

National Action Programme for Occupational Safety and Health 2008 - 2009

Approved at the 16th Session of the Government Council for Occupational Safety and Health,
10 December 2007

Introduction

The National Action Programme for Occupational Safety and Health, 2008-2009 (hereinafter referred to as the “National OSH Programme”) is a short-term programme document of the Government Council for Occupational Safety and Health. It elaborates on the details of plans set forth in the National Policy for Occupational Safety and Health, approved by Government Resolution No. 475, of 19 May 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the “National OSH Policy”), and meets the goals of the National OSH Policy Priorities for the years 2007-2008, approved by the Government Council at its 12th Session, on 8 December 2006. The proposed National OSH Programme builds on the preceding National OSH Programme for 2007 and adopts proposals for measures that flowed out of the evaluation of that programme’s fulfilment.

In addition to the tasks arising from the documents approved in the previous period at the national level, the National OSH Programme also contains current short-term and medium-term tasks, which are scheduled to be initiated in 2008 and 2009, and which are directed toward fulfilling the “Community Strategy 2007—2012 on Safety and Health at Work” (hereinafter referred to as the “Community Strategy”), adopted by the European Union to improve quality and productivity at work.

This medium-term Community Strategy, with due regard for new conditions in the world of work and the expected developments in society, has set forth the following main priorities for the 2007 - 2012 period:

- Prevent high losses for the economy and society in general caused by workplace accidents and occupational diseases;
- Fulfil the right of employees to satisfactory working conditions and workplace culture, and contribute to increasing the work capacity of each worker, and the prevention of early withdrawal from the labour market;
- Strengthen competitiveness and productivity, and increase economic performance, by improving working conditions and motivating employers and employees to support economic growth and employment.

The primary goal of the Community Strategy is the sustained reduction of workplace injuries and occupational diseases, striving to achieve a 25% reduction in the incidence of workplace accidents in the EU by 2012. In order to fulfil this goal, on the national level, priority must be given to the implementation of a set of measures that will contribute to raising the level of compliance with legal regulations, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises and in high-risk sectors.

In the revised National OSH Policy, which should be approved during the first half of 2008, special attention will be paid to the following issues, in line with the Community Strategy:

- Increasing the preventative effects of health surveillance (the effectiveness of prevention within the framework of providing preventive health care in the workplace);
- Coping with social and demographic changes (the ageing of the population and longer productive lives);

- New trends in employment (self-employment, outsourcing, and migration);
- Measures in favour of the rehabilitation and reintegration of workers excluded from the labour market for an extended period, due to [work-related injuries], occupational illness, or disability;
- More effective enforcement of legal regulations (inspection authorities);
- Enhancing the coherence of other national policies, with the aim of reducing the loss for society in general, due to damage to health caused by work (occupational safety and health, education, public health, employment, and competitiveness);
- Integrating occupational safety and health protection topics into training and educational programmes;
- Integrating occupational safety and health issues into business management systems (primarily SMEs – motivation, technical assistance, economic incentives, and the role of employee representatives);
- Identification of new and emerging risks (set priorities for research and development);
- Support for mental health in the workplace (primarily the prevention of stress and violence in the workplace).

When setting forth the concrete measures of the National OSH Programme for 2008 – 2009, the above-mentioned priorities were taken into account, and such goals were set as could be realistically fulfilled in a two-year, short-term horizon, or for which the conditions have already been created for commencing their execution.

In anticipation of the Czech EU Presidency in the first half of 2009, tasks relating to the preparation and implementation of activities related to occupational safety and health in the upcoming period have been integrated into the National Programme for Occupational Safety and Health for 2008 – 2009.

A. Legislation

Goals:

In order to meet the goals of the National OSH Policy, and in accordance with the Community Strategy, it is essential to create the necessary conditions to motivate and support all those concerned with the prevention, safety, and protection of occupational health, to ensure accessible and high-quality workplace health services; to reduce the socio-economic effects of damage to health caused by work, through targeted rehabilitation and reintegration into the labour market, following accidents and occupational diseases; and to create the conditions for the effective functioning of state inspections in the area of workplace health and safety. To ensure the fulfilment of these tasks, the following must be addressed in the legislative sphere:

Priorities:

- Expedite a reassessment of the system of employee accident insurance, complete its legal regulation, and launch its implementation in practice.
- Draft proposals for the legal regulation of workplace healthcare.
- Finish the work on the proposed legal regulation of the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Measures:

1. Draw up a schedule of further steps in the introduction of a system of employee accident insurance.

Responsibility: MLSA

In cooperation with: MH, CMA

Deadline: 30 June 2008

2. Elaborate a proposal for the legal regulation of health care in companies, which will include, above all, a specification of its content, scope, financing, and quality control, including ensuring preventative healthcare for students in their practical preparation for their occupations, and in assessing their health capacity in career selection.

