

## EU directives

### The OSH "Framework Directive"

The European Framework Directive on Safety and Health at Work (Directive 89/391 EEC) adopted in 1989 was a substantial milestone in improving safety and health at work. It guarantees minimum safety and health requirements throughout Europe while Member States are allowed to maintain or establish more stringent measures.

In 1989 some provisions of the Framework Directive brought about considerable innovation including the following:

- The term 'working environment' was set in accordance with International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 155 and defines a modern approach taking into account technical safety as well as general prevention of ill-health.
- The Directive aims to establish an equal level of safety and health for the benefit of all workers (the only exceptions are domestic workers and certain public and military services).
- The Directive obliges employers to take appropriate preventive measures to make work safer and healthier.
- The Directive introduces as a key element the principle of risk assessment and defines its main elements (e.g. hazard identification, worker participation, introduction of adequate measures with the priority of eliminating risk at source, documentation and periodical re-assessment of workplace hazards).
- The new obligation to put in place prevention measures implicitly stresses the importance of new forms of safety and health management as part of general management processes.

[National laws implementing Directive 89/391/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

## Workplaces, Equipment, Signs, Personal Protective Equipment

### *Workplaces, equipment, signs, personal protective equipment - OSH directives*

#### [Directive 2009/104/EC – use of work equipment](#)

concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work (second individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 2009/104/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

#### [Directive 1999/92/EC - risks from explosive atmospheres](#)

of 16 December 1999 on minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres (15th individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National measures implementing Directive 1999/92/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

#### [Directive 92/58/EEC - safety and/or health signs](#)

of 24 June 1992 on the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work (ninth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 92/58/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

#### [Directive 89/656/EEC - use of personal protective equipment](#)

of 30 November 1989 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace (third individual directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 89/656/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 89/654/EEC - workplace requirements](#)

of 30 November 1989 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace (first individual directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 89/654/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

***Workplaces, equipment, signs, personal protective equipment - OSH related aspects***

[Directive 2010/35/EU - transportable pressure equipment](#)

of 16 June 2010 on transportable pressure equipment and repealing Council Directives 76/767/EEC, 84/525/EEC, 84/526/EEC, 84/527/EEC and 1999/36/EC.

[National laws implementing Directive 2010/35/EU](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) No 305/2011 - construction products](#)

of 9 March 2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC.

This legal act is a regulation thus applying directly in the Member States - no national implementing measures are required.

[Directive 2006/95/EC - electrical equipment](#)

Directive 2006/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the harmonisation of the laws of Member States relating to electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits.

[National laws implementing Directive 2006/95/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2006/42/EC - new machinery directive](#)

of 17 May 2006 on machinery.

[National laws implementing Directive 2006/42/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2001/95 EC - product safety](#)

of 3 December 2001 on general product safety.

[National laws implementing Directive 2001/95/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 98/37/EC - machinery](#)

of 22 June 1998 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to machinery. End of validity: 28/12/2009 - this directive will be replaced by [Directive 2006/42/EC](#).

[National laws implementing Directive 98/37/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 97/23/EC - pressure equipment](#)

of 29 May 1997 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning pressure equipment.

[National laws implementing Directive 97/23/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 95/16/EC - lifts](#)

of 29 June 1995 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to lifts.

[National laws implementing Directive 95/16/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 94/9/EC - protective systems - potentially explosive atmospheres](#)

of 23 March 1994 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.

[National measures implementing Directive 94/9/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 90/396/EEC - burning gaseous fuels](#)

of 29 June 1990 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to appliances burning gaseous fuels.

[National laws implementing Directive 90/396/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 89/686/EEC - personal protective equipment](#)

of 21 December 1989 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to personal protective equipment.

[National laws implementing Directive 89/686/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 89/106/EEC - construction products](#)

of 21 December 1988 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products.

[National laws implementing Directive 89/106/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 87/404/EEC - simple pressure vessels](#)

of 25 June 1987 on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to simple pressure vessels.

[National measures implementing Directive 87/404/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 85/374/EEC - liability for defective products](#)

of 25 July 1985 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning liability for defective products.

[National laws implementing Directive 85/374/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 84/527/EEC - welded unalloyed steel gas cylinders](#)

of 17 September 1984 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to welded unalloyed steel gas cylinders.

[National measures implementing Directive 84/527/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 84/526/EEC - aluminium gas cylinders](#)

of 17 September 1984 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to seamless, unalloyed aluminium and aluminium alloy gas cylinders.

[National laws implementing Directive 84/526/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 84/525/EEC - seamless, steel gas cylinders](#)

of 17 September 1984 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to seamless, steel gas cylinders.

[National laws implementing Directive 84/525/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 76/767/EEC - pressure vessels](#)

of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to common provisions for pressure vessels and methods for inspecting them.

[National laws implementing Directive 76/767/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 75/324/EEC - aerosol dispensers](#)

of 20 May 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to aerosol dispensers.

