



TAIWAN TO IMPLEMENT DISPATCHING SYSTEM FOR FOREIGN CARETAKERS

The Taiwan Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) is developing a package of rules to govern the dispatch of home-care workers or health caretakers on a trial basis.

Under the draft rules, the CLA will allow legally registered groups, institutions or non-profit organizations with long-term experience in rendering healthcare services to employ and manage foreign caretakers. Those in need of caretakers can apply for “purchasing caretaker service hours” and the units will dispatch the foreign caretakers to offer the service. In case a 24-hour service is needed, the dispatched foreign caretakers will be arranged to render service in two or three shifts, with the dispatched workers not being required to “live together” with the families they are servicing.

Those who apply for temporary caretaking service will not be required to pay the employment stabilization fee and health and labor insurance premium fee for the dispatched foreign caretakers. Under existing practice, employers of foreign home-care workers or health caretakers are required to pay both fees for the foreign workers they employ as well as provide residence. Foreign caretakers will also enjoy better protection under the proposed dispatching system. Under the Labor Standards Law, they will not be allowed to do jobs other than in-house caretaking service.

CLA officials said that the cost for buying “caretaker service hours” from dispatching units will range between the cost for hiring domestic workers and that for employing foreign ones.

The planned foreign caretaker dispatching system is expected to be put into practice on a trial basis in mid-2011 in selected areas.