Responsibility: MH

In cooperation with: MLSA, MF, Social Partners, Society of Occupational Medicine and the Czech Society for Adolescent Medicine of the Czech Medical Society of J. E. Purkyně

Deadline: 31 December 2008

3. Elaborate a proposal for the legal regulation of the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Responsibility: MLSA

In cooperation with: MH, MEYS

Deadline: 31 December 2008

4. Elaborate a proposal of the bill on the safe operation of selected high-risk technical equipment.

Responsibility: MLSA, CMA

In cooperation with: MIT, MT, MI, MD

Deadline: 31 January 2009

5. Elaborate draft legal regulations to ensure the safety and health of children, pupils, and students in schools and school facilities, during education and during related activities in the provision of educational services.

Responsibility: MEYS

In cooperation with: MLSA, MH

Deadline: 31 March 2009

6. Prepare an analysis of the responsibilities imposed on institutes of higher education to ensure the safety and health of students, arising from the Act on Institutions of Higher Education, and the application of current legal regulations concerning the health and safety protection of students during their schooling. Propose necessary legal, organisational, and methodological measures.

Responsibility: MEYS

In cooperation with: MLSA

Deadline: 30 November 2008

7. Specify the term “child’s, pupil’s or student’s absence from school and educational facilities”, by amending the Ministry of Education’s Regulation No. 64/2005 Coll., on Reporting Injuries to Children, Pupils, and Students.

Responsibility: MEYS

In cooperation with: MLSA

Deadline: 31 December 2008

8. Continue in the creation of a uniform terminology for the area of occupational safety and health, prepare a schedule of work, technical, and organisational measures, and involve the concerned professional entities in cooperation.

Responsibility: MLSA

In cooperation with: MH, MIT, CMA, SANS, Social Partners

Deadline: Ongoing 2008 - 2009

9. Prepare a proposal for ratifying the International Labour Organisation’s Convention No. 81 of 1947, on Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce, and Convention No. 129, on Labour Inspection in Agriculture.

Responsibility: MLSA

In cooperation with: MH, CMA, MIT, MA

Deadline: 31 December 2008

10. Draft of a proposed Government regulation, issuing an updated List of Occupational Diseases.

Responsibility: MH

In cooperation with: Society of Occupational Medicine and the Society of Occupational Diseases of the Czech Medical Society of J. E. Purkyně

Deadline: 31 December 2008

11. Prepare a draft of the regulation specifying Section 347 of the Labour Code regarding the definition of being threatened by an occupational illness.

Responsibility: MH

In cooperation with: MLSA, Society of Occupational Medicine and the Society of Occupational Diseases of the Czech Medical Society of J. E. Purkyně

Deadline: 31 December 2008

B. Economic Tools for the Support of Occupational Safety and Health

Goal:

In accordance with the priorities of the Community Strategy, and in order to fulfil the goals of the National OSH Policy, secure appropriate resources and means for economic incentives for the improvement of occupational safety and health, primarily at the company level, as well as resources for the support of activities and entities in the area of prevention and rehabilitation.

Measures:

12. Prepare, and put before the Government Council for Occupational Safety and Health for deliberation, a proposal for securing financial resources for occupational safety and health prevention and post-traumatic rehabilitation, for the period prior to the implementation of an accident insurance system.

Responsibility: MLSA

Drafting: Government Council Working Group

In cooperation with: MF, MLSA, MH, MIT, CMA, Social Partners

Deadline: 30 April 2008

13. Analyse the usability of EU resource financing programmes within the competency of the MIT and MRD, for the purpose of supporting projects by small and medium-sized businesses focused on occupational safety and health.

Responsibility: MIT, MRD

In cooperation with: MLSA, MH, CMA

Deadline: 30 September 2008

14. Prepare a proposed methodology for undertaking a cost/benefit analysis at the company level, including a proposal of its effective implementation in business practice.

Responsibility: MLSA, MH, MF

In cooperation with: Social Partners, professional institutions

Deadline: 30 October 2008

15. Regularly make known and assess the participation of the Czech Republic in grants announced by the European Commission through the PROGRESS programme, aimed at working conditions and occupational safety and health.

Responsibility: MLSA

Deadline: Twice per year

C. Information System

Goal:

To fulfil the priorities of the Community Strategy to reduce the incidence of occupational accidents, establish measurable indicators and goals for reducing the number of work-related accidents and occupational diseases, primarily for selected categories of workers (for example, high-risk sectors and professions, and types of entities). Create the conditions for implementing the planned the European Commission and Council Regulation on Statistical Information Systems in the area of Occupational Safety and Health.

Measures:

16. With the goal of improving the effectiveness of the activities of state administrative bodies and improving the quality of the planning and coordination of preventative activities in the area of occupational safety and health, prepare a proposal for interconnecting the information sources of administrative offices (containing data from the areas of safety at work, health protection, prevention of serious accidents, fire protection, and environmental protection) technically, organisationally, and legislatively.

Responsibility: MLSA, MH, CMA, MT, ME

In cooperation with: MI, MD, MT, MIT

Deadline: 31 December 2008

17. At the Government Council for Occupational Safety and Health, discuss developments and status regarding accidents in the workplace and at school, injuries to students undergoing vocational training, and occupational diseases, and propose concrete steps concerning prevention, publicity, and public awareness.

