MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.: VPT-2012-1714
18 October 2012

TO: All Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Directors of Law Enforcement Service and Traffic Adjudication Service, Chiefs of Traffic Safety Division and Field Enforcement Division, Chiefs of Regional Operations Division, Deputized Law Enforcement Officers, Other Officials and Personnel Concerned

SUBJECT: Guidelines in the enforcement of violations relating to the mandatory wearing of standard protective motorcycle helmets by all motorcycle riders while riding

Pursuant to the provisions of RA No. 10054 and in accordance with DOTC-DTI Joint Administrative Order No. 2011-01, series of 2011, dated 26 December 2011, and to provide for uniform and consistent operating procedures in the apprehension and adjudication of violations relating to the wearing of mandatory standard protective motorcycle helmet by riders and back riders of moving motorcycles, all concerned are hereby directed to observe the following:

1. All motorcycle riders, including drivers and back riders, shall at all times wear standard protective motorcycle helmets while driving, whether long or short drives, in any type of road and highway.

Standard protective motorcycle helmets are appropriate types of helmets for motorcycle riders that comply with the specifications issued by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Types of Helmets

a. Full-face
   - covers the whole head; has a chin bar that extends outwards, wrapping around the chin and jaw area; a plastic face shield (clear or tinted) resting over the cutout eyes and nose section allows access to the face if pushed up.
b. Open-face (3/4)
- covers the back of the skull, but rids itself of the lower chin armor and the face shield, thus allowing for increased airflow, hearing and peripheral vision. Some open face helmets are equipped with visors of various lengths and tints that blocks out sunlight and headlights. As insects debris, dust or wind contact with facial skin, eyes and nose can cause the rider distress or bring about injury, riders may use wrap-around sunglasses or goggles as an additional means of protection.

c. Half-head
- these helmets provide protection by means of a hard outer shell and a crushable inner liner. They do not offer protection for the chin or jaw area and are rarely equipped with visors. The half-headed helmet may or may not have ear flaps attached to the retention system.

Source: DTI-BPS

2. DOTC / LTO enforcers are authorized to stop a moving motorcycle whose driver and/or rider is not wearing any helmet or to inspect the helmet worn which is plainly not a standard protective motorcycle helmet.

3. A motorcycle driver and/or rider wearing a helmet with a PS or ICC mark shall be deemed to be prima facie compliant with RA 10054 and these rules and regulations.

4. If the motorcycle driver and/or rider is not wearing a helmet or if the helmet worn by the motorcycle driver and/or rider has no PS or ICC mark at the time of apprehension, the DOTC/LTO enforcer shall issue the necessary ticket to the motorcycle driver imposing the appropriate penalty and putting
the driver’s license of said driver or rider on alarm until the violation is finally settled.

Wearing helmet with fake PS or ICC mark shall be tantamount to riding a moving motorcycle without wearing helmet.

5. Motorcycle riders shall always ensure that only DTI-approved helmets and visors that are well-fitted and properly fastened shall be used when riding motorcycles.

6. Children shall be discouraged from riding motorcycles and scooters. However, if they are made to, they shall wear certified standard protective motorcycle helmets, and if these are not available, they must wear the best that society can provide.

7. Driving without wearing the mandatory standard protective motorcycle helmet and/or failing to require back rider/s to wear the mandatory standard protective motorcycle helmet at the time of apprehension are punishable as follows:

   A fine of One Thousand Five hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) for the first offense; Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for the second offense; Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for the third offense; and Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), in addition to the confiscation of the driver’s license, for the fourth and succeeding offences, shall be imposed on drivers of motorcycles who fail to wear the standard protective motorcycle helmets or fail to require their backrider/s to wear the standard protective motorcycle helmet. The penalty for driving or riding a motorcycle without any helmet shall be the same as that imposed for driving without the standard protective motorcycle helmet or failing to require his/her backrider to wear the standard protective motorcycle helmet.

8. All provisions of memoranda, orders and circulars previously issued which are in conflict herewith are deemed superseded and/or modified accordingly.

9. This memorandum circular shall take effect fifteen days after the filing of the three (3) copies hereof with the University of the Philippines Law Center, in accordance with Presidential Memorandum No. 11, dated October 9, 1992, and publication thereof in a newspapers of general circulation.

For guidance and strict compliance.