[National laws implementing Directive 75/324/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

## Exposure to chemical agents and chemical safety

### *Exposure to chemical agents and chemical safety - OSH directives*

[Directive 2009/161/EU - indicative occupational exposure limit values](#)

of 17 December 2009 establishing a third list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council [Directive 98/24/EC](#) and amending Commission Directive 2000/39/EC (Text with EEA relevance).

[National laws implementing Directive 2009/161/EU](#)

There are further lists on indicative occupational exposure limit values:

- [Commission Directive 91/322/EEC](#) establishing indicative limit values
- [Commission Directive 2000/39/EC](#) establishing a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values
- [Directive 2006/15/EC](#) establishing a second list of indicative occupational exposure limit values

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2009/148/EC - exposure to asbestos at work](#)

of 30 November 2009 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work (Text with EEA relevance).

[National laws implementing Directive 2009/148/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2006/15/EC - indicative occupational exposure limit values](#)

of 7 February 2006 establishing a second list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council [Directive 98/24/EC](#) and amending Directives 91/322/EEC and 2000/39/EC.

[National laws implementing Directive 2006/15/EC](#)

There are further lists on indicative occupational exposure limit values:

- [Commission Directive 2000/39/EC](#) establishing a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values
- [Commission Directive 2009/161/EU](#) establishing a third list of indicative occupational exposure limit values

Indicative limit values for occupational exposure for some chemical substances are listed also in:

- [Commission Directive 91/322/EEC](#) establishing indicative limit values

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2004/37/EC - carcinogens or mutagens at work](#)

of 29 April 2004 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (Sixth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 2004/37/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2000/39/EC - indicative occupational exposure limit values](#)

of 8 June 2000 establishing a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council [Directive 98/24/EC](#) on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work.

[National laws implementing Directive 2000/39/EC](#)

There are further lists on indicative occupational exposure limit values:

- [Commission Directive 2006/15/EC](#) establishing a second list of indicative occupational exposure limit values
- [Commission Directive 2009/161/EU](#) establishing a third list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council Directive 98/24/EC and amending Commission Directive 2000/39/EC

Indicative limit values for occupational exposure for some chemical substances are listed also in:

- [Commission Directive 91/322/EEC](#) establishing indicative limit values

[Further information](#)

[Directive 98/24/EC - risks related to chemical agents at work](#)

of 7 April 1998 on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work (fourteenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 98/24/EC](#)

Individual Directives add further limit values for certain chemical substances:

- [Commission Directive 2000/39/EC](#) establishing a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values
- [Commission Directive 2006/15/EC](#) establishing a second list of indicative occupational exposure limit values

Indicative limit values for occupational exposure for some chemical substances are listed also in:

- [Commission Directive 91/322/EEC](#) establishing indicative limit values

[Further information](#)

[Directive 91/322/EEC - indicative limit values](#)



of 29 May 1991 on establishing indicative limit values by implementing Council [Directive 80/1107/EEC](#) on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work.

#### [National laws implementing Directive 91/322/EC](#)

There are lists on indicative occupational exposure limit values:

- [Commission Directive 2000/39/EC](#) establishing a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values
- [Commission Directive 2006/15/EC](#) establishing a second list of indicative occupational exposure limit values
- [Commission Directive 2009/161/EU](#) establishing a third list of indicative occupational exposure limit values

[Further information](#)

#### ***Exposure to chemical agents and chemical safety - OSH related aspects***

#### [Regulation \(EC\) No 1272/2008 - classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures](#)

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing [Directives 67/548/EEC](#) and [1999/45/EC](#), and amending [Regulation \(EC\) No 1907/2006](#) (Text with EEA relevance).

This legal act is a regulation thus applying directly in the Member States - no national implementing measures are required.

[Further information](#)

#### [Directive 2008/68/EC - inland transport of dangerous goods](#)

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on the inland transport of dangerous goods. This Directive replaces Council Directive 94/55/EC, Council Directive 96/49/EC and Council Directive 96/35/EC.

#### [National laws implementing Directive 2008/68/EC](#)

[Further Information](#)

#### [Regulation \(EC\) No 1907/2006 - REACH](#)

of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and establishing a European Chemicals Agency.

This legal act is a regulation thus applying directly in the Member States - no national implementing measures are required.

[Further information](#)

[Directive 1999/45/EC - classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations](#)

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 1999 concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations.

[National laws implementing Directive 1999/45/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 96/82/EC - major-accident hazards](#)

of 9 December 1996 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substance.

[National laws implementing Directive 96/82/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 95/50/EC - procedures for transport of dangerous goods](#)

of 6 October 1995 on uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road.

