



# Screening: Occupational Safety & Health

## Workplaces (general)

DG EMPL, unit B3 Health and Safety

*These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union*

## Framework and Individual Directives

- Carcinogens
- Biological Agents
- Chemical Agents
- Physical Agents:
  - Noise
  - Vibrations
  - EMF
  - Optical Radiation

Manual Handling of Loads

- Asbestos



Framework  
Directive  
89/391/EEC

- Workplaces
  - Work Equipment, Scaffolding
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - Display Screen Equipment
  - Safety Signs
- 
- Construction Sites
  - Mineral-extracting Industries
  - Drilling in Mineral-extracting Industries
  - Fishing Vessels
  - Explosive Atmospheres
  - Sharp injuries

## **Council Directive 89/654/EEC: minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace (First Individual Directive)**

Relation between Individual Directives and Framework Directive?

- The provisions of the Framework Directive remain fully applicable without prejudice to more restrictive and/or specific provisions contained in the individual directives.
- Adjustments of Individual Directives of a strictly technical nature: the Commission shall be assisted by a Committee (regulatory committee) – Article 17 of Directive 89/391/EC (this procedure will be aligned with the Treaty of Lisbon and the adjustments will be carry out under the procedure of delegated acts)

# *1. Objective*

- *Prevention of work accidents and occupational diseases*
- *Ensure decent working conditions*

## 2. Key provisions

Scope of application: **no application** to

- Means of transport outside establishment and workplaces in transport means
- Temporary and mobile work sites
- Extractive industries
- Fishing boats
- Land, fields and woods of agricultural/forestry undertakings

- **Wide definition of "workplace"** comprising any place intended to house workstations on the premises of an undertaking or establishment AND any other place within the area of the undertaking/establishment to which the worker has access in the course of his/her employment
- **Technical maintenance and cleaning** of workplace and equipment, checks of safety devices ... (See Article 6)
- The **annexes** provide for detailed rules regarding a number of issues (stability, emergency routes, doors, fire-fighting equipment, ventilation, room temperature, lightning...)

- Annex I for all workplaces used first time after 31/12/1992 AND all modifications, extensions and conversions of existing workplaces after that date
- Annex II refers to workplaces in use before January 1993.

### **3. Implementation**

- Many different aspects – from application to enforcement
- Practical implementation will require major support to companies, in particular micro and SME, and require the mobilization of financial resources
- Technical expertise and guidance to be developed (reference values, technical standards)
- Competent authorities to ensure proper and effective enforcement



## **Directive 2009/104/EC** - minimum safety and health requirements for the **use of the work equipment** by workers at work (2<sup>nd</sup> Individual Directive)

### **1. Key objective**

Improve the level of protection of workers and prevent accidents occurring from the use of work equipment

### **2. Key provisions**

- Wide scope: covers any machine, tool, apparatus, installation
- Employer to ensure suitability of work equipment
- Selection of work equipment according to specific working conditions and hazards in the undertaking and additional hazards caused by the use of work equipment
- Work equipment: must comply with EU standards on work equipment and must be adequately adapted and maintained.

**Annexes** - I specific requirements; II provisions on the use of work equipment.

### **3. Implementation**

Information and assistance to enterprises for the choice of equipment

Competent bodies for an efficient inspection which can require technical assistance

# **Directive 89/656/EEC** - minimum health and safety requirements for the **use of personal protective equipment (PPE)** – (3rd Individual Directive)

## **1.Key objective**

To prevent risks at work by the use of adequate personal protective equipment

## **2. Key provisions/definitions**

Definition of PPE

- Use of PPE as a LAST resort: technical means and measures of work organization and collective protection measures prevail
- Assessment of PPE, training and demonstration of PPE
- Establishment of general rules for use of PPE

## 2. Key provisions (cont.)

Indicative Annexes I (specimen of risk), II (list of items), III (list of activities and sectors) provide guidance for establishing such rules on use

**Annexes** – I risk survey template; II non-exhaustive list of PPE items; III non-exhaustive list of activities and sectors that may require use of PPE

## 3. Implementation

- Raising workers' awareness on use of PPE
- Assistance to undertakings (SME) for the selection of adequate PPE

# Directive 90/269/EEC - manual handling of loads (4<sup>th</sup> individual Directive)

## 1. Objective

To lay down minimum health and safety requirements for the manual handling of loads, particularly where there is a risk of back injury.

## 2. Key provisions

- Defines the manual handling of loads involving a risk for workers.
- Employer to ensure safe manual handling of loads
- Use mechanical devices
- Conduct risk assessment.
- Provide information and training to workers
- Annexes contain reference information on load characteristics and the working environment, the required physical effort, activity requirements and individual risk factors.

### **3. Implementation**

*Member States implemented the Directive in the most suitable way*

- social consequence
- economic consequences
- Improvements in working conditions can be secured when the Directive is enforced by labour inspection bodies throughout the European Union in a equivalent way

# Directive 90/270/EEC - display screen equipment (5<sup>th</sup> individual Directive)

## Objective

To set minimum health and safety requirements for work with display equipment





## 2. Key provisions

### Scope of application: **no application to**

- drivers' cabs or control cabs for vehicles or machinery
- computer systems on board a means of transport
- computer systems mainly intended for public use
- 'portable' systems not in prolonged use at a workstation
- calculators, cash registers and any equipment having a small data or measurement display required for direct use of the equipment
- typewriters of traditional design, known as 'typewriter with window'.

## 2. Key provisions (cont'd)

### *Obligations of Employer*

- carry out a risk assessment – analysis of the workstation
- remedy any risks to eyesight, physical problems or problems with mental stress
- plan activities to ensure sufficient breaks and interruptions from workload at the screen
- provide sufficient training in use
- make available to all employees appropriate eyesight tests at regular intervals
- provide special corrective appliances where appropriate at no additional costs to the employees

### 3. Implementation

- To take into account the state of the art, occupational medicine, hygiene and other findings of ergonomic analysis;
- Consult standards

### 4. Relevant case-law

The regular eye tests for which the Directive provides are to be carried out on all workers to whom the directive applies and those workers are entitled to an ophthalmologic examination in all cases where the eye and eyesight test carried out pursuant to **Article 9(1)** shows that this is necessary – joint cases **C-74/95** and **C-129/95**

## **Directive 92/58/EEC** - minimum health and safety requirements for the provision of safety and health signs at work (9th Individual Directive)

### **1. Key objective**

- To prevent accidents at work and occupational diseases by using adequate signs;

### **2. Key provisions**

- Signs where hazards cannot be adequately reduced by collective protection or means of work organisation
- Annex provides details as to use and characteristic of different types of signs and contains pictogram models

### **3. Implementation**

- Positive impact of the introduction of safety signs in the light of workers' movement within the EU.

# Thank you for your attention!