Responsibility: Relevant ministries and state administrative bodies

Deadline: Annually

D. Research and Development

Goals:

In accordance with the Community Strategy, research into new and emerging risks, primarily on the prevention of psychosocial risks, musculoskeletal disorders, the incidence of hazardous chemical agents, reproductive risks, risks associated with nanotechnology, new forms of work organisation, deficiencies in the management of occupational safety and health at the company level, the issues relating to the reintegration into the labour market of workers

following injury and illness in the workplace, and aspects of the equality of women and men. Special attention should be directed to the resolution of problems arising from social and demographic changes (the ageing of the population and prolongation of active age).

Measures:

18. Implement the occupational safety and health research and development priorities approved for the period 2008–2010.

Responsibility: MLSA, MH, MEYS

In cooperation with: CMA, MT, MI, MD

Deadline: 2008 - 2010

E. Training and Education

Goal:

Integrate occupational safety and health into training and educational programmes; improve the level of education concerning occupational safety and health in preparation for future employment, education at the company level, and the education of specialists.

Measures:

19. Undertake an analysis of the current extent of the incorporation of occupational safety and health matters into the Czech educational system, and, on the basis of this analysis, prepare appropriate measures.

Responsibility: MEYS, MLSA

In cooperation with: CMA, MT, MH, MI, MD, Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions

Deadline: Tasks for the 2008 - 2010 period

F. Consulting, Public Education, and Promotion

Goals:

Within the framework of increasing the level of occupational safety and health, simplify access to professional consulting, primarily for small and medium-sized enterprises. Ensure the creation and provision of simple risk assessment tools and occupational safety and health handbooks for various groups of users, and disseminate examples of good practice.

Measures:

20. Assist in increasing the level of occupational safety and health and improving working conditions through the use of prevention programmes of auditing and supervisory bodies such as “Bezpečný podnik” (Safe Company), “Podnik podporující zdraví” (Company Promoting Health), and “Zlatý Permon” (Golden Gnome). Promote these programmes in Europe.

Responsibility: Auditing bodies of the MLSA, supervisory bodies of the MH, CMA

Deadline: Ongoing

G. Promotion and Enforcement of Compliance

Goal: Ensure more effective implementation, promotion, and enforcement of legal regulations through inspection bodies; focus attention on new employment trends (self-employment, outsourcing, and migration) and increase the effectiveness of prevention in the area of occupational health protection. To achieve these goals, ensure effective cooperation with the entities involved in the area of occupational safety and health at the national and regional levels (state bodies, Social Partners, self-governing entities, professional institutions, and others).

Measures:

21. Elaborate a concept of the activities of all of the inspection bodies engaged in occupational safety and health in the Czech Republic, in connection with the priorities of the Community Strategy; put that before the Government Council for deliberation; and adopt specific measures for ensuring the effective implementation, promotion, and enforcement of compliance with legal regulations in the area of occupational safety and health.

Responsibility: MF, MLSA, MH, CMA, MEYS, MI, MD, SANS, ME

Deadline: 30 June 2008

22. In accordance with the approved principles for the regional cooperation of state occupational health and safety inspection bodies, representatives of employers and employees, bodies of self-governing entities, and professional institutions, continue in the preparation of a network of regional commissions and inform the Government Council of the progress of the work.

Responsibility: Auditing bodies of the MLSA, supervisory bodies of the MH, CMA, self-governing entities (MI)

In cooperation with: Social Partners, professional institutions

Deadline: 30 June 2008

H. Domestic and International Cooperation

Goal: In cooperation with institutions and Member States of the European Union, focus primarily on ensuring the preparation of a successful execution of activities in the area of occupational safety and health during the Czech Republic's EU Council Presidency in 2009.

Measures:

23. Put before the Government Council for Occupational Safety and Health for deliberation, activities proposed for the area of occupational safety and health within the framework of the preparations for, as well during, the Czech Republic's EU Presidency, including proposals for their implementation.

Responsibility: MLSA, MH, MEYS, CMA, MD, MI, MRD, MIT, MF, SANS

In cooperation with: Social Partners

Deadline: 31 March 2008

24. Execute European campaigns focused on the area of occupational safety and health, in close cooperation with concerned governmental ministries and Social Partners, for example, the European Campaign on Risk Assessment.

Responsibility: Auditing bodies of the MLSA, supervisory bodies of the MH, CMA

In cooperation with: Social Partners

Deadline: Ongoing

25. Participate in the activities of the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion, within the “Move Europe” project, a campaign to improve the promotion of occupational health, oriented on a healthy lifestyle in Europe, and within the “Support for Good Practice for Mental Health in the Workplace” project, and coordinate nationwide campaigns for employers focusing on employees’ healthy lifestyles.

Responsibility: MH

In cooperation with: Social Partners

Deadline: Ongoing

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

CMA	Czech Mining Authority
MA	Ministry of Agriculture
MD	Ministry of Defence
ME	Ministry of the Environment
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport
MF	Ministry of Finance
MH	Ministry of Health
MI	Ministry of the Interior
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MRD	Ministry for Regional Development
MT	Ministry of Transport
SANS	State Authority for Nuclear Safety