[National laws implementing Directive 95/50/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 91/414/EEC - plant protection products](#)

of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

[National laws implementing Directive 91/414/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 67/548/EEC - classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances](#)

of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

*Latest amendments:*

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation \(EC\) No 1907/2006](#)
- [Commission Directive 2009/2/EC of 15 January 2009 amending, for the purpose of its adaptation to technical progress, for the 31st time, Council Directive 67/548/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances](#)

[National laws implementing Directive 67/548/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

## Exposure to physical hazards

### *Exposure to physical hazards - OSH directives*

#### [Directive 2006/25/EC - artificial optical radiation](#)

on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of the workers to risks arising from physical agents (artificial optical radiation, 19th individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 2006/25/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

#### [Directive 2004/40/EC - electromagnetic fields and waves](#)

of 29 April 2004 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of the workers to risks arising from electromagnetic fields and waves (18th individual directive within the meaning of Art. 16(1) of directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 2004/40/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

#### [Directive 2003/10/EC - noise](#)

of 6 February 2003 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (noise) (Seventeenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 2003/10/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

### [Directive 2002/44/EC - vibration](#)

of the of 25 June 2002 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (vibration) (sixteenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 2002/44/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

### [Directive 96/29/Euratom - ionizing radiation](#)

of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation.

[National laws implementing Directive 96/29/Euratom](#)

[Further information](#)

### ***Exposure to physical hazards - OSH related aspects***

### [Directive 2009/71/Euratom - nuclear safety](#)

of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations.

[National laws implementing Directive 2009/71/Euratom](#)

[Further information](#)

### [Directive 2004/108/EC - electromagnetic compatibility](#)

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility and repealing Directive 89/336/EEC.

[National laws implementing Directive 2004/108/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

### [Directive 2003/122/Euratom - radioactive sources](#)

of 22 December 2003 on the control of high-activity sealed radioactive sources and orphan sources.

[National laws implementing Directive 2003/122/Euratom](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2000/14/EC - noise - equipment for use outdoors](#)

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors.

[National laws implementing Directive 2000/14/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

## Exposure to biological agents

[Directive 2000/54/EC - biological agents at work](#)

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work (seventh individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 2000/54/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

## Provisions on workload, ergonomical and psychosocial risks

### *Provisions on workload, ergonomical and psychosocial risks - OSH directives*

[Directive 90/270/EEC - display screen equipment](#)

of 29 May 1990 on the minimum safety and health requirements for work with display screen equipment (fifth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 90/270/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 90/269/EEC - manual handling of loads](#)

of 29 May 1990 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the manual handling of loads where there is a risk particularly of back injury to workers (fourth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 90/269/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

***Provisions on workload, ergonomical and psychosocial risks - OSH related aspects***

[Directive 2003/88/EC - working time](#)

of 4 November 2003 concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time.

[National measures implementing Directive 2003/88/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2002/15/EC - working time - mobile road transport activities](#)

of 11 March 2002 on the organisation of the working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities.

[National laws implementing Directive 2002/15/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2000/79/EC - working time - civil aviation](#)

of 27 November 2000 concerning the European Agreement on the Organisation of Working Time of Mobile Workers in Civil Aviation. Concluded by the Association of European Airlines (AEA), the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), the European Cockpit Association (ECA), the European Regions Airline Association (ERA) and the International Air Carrier Association (IACA).

[National laws implementing Directive 2000/79/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

## **Sector specific and worker related provisions**

***Sector specific and worker related provisions - OSH directives***

[Directive 2010/32/EU - prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector](#)

of 10 May 2010 implementing the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU (Text with EEA relevance).

[National laws implementing Directive 2010/32/EU](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 94/33/EC - young workers](#)

of 22 June 1994 on the protection of young people at work.

[National measures implementing Directive 94/33/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 93/103/EC - work on board fishing vessels](#)

of 23 November 1993 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for work on board fishing vessels (thirteenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 93/103/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 92/104/EEC - mineral-extracting industries](#)

of 3 December 1992 on the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in surface and underground mineral-extracting industries (twelfth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 92/104/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 92/91/EEC - mineral-extracting industries - drilling](#)

of 3 November 1992 concerning the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in the mineral-extracting industries through drilling (eleventh individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 92/91/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 92/85/EEC - pregnant workers](#)

of 19 October 1992 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (tenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National measures implementing Directive 92/85/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 92/57/EEC - temporary or mobile construction sites](#)

of 24 June 1992 on the implementation of minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile construction sites (eighth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

[National laws implementing Directive 92/57/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 92/29/EEC - medical treatment on board vessels](#)

of 31 March 1992 on the minimum safety and health requirements for improved medical treatment on board vessels.

[National laws implementing Directive 92/29/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 91/383/EEC - fixed-duration or temporary employment relationship](#)

of 25 June 1991 supplementing the measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of workers with a fixed-duration employment relationship or a temporary employment relationship.

[National laws implementing Directive 91/383/EEC](#)

[Further information](#)

***Sector specific and worker related provisions - OSH related aspects***

[Directive 2008/104/EC - temporary agency work](#)

of 19 November 2008 on temporary agency work.



[National laws implementing Directive 2008/104/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2006/54/EC - equal opportunities](#)

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation.

[National laws implementing Directive 2006/54/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2002/73/EC - equal treatment](#)

of 23 September 2002 amending Council Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions.

[National laws implementing Directive 2002/73/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2000/78/EC - equal treatment](#)

of 27 November 2000, establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation.

