied with by the workers and that will be strictly monitored by the PRAs.

The prevention plan and checklist will be assessed and verified by the Administration through the Landbased Center.

The following are the requirements set forth by the said prevention plan:

1. The number of people trained by the training agency at any one time should be reduced by 50%;
2. The number of people residing in accommodation arranged by the training agency should be reduced by 50%. Individual rooms should house a maximum of six people;
3. Pre-approval from the ROC's Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) of the PCR testing agency to be visited by foreign workers;
4. Foreign workers should receive a PCR test three days prior to attending the training institute, and the test result must be negative;
5. Foreign workers are required to observe self-health management measures for the seven days before they board a flight to Taiwan;
6. Foreign workers should receive an additional PCR test within 72 hours prior to arriving in Taiwan, and the result must be negative; and

Note: In compliance with the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control announcement; as from 04 January 2022; every arriving passenger is required to provide a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test result that is based on specimen collection date within two days prior to the flight schedule time.

7. Provision of one person per room quarantine living space for foreign nationals after receiving a PCR test and before boarding a plane to Taiwan.

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As per Taiwan authorities, Requirements No. 1, 2 and 4 are only applicable to deploying workers whose positions are required to undergo training in institutions. The PRAs are required to check that the institutions complied with the required reduction on training capacities and accommodation facilities. The representative of the training institute/center must sign on the Prevention Plan and Checklist to attest the compliance with the said requirements.

For requirements No. 5, 6 and 7, the PRAs shall ensure that their departing workers complied on the seven (7) day self-monitoring measures prior to the scheduled departure. To monitor compliance, the worker shall fill up the prescribed monitoring form (Annex A) that will be submitted to the Landbased Center.

Once subjected to an RT-PCR test, workers are strictly required to undergo self-quarantine on one person per room rule to prevent further infection. The self-quarantine shall be observed from the time an RT-PCR test is administered until the scheduled departure. Once a negative RT-PCR test result is issued, the worker can depart for Taiwan within the 72-hour period.

The self –quarantine can be taken in a government accredited quarantine facility, hotel and other other similar facilities.

IV. Assessment and Validation of Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist

On top of applicable provisions set out in the 2016 Revised POEA Rules, the PRA that will deploy workers to Taiwan shall submit to the Landbased Center in triplicate copies the following documents:

- a. Duly accomplished Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist;
- b. Duly accomplished Seven (7) day Self Health Monitoring Form;
- c. Negative RT-PCR test result; and
- d. Digital Vaccination Certificate or International Certificate of Vaccination (ICV).

The Landbased Center shall assess and assure the compliance of the worker with all of the requirements. It may further require the submission of other proof or/and documents should there be questions on the submitted requirements.

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Upon assessment, the Landbased Center shall sign and stamp the Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist.

PRA's must provide a list of their personnel who are tasked to monitor the quarantine and the seven-day self-health management of their deploying workers and their corresponding signature specimen.

Any misrepresentations or submission of falsified or spurious document/s may warrant the endorsement of the case for proper investigation.

The PRA's are also reminded that Taiwan specifically provided that when a foreign worker tests positive for COVID-19 after arriving in the ROC, if an investigation shows that the worker's living environment did not meet the conditions laid down in the Pandemic Prevention Plan, that a PCR test was not administered, that fake vaccination certificate was provided, or where more than two workers from the same training location tested positive in the same time period, the foreign human resources agency will be provisionally banned from arranging for foreign workers to work in Taiwan. In the event that false information is provided recognition will be revoked in accordance with Subparagraph 6, Paragraph 2, Article 31 of the *Regulations for Permission and Supervision of Private Employment Services Institution*.

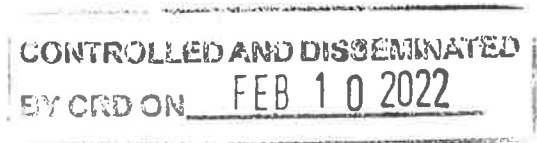
V. Post arrival protocols

Upon arrival in Taiwan, workers must comply with the required quarantine and self-health management at an epidemic prevention hotel for quarantine facility. The TMA and PRA shall ensure that the necessary arrangements for the workers' quarantine.

After the completion of the workers of the fourteen (14) day quarantine at an epidemic prevention hotel for quarantine facility they should continue their quarantine for the next seven (7) days in a quarantine facilities provided by the employer.

The TMA and PRA shall ensure that the necessary arrangements are complete and the required insurance and other documents are fully secured prior to the departure of the workers.

While undergoing quarantine, workers would be provided with government subsidy while their employer are mandated to further compensate them for the remaining seven (7) days.



VI. Expenses on the additional requirements

The PRA and/or TMA shall shoulder all the expenses arising from the additional requirements prescribed by the Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist.

FOR GUIDANCE AND STRICT COMPLIANCE



BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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