

The DTI's Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS), in support of the PUV Modernization program of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), approves the draft standard on dimensions for Public Utility Vehicles Class 2 and Class 3 as a Philippine National Standard (PNS).

The Philippine National Standard (PNS) 2126:2017 Public Utility Vehicles Class 2 and Class 3 – Dimensions was prepared by the Working Group on Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization (WG 2). It has been approved as PNS by the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) upon the recommendation of the Technical Committee on Road Vehicles, BPS/TC 44.

This standard classifies the PUV into four (4) classes based on the UNECE Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles – Classification of power-driven vehicles and trailers:

- Class 1 – a vehicle which can carry 9 to 22 passengers, all seated passengers

- Class 2 – a vehicle which can carry more than 22 passengers, seated with standing passengers

- Class 3 – a vehicle which can carry more than 22 passengers, all seated passengers

- Class 4 – a vehicle which can carry more than 22 passengers, all seated passengers with provisions for cargo

The PNS 2126:2017 specifies requirements and provides guidance on the dimensional limits for Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) under the Class I and III of "M2" United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) category – vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight (8) seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum mass not exceeding five (5) tons. Also, included in the dimensional limits are the overall height, width and length, wheelbase and front and rear overhang, cabin, hand rails, seat and seat lay out, field of vision, step board, service door and emergency exit.

DTI-Consumer Protection Group Assistant Secretary, concurrently the DTI-BPS Officer-in-Charge, Atty Ernesto V. Perez emphasizes, “The main objective in establishing this national standard is to provide dimensions for PUV Class 2 and Class 3 (Class I and Class III of “M2” UNECE category) in support of the PUV Modernization program of the Department of Transportation (DOTr). Particularly, PNS was prepared to improve safety and comfort of passengers”.

In comparison to the traditional jeepney, the dimensions indicated in PNS 2126:2017 provide a more spacious interior with a higher passenger capacity for seated and/or standing passengers. Additionally, the service door is placed on the right-hand side of the vehicle for consideration of sidewalks, and provisions for emergency exits are included.

In the development of the standard, the draft version was circulated for two (2) months to concerned stakeholders to solicit comments from all interested parties as required under existing standards development procedures. Comments were received until 15 August 2017. All comments received during the circulation stage were consolidated, processed and taken into consideration by TC 44 and TC 44/WG 2 on 17 August 2017. Then the BPS TC 44 WG 2 recommended it to the DTI-BPS for approval as a PNS. Consequently, the DTI-BPS promulgated the PNS 2126:2017.

The TC 44/WG 2 was guided by the BPS Directives in the development of PNS 2126:2017.

As the National Standards Body of the Philippines, the Bureau of Philippine Standards is tasked to develop/adopt, promulgate, implement and promote Philippine National Standards mandated by the Republic Act (RA) 4109 Series of 1964.

The BPS is the Philippines’ member to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

For more information on the PNS 2126:2017, send an email to bps@dti.gov.ph.