[National laws implementing Directive 2000/78/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

[Directive 2009/38/EC - establishment of a European Works Council](#)

of 6 May 2009, on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees.

[National laws implementing Directive 2009/38/EC](#)

[Further information](#)

## EU Guidelines

### The OSH Framework Directive

#### [Guidance on risk assessment at work \(Directive 89/391/EEC\)](#)

This guideline was originally addressed to the Member States to be adapted for help and advice for employers, workers, safety experts and further parties who deal with the instrument of workplace risk assessment in practice. But it will also help employers and the mentioned company stakeholders to fulfill their duties as laid down in the [Framework Directive 89/391/EEC](#).

The document describes how the strategies for identification of hazards and control of the risks should be based on the participation and consultation of all those who work at the workplace, which especially includes workers and their representatives. Despite the fact that the guideline was published in 1996 its general provisions are still up-to-date and in line with current good practice.

#### [Improving quality and productivity at work - Community strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work](#)

The European Commission proposes in its Communication a strategy for promoting health and safety at work in the European Union from 2007 to 2012. The overall objective of the strategy is to reduce by 25% the total incidence rate of accidents at work per 100 000 workers in the EU 27 in the mentioned period.

In order to achieve this goal the European Commission proposes:

- to ensure the proper implementation of EU legislation, especially by supporting SMEs in the implementation and by adapting and simplifying the legal framework;
- to promote the development and implementation of national strategies;

- to encourage changes in the behaviour of workers and to encourage employers to adopt health-focused approaches;
- to finalise the methods for identifying and evaluating new potential risks;
- to improve the tracking of progress;
- to promote health and safety at international level.

In its [Resolution of 25 June 2007](#) the Council welcomed the Commission Communication on a new Community strategy on health and safety at work (2007-2012).

## Workplaces, equipment, signs, personal protective equipment

### [The increasing use of portable computing and communication devices and its impact on the health of EU workers](#)

Portable computing and communication devices (portable IT) such as portable digital assistants PDAs, laptop computers, smart phones, tablet personal computers are widely used by workers in different occupations and their use is increasing.

This report highlights possible effects of frequent use of portable computing and communication devices on health and safety of workers: both physical and psychological health effects due to portable IT use are covered. Furthermore, the report tries to characterise current and future patterns of portable IT use (types of work, working patterns, working environments, categories of workers, disruption to personal life).

The report also includes options for management and legislation to try and compensate for the possible negative health effects of the use of portable computing and communication devices.

### [Non-binding guide to good practice for implementing Directive 2001/45/EC \(Work at a height\)](#)

"How to choose the most appropriate work equipment for performing temporary work at a height?" is the subtitle of this guide published by the DG Employment.

Given that work at a height exposes workers to the risk of falling, this guide presents various non-binding examples of good practice in connection with the practical application of European Parliament and Council Directive 2001/45/EC (which amends [Directive 89/655/EEC](#)) concerning the minimum health and safety requirements for workers' use of

work equipment provided for temporary work at a height, in particular scaffolds, ladders and ropes, which are the equipment most commonly used to perform such work, in combination with [Framework Directive 89/391/EEC](#) and Directives [89/655/EEC](#), [95/63/EC](#), [89/656/EEC](#), [92/57/EEC](#) and [92/58/EEC](#).

This guide is chiefly designed to help employers, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, to select and use work equipment correctly on the basis of a risk assessment, and according to the type and duration of work and ergonomic constraints. It contains many good practice examples, which have either been selected from the guides existing in the EU Member States or been specially designed for this guide. It lists the relevant European directives, European standards (EN) and a list of relevant national guides in this area.

The manuscript of the guideline was completed in September 2006.

#### [Non-binding guide to good practice for implementing Directive 1999/92/EC "ATEX" \(explosive atmospheres\)](#)

Fortunately, explosions and flash fire accidents are not the most common causes of accidents at work. However, their consequences are spectacular and dramatic in terms of human lives lost and economic costs. Explosion hazards may arise in all undertakings which work with flammable substances. These include many input materials, intermediate products, final products and wastes from the routine work process.

The guide is primarily intended to assist Member States in drawing up their national policies for the protection of the health and safety of workers. Its aim is thus to enable the employer, particularly in small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to perform the following explosion protection functions:

- to identify hazards and assess the risks;
- to lay down specific measures to safeguard the safety and health of workers at risk from explosive atmospheres;
- to ensure a safe working environment and appropriate surveillance during the presence of workers in accordance with the risk assessment;
- to take the necessary steps and make the necessary arrangements for coordination when several firms are operating at the same workplace;
- and to produce an explosion protection document.

This guide to good practice should be used in conjunction with Directive [1999/92/EC](#) (on minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers potentially at risk from explosive atmospheres), the Framework Directive [89/391/EEC](#) and Directive [94/9/EC](#) (on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres). The manuscript of the guide was completed in April 2003.

#### [Framework agreement on telework](#)

In the context of the European employment strategy, the European Council invited the social partners to negotiate agreements modernising the organisation of work, including flexible working arrangements, with the aim of making undertakings productive and competitive and achieving the necessary balance between flexibility and security.

This is a European agreement negotiated and implemented by the social partners (ETUC, UNICE, UEAPME and CEEP). The agreement defines telework and sets up a general framework at European level for teleworkers' working conditions. It recognises that teleworkers are afforded the general protection granted to workers based on the employer's premises and highlights key areas where the specificities of telework need to be taken into account.

The agreement was signed in 2002 and was to be implemented within three years of the date of signature. A European report was to be prepared on the basis of national reports within four years of the signing of the agreement: See the [working paper COM\(2008\) 412 final](#) taken from EUR-Lex.

## **Exposure to chemical agents and chemical safety**

#### [A practical guide on best practice to prevent or minimise asbestos risks](#)

The practical guide provides information on the identification of asbestos and asbestos products and raises awareness of the asbestos presence. It describes good practice on asbestos removal (e.g. dust suppression, enclosure and protective equipment) and the handling asbestos-cement products and waste. Furthermore, the guideline encourages the use of protective equipment and clothing, taking into account human factors.

This guideline is made for employers (e.g. regarding technical, organisational and personal safety and health protection), employees (e.g. regarding information about protective measures, workers' training, OSH motivation) and labour inspectors (e.g. regarding key aspects during inspection visits).

The Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) prepared this guideline together with the European Social Partners (trade union and employers representatives) and the Advisory Committee for Safety and Health at Work (ACSH) in 2006.

Note: The manuscript was completed well before the release of Directive 2009/148/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work, thus it does not serve as a direct guideline for the latest legislation.

[!\[\]\(5175b0946d4ad1a69e290d1b32c3697c\_img.jpg\) Practical guidelines of a non-binding nature on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work](#)

[Directive 98/24/EC](#) sets out minimum standards on health and safety for those working with chemical agents. Aiming to facilitate compliance in the EU Member States, this book outlines practical guidelines on how to implement the rules. The 250 pages guideline provides practical tools on:

- how to measure and evaluate air concentrations
- risk assessment
- general principles of protection and prevention
- surveillance of the health of workers exposed to lead.

The documents contains information on labelling and safety data sheets of chemical products, occupational limit values and biological limit values and information on the hierarchy of prevention measures. The Annexes are on R(isk) and S(afety) phrases, simplified risk assessment methodologies, industrial examples and quantitative evaluation. 150 pages deal with the measurement methods for chemical agents listed in [Directive 2000/39/EC](#). Annex 6 is on the analytical methods sheets for lead in air and blood.

[!\[\]\(58aaccfcff658c16531437808ecd66ca\_img.jpg\) Agreement on Workers Health Protection through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products containing it](#)

The Agreement aims at:

- protection of health of Employees and other individuals occupationally exposed at the workplace to Respirable crystalline silica from materials/products/raw materials containing crystalline silica.
- minimisation of exposure to Respirable crystalline silica at the workplace by applying the Good Practices stipulated herein in order to prevent, eliminate or reduce occupational health risks related to Respirable crystalline silica.
- increasing the knowledge about potential health effects of Respirable crystalline silica and about Good Practices.

Employers will report the application/Non-application of the agreement bi-annually.

Employers and employees representatives formed the council to improve safety and health at work concerning crystalline silica. The network (NEPSI) page is available at: [European Network for Silica - NEPSI](#)

Good practice guides on risk management are available at: Good Practice Guide on Workers Health Protection through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it - NEPSI

[Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee - Regulatory aspects of nanomaterials \[SEC\(2008\) 2036\]](#)

The present Communication reflects on the commitment of the European Commission to review EU legislation in relevant sectors in order to ensure that all applications and use of nanosciences and nanotechnologies must comply with the high level of public health, safety, consumers and workers protection, and environmental protection chosen by the Community.

It covers nanomaterials currently in production and/or placed on the market. In the absence of generally accepted definitions, the term nanomaterials is used in this Communication to cover commonly used terminology such as manufactured (or engineered) nano-sized and nanostructured nanomaterials. The Communication does not address nanomaterials or nanoparticles that occur naturally or are unintentionally produced, e.g. in combustion.

It follows the political framework established in the Commission's Communication [“Nanosciences and nanotechnologies: an action plan for Europe 2005 – 2009”](#) and the Communication [“Towards a European Strategy for Nanotechnology”](#), in which the

Commission states that R&D and technological progress need to be accompanied by scientific investigation and assessment of possible health or environmental risks associated with nanotechnology.

[!\[\]\(3d8c13c92b853674f749aac6fa869926\_img.jpg\) Commission staff working document accompanying document to the communication from the Commission on Regulatory aspects of nanomaterials](#)

This Commission staff working document provides a description of elements of selected EU legislation that seems most relevant and likely to apply to nanotechnologies and nanomaterials. It served as a basis for the conclusions presented in the [Commission Communication on Regulatory Aspects of Nanotechnologies COM\(2008\) 366 final](#).

It does not provide a detailed and full description of all directives and regulations that might be applicable, but highlights some main features, illustrating how provisions apply to nanomaterials. In further work based on the Commission's Communication, it can be used in addition to detailed analyses of potential regulatory gaps have been or will be made available by various Member States.

[!\[\]\(fa6f3af6bfa46c5d4a2d362681095beb\_img.jpg\) ECHA Guidance](#)

This website assists industry and authorities to understand their obligations under [REACH](#) and provides guidance on how to fulfil them. It contains 5 main elements:

1. About REACH gives an overview of the processes foreseen by REACH, its scope and the main obligations of the actors involved in REACH
2. Navigator is an IT-tool to help industry determine its obligations under REACH
3. Guidance documents provides the Guidance Documents on REACH processes and methods, to be used by industry and authorities
4. Formats contains the key templates that industry and authorities can use in the context of REACH (e.g. format for Chemical Safety Report, format for Substance Evaluation Report, formats for Annex XV dossiers)
5. Legislation contains different legislative texts related to EU chemicals policy, in particular the REACH Regulation in all official languages of the EU.

Parts of this website are accessible in all languages of the European Community.

[!\[\]\(e1c624d4757f08486e89482c18364c17\_img.jpg\) Labelling and Safety Data Sheets \(CLP\)](#)



A supplier must label his / her substances or mixtures in accordance with the CLP rules before he places them on the market. Labelling means to inform all those who handle the chemical about its hazards. Furthermore, a supplier must provide a Safety Data Sheet to his industrial customers in the supply chain when hazardous substances and mixtures are involved. Headlines:

- Labelling according to CLP
- New pictograms on chemical products
- Specific labelling and packaging situations
- Requests for use of an alternative chemical name
- Safety Data Sheets

## Exposure to physical hazards

### [Evaluation of the implementation of radiation protection measures for aircrew](#)

The Number 156 issue of the Radiation protection series provides a brief introduction into the subject including scientific information on cosmic radiation, typical exposure to air crew, measurement of cosmic radiation, and modeling of exposure to air crew, as well as the legal background. An extended chapter of the report contains a compilation of information on national legislation, use of dose registers, and operational implementation of the regulation for each country included in the study.

The study was launched in 2006, the 196 pages report was published in 2009.

### [Non-binding guide to good practice for implementing Directive 2006/25/EC 'artificial optical radiation'](#)

The [Directive 2006/25/EC](#) on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of the workers to risks arising from physical agents (artificial optical radiation) aims at improving the safety and health of workers by laying down limit values for exposures of workers to artificial optical radiation to eyes and skin (exposure to natural optical radiation / sunlight are not covered by this Directive).

The non-binding guide to good practice for implementing [Directive 2006/25/EC](#) provides information on the sources of artificial optical radiation, their health effects from exposure to optical radiation as well as the requirements of the Directive. Additionally, the use of

exposure limits, risk assessment, the measurement of optical radiation as well as the use of manufacturers' data, control measures and health surveillance are described in the non-binding guide.

#### [Technical recommendations for monitoring individuals occupationally exposed to external radiation](#)

The purpose of these technical recommendations is

- to provide guidance on those aspects of the implementation of the European Union Parliament and Council Directives (e.g. [Council Directive 96/29/EURATOM](#)) which are directly related to individual monitoring of external radiation, and
- to encourage harmonisation regarding individual monitoring of external radiation.

The technical recommendations aim primarily at the management and staff of European individual monitoring services, but it is also useful for manufacturers, laboratories supplying type testing services and for national approval authorities trying to harmonise approval procedures.

These technical recommendations for monitoring individuals occupationally exposed to external radiation cover:

- objectives and aims of individual monitoring for external radiation
- dosimetry concepts
- assessment of uncertainty
- accuracy requirements
- calibration, type-testing and performance testing
- approval procedures
- quality assurance and quality control and
- dose record keeping.

Furthermore, special attention is paid to wider energy ranges for the use of personal dosimeters, the use of active personal dosimeters, data protection as well as the basis for criteria and procedures for mutual recognition within the EU of approved dosimetry services.

✚ [Non-binding guide to good practice for the application of Directive 2003/10/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the minimum safety and health requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents \(Noise\)](#)

This good practice guide explains how workers' exposure to noise at work can be reduced or avoided. Targeted at Member States, industries and other interested bodies, it describes how to follow [Directive 2003/10/EC](#) on the minimum safety and health requirements regarding workers' exposure to the risks arising from noise. In addition, a specific chapter presents practical and specific provisions to help workers and employers in the music and entertainment sectors, where workers are particularly exposed to very high noise levels. The manuscript was completed in 2007.

✚ [Non-binding guide to good practice with a view to implementation of directive 2002/44/EC on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents \(vibrations\)](#)

The Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission published in 2008 an over hundred pages guideline on the implementation of [Directive 2002/44/EC](#).

This non-binding “guide to good practice” is to facilitate the assessment of risks from exposure to hand-arm and whole-body vibrations, the identification of controls to eliminate or reduce exposure, and the introduction of systems to prevent the development and progression of injury.

Part I is a guide to good practice on hand-arm vibration, and Part II is on whole-body vibration. Chapters are introduction, evaluation of risk, removing/avoiding or reducing exposure and health surveillance. There are annexes (responsibilities, information materials, tools on calculations, examples, health surveillance techniques, glossary, bibliography) and alphabetical indices for the document.

✚ [Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields \(0 Hz to 300 GHz\)](#)

The Council recommendation of 12 July 1999 is based on a Commission proposal which used the ICNIRP ([International Committee on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection](#)) "Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electro-magnetic fields (up to 300

GHz)" as the scientific basis. It addresses the Member States: In order to provide for a high level of health protection against exposure to electromagnetic fields they should

- assign to the physical quantities listed in Annex I.A the meanings given to them therein;
- adopt a framework of basic restrictions and reference levels using Annex I.B as the basis;
- implement measures according to the given recommendations;
- aim to achieve respect of the basic restrictions given in Annex II for public exposure.

In 2002 the Commission issued an [implementation report](#) on the Council recommendations. It states that Community actions have contributed to ensure a higher level of protection of the public from exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and gives an overview on how far the recommendations have been taken into account in the EU Member States.

## Exposure to biological agents

### [✚ The European Guidelines for Control and Prevention of Travel Associated Legionnaires' Disease](#)

Although the page focuses on travel associated Legionnaires' disease, there are valuable documents that can be used in prevention of risk at work. The guidelines outline a standard approach to control and prevention of travel associated Legionnaires' disease across all European countries.

Parts 3-4 of the guidelines are technical and are written for engineers and people involved with maintenance of water systems in hotels and other buildings.

There are Supplements with occupational health and safety aspects:

- Technical Guidelines for the Control and Prevention of Legionella in Water Systems includes detailed information on type of risk system and their design and construction, operation, maintenance, treatment, cleaning and disinfection, biocides and the protection of associated personnel.
- Treatment methods for cooling systems, hot and cold water systems and spa pools.

The document was produced by members of the European Surveillance Scheme for Travel Associated Legionnaires' Disease and the European Working Group for Legionella Infections, updated in 2005.

## Provisions on workload, ergonomical and psychosocial risks

### [European agreement on the reduction of workers' exposure to the risk of work-related musculo-skeletal disorders in agriculture](#)

In 2005, the social partners in agriculture, the Employers' Group of Agricultural Organisations in the EC (GEOPA-COPA) and the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT) signed the agreement on the reduction of workers' exposure to the risk of work-related musculo-skeletal disorders in agriculture.

They intend to propose certain initiatives as well as setting up prevention policies with regard to work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) in the professional agricultural sector (European observatory of agricultural workers' health and safety, centralisation of national statistical data, coordination of policies for the prevention of MSD, organisation of national information and training programmes / information campaigns, implementation of best practices).

### [Framework agreement on harassment and violence at work](#)

In 2007 the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC/CES), the Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE), the European Association of Craft Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME) as well as the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises of General Economic Interest (CEEP) signed the framework agreement on harassment and violence at work.

The aim of the agreement is to:

- increase the awareness and understanding of employers, workers and their representatives of workplace harassment and violence,
- provide employers, workers and their representatives at all levels with an action-oriented framework
- to identify, prevent and manage problems of harassment and violence at work.

### [Framework agreement on work-related stress](#)

In 2004, the European Trade Union Confederation, the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe, the European Association of Craft Small and Medium-sized Enterprises as well as the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of

Enterprises of general Economic Interest signed the framework agreement on work-related stress.

The actors aim at increasing the awareness and the understanding of work-related stress. Furthermore, employers and workers are provided with a framework to identify and prevent problems of work-related stress.

The framework agreement does not deal with violence, harassment and post-traumatic stress.

In different chapters the description of stress / work-related stress, the identification of problems of work-related stress, the responsibilities of employers and workers as well as the reduction and prevention of problems of work-related stress are described briefly.

[Accord-cadre sur le stress au travail \(Proposition finale conjointe du 27 mai 2004\)](#)  
[\(Traduction libre: seul le texte anglais fait foi\)](#)

[Implementation of the European autonomous framework agreement on work-related stress, 2008.](#)

[Report on the implementation of the European social partners' Framework Agreement on Work-related Stress SEC\(2011\) 241 final](#)

 [Implementation of the European autonomous framework agreement on work-related stress](#)

In 2004, the European Trade Union Confederation, the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe, the European Association of Craft Small and Medium-sized Enterprises as well as the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises of general Economic Interest signed the framework agreement on work-related stress.

Within the framework of their joint working programme (2006-2008), the social partners agreed upon an evaluation of the implementation of the framework agreement.

They came to the conclusion, that the implementation of the framework agreement was an added value in the field of work-related stress and the development of the social dialogue.

 [Guidance on work-related stress. Spice of life or kiss of death](#)

In 1999, the European Commission published a guidance on work-related stress. That guideline provides an overview of the background of work-related stress (the extend of

stress, work-related stressors, causes of stress, health aspects), the challenges (responsibilities and actions of the employer) and measures for the prevention of work-related stress (risk assessment tools, primary prevention for individuals, instruction and training) on 120 pages.

## Sector specific and worker related provisions

### [Occupational health and safety risks in the healthcare sector - Guide to prevention and good practice](#)

The focus of this guideline is to present up-to-date technical and scientific knowledge regarding the prevention of the most significant risks in healthcare (especially biological, musculoskeletal, psychosocial and chemical risks), and to support the implementation of the relevant European Union directives. Practical instruments to support employers in identifying the risks for the safety and health of their employees and to guide the implementation of preventive measures in their healthcare facilities are outlined and clarified on 284 pages. Content:

1. Prevention and health promotion as a management task
2. How to carry out a risk assessment
3. Biological risks
4. Musculoskeletal risks
5. Psychosocial risks
6. Chemical risks

The manuscript was completed in December 2010.

### [Non-binding guide to good practice for understanding and implementing Directive 92/57/EEC on the implementation of minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile construction sites](#)

The [Directive 92/57/EEC](#) on the implementation of minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile construction sites lays down minimum OSH requirements for construction sites at which building or civil engineering works are carried out. Furthermore,

it aims at preventing risks at construction sites by establishing a chain of responsibility linking all the parties involved.

The non-binding guide for understanding and implementing [Directive 92/57/EEC](#) provides further information on the Directive and provides good practice suggestions and examples. This guide aims at assisting all parties involved in construction: clients, designers, coordinators, project supervisors, contractors, workers, suppliers and others. It is broken down as follows:

- Chapter 1: general principles of prevention
- Chapter 2: OSH requirements - duties and roles of stakeholders and the required documentation
- Chapter 3: typical hazards and risks during construction work
- Chapter 4: risk management throughout the duration of construction projects (from project preparation to post-construction stage)
- Chapter 5: summary of the duties of each stakeholder during the construction project

#### [Framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare](#)

In 2009 the European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM) and the European Public Services Union (EPSU) signed the framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare.

The agreement aims to:

- achieve the safest possible working environment for employees in the hospital and healthcare sector,
- protect workers at risk,
- prevent injuries to workers caused by all types of sharp medical objects and instruments which are able to cut and/or prick,
- set up an integrated approach to assessing and preventing risks as well as to training and informing workers.

#### [Council recommendation of 18 February 2003 concerning the improvement of the protection of the health and safety at work of self-employed workers](#)



The Council recommendation of 18 February 2003 is based on a Commission addresses the Member States. In order to improve safety and health of self-employed workers, the Member States should:

- promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases of self-employed workers,
- choose appropriate measures (legislation, incentives, information campaigns, encouragement of relevant stakeholders) for safety and health promotion,
- carry out measures to provide information and advice on the prevention of accidents and diseases,
- take the measures for the access to sufficient training,
- support easy access to that information and training without excessive expenses for the self-employed workers,
- provide measures for the access to health surveillance.

[Guidelines on the assessment of the chemical, physical and biological agents and industrial processes considered hazardous for the safety or health of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding \(92/85/EEC\)](#)

This Communication from the Commission is a brief guideline drafted in 2000 aiming to help the implementation of [Council Directive 92/85/EEC](#) (on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding). The purpose of the guidelines is to serve as a basis for the assessments referred to in the above Directive because conditions which may be considered acceptable in normal situations may no longer be so during pregnancy.

The introduction deals with the approach to risk assessment, legal background and specific points to be stressed.

The following chapters enlist duties for employers concerning risk assessment and ways of avoiding risks - taking them one by one (in categories: generic hazards, physical, chemical, biological agents and working conditions). All they are in a tabular format with headings:

- List of agents/working conditions
- What is the risk?
- How to deal with the risk, Examples of preventive measures
- Other European legislation.

The Annex lists the aspects of pregnancy which may require adjustments to work organisation.

[✚ Commission Recommendation concerning the European schedule of occupational diseases](#)

The document published in 2003 recommends Member States to introduce national legislation on scientifically proved occupational diseases, and compensation, prevention and statistical data collection thereof.

Diagnostic criteria of diseases is in the publication [Information notices on occupational diseases: a guide to diagnosis](#).

Annex I (European schedule) contains diseases that must be linked directly to the occupation.

Annex II is an additional list of diseases suspected of being occupational in origin which should be subject to notification and which may be considered at a later stage for inclusion in Annex I to the European schedule.

[Information notices on occupational diseases: a guide to diagnosis](#)

This document is intended to serve as a guide for clinicians, occupational health practitioners, hygienists, scientists, social partners, national authorities, and other health professionals with a responsibility and/or interest in the diagnosis of occupational diseases. The 280 page document contains information on entries listed on Annex I of the [European Schedule of Occupational Diseases](#). A structured approach with specific concepts has been used to determine the causal relationship between an exposure and a specific effect (disease).

The document states key criteria for diagnosing an occupational disease for each of the entries of the European Schedule of Occupational Diseases. Alphabetical index helps the reader to find the relevant information. <http://osha.europa.eu/sk/legislation>