

AUSTRIA. INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Title of the inspection activities: **National inspection campaign on carcinogens**

Duration of the inspection activities: **2017-2019**

Aim of the inspection activities: **The aim was to raise awareness and provide information to businesses on this topic while simultaneously achieving higher legal compliance. Potential risks should be identified and minimized, and effective and meaningful protective measures should be defined and implemented. Another aim was to collect, prepare, and publish practical solutions for dealing with carcinogenic work substances. The long-term goal is, of course, to reduce the number of occupational cancer cases. Since (occupational) cancer often develops only decades after exposure to carcinogenic work substances, this goal can only be measured in the long term.**

Scope of the inspection activities:

The visits were conducted in two waves of 300 businesses each.

The first wave, from mid-2017 to mid-2018, targeted businesses known to use certain carcinogenic substances due to mandatory health monitoring. A follow-up-visit/success check was performed a few weeks later in 20 percent of these businesses.

The second wave, between fall 2018 and spring 2019, focused on businesses selected based on insights from the first wave regarding the use of specific substances in work processes and industries. Success checks were also conducted following these visits.

Sector covered by inspections:

1st wave: stratified sample over most sectors with "high preknowledge" due to mandatory health monitoring

2nd wave: certain branches in coordination with the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board, eg.: health institutions (Cytostatic drugs, formaldehyde, surgical fumes; attention also to nurses, carers and cleaning personnel), transport and parcel services and other providers (diesel fumes), laundries for workwear, stainless steel pool builders, renovation of chimneys, etc.

The number of establishments inspected in the framework of the activities: **600**

The number of labour inspectors involved in implementing the inspection activities: **35**

The number of persons involved in supervising the implementation of the inspection activities (including development of inspection documents and summarizing results of inspections): **3**

Short summary of the outcome of the inspection activities: **The results showed that 51% of businesses complied with limit values for carcinogens, 39% were unaware of their compliance**

status, and 10% exceeded these limits. On average, 16 employees per workplace were exposed to carcinogenic substances. Training on handling these substances was conducted in 94% of cases, but only 73% of these were deemed sufficient. Work clothing was stored separately in 83% of cases and cleaned by employers in 72%. Only 38% of businesses without mandatory health monitoring had records of exposed employees, and just 31% had complete records. In the second wave, 10% of businesses did not use carcinogenic substances, showcasing good practice examples of substituting dangerous substances with safer alternatives. Some businesses achieved significant improvements quickly with simple measures, such as reducing worktable sizes and improving exhaust systems. However, only 5% could completely replace carcinogenic substances with non-carcinogenic ones. Follow-up checks showed that 78% of identified issues were resolved. The results highlight gaps in compliance and awareness, especially concerning exposure levels and adequate training. Continuous efforts and targeted measures are essential to improve safety and reduce the risk of occupational cancer. Documentation and resources are available on the labor inspectorate website to support businesses in implementing these measures effectively.

No.	question	yes/no	comment
Inspection activity			
A. Selecting priority areas for inspection			
1.	What sources of information did you use in selecting the priority area for inspection?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> external database of occupational diseases (please specify) Austrian Workers' Compensation Board <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others (please specify) EU-OSHA Campaign on Managing Dangerous Substances, EU Roadmap on Carcinogens
2.	What was the main reason for selecting the inspection priority area?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high morbidity rates of occupational diseases <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommendations from international institutions (which ones?) EU-OSHA Campaign on Managing Dangerous Substances
3.	What was defined as priority area?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a particular sector(s) of economy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a particular hazard(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-compliance with legal requirements concerning labour relations/working conditions
4.	What was the predominant aim of workplace inspections?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to examine the problem <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to provide the inspected entities with information on legal requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to provide the inspected entities with information on how to ensure compliance with legal requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to enforce compliance with the law in the inspected entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to achieve a measurable effect, e.g. in the form of reduced accident rate, morbidity rate, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others (please specify) To collect good practical solutions

5.	How did you determine the number of entities to be inspected?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the percentage of the overall number of inspections planned in a given year 10% of all inspection activity should be on target campaigns (multiple national target campaigns share this percentage)
6.	What was taken into consideration when determining the number of inspections to be carried out by individual field offices (regions):		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the number of entities typical of a given programme in the region; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the number of inspectors carrying out inspection tasks in a given region;
7.	Were IT tools used to identify the priority area in the described inspection campaign?		- a brief description of IT tools Labour inspections database on work sites and activities - the type of data: - occupational diseases - type of branch - number of employees
B. Determining the time span of inspection activities			
9.	How was the breakdown of inspections planned? Were the inspections carried out:		
b)	as a series of intensified inspections in predetermined short periods of time		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> two inspection periods during the campaign;
10.	What was the average duration of a workplace visit conducted in the framework of the programme implementation (the time it took to complete inspection activities at an individual establishment)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> within one day, between 2 and 4 hours;
11.	What was the average duration of the activities carried out in the office of the labour inspectorate (excluding the penal and administrative sanctions)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> within one day, no longer than 2 hours;
C. Selecting establishments for inspection.			

12.	What criteria were used when selecting establishments for inspection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the number of workers employed in conditions specifically relating to the subject of the campaign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> personal knowledge of labour inspectors who supervise particular workplaces (groups of workplaces) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sectoral criterion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others records of health monitoring
13.	What sources of information were used when selecting establishments for inspection?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> inspectorate's own database <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> databases of insurance institutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> labour inspectors' knowledge of workplaces
D. Provision of staff for carrying out inspections		
15.	What group of inspectors was involved in the inspection activities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a select team of inspectors was involved based on their education and experience: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> between 10% and 30% of the staff
16.	How were inspectors prepared for the inspection activities (additional training)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> additional training was provided by the same person (the same team) for all labour inspectors involved in the campaign;
18.	What materials were at the inspectors' disposal during the activities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the rationale of the inspection activities; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> description of the inspection activities' objectives; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> checklists; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> description of the reporting requirements; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> specialist, issue-related materials (applied technologies, machinery, equipment and tools, existing hazards and legal provisions); <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> promotional and communication materials for employers;
19.	Did labour inspectors use IT tools when carrying out activities within the described inspection campaign?	- IT tools were used : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for labour inspector's preparation for an inspection at a specific inspected entity

			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> when summarizing and documenting the results of the inspection in a specific inspected entity - as a support the labour inspector in preparation for an inspection Reviewing previous activities at this worksite - summarizing and documenting the results of the inspection Digital result documentation
E. Involvement of other regulators, institutions, authorities for labour protection and social partners in the implementation process.			
20.	Can other regulators, institutions, authorities for labour protection and social partners submit their proposals of inspection topics to the inspectorate's plan of work?		In this case: AUVA
22.	Was there any cooperation between the labour inspectorate and another regulator, institution, authority for labour protection or social partner?		AUVA, (Austrian workers comensation board)
23.	At which stage was the cooperation with another regulator, institution, authority for labour protection or social partner initiated?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at the planning stage; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at the communication stage regarding the onset of the inspection activity; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at the implementation stage of the activity; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at the stage of popularizing the information about the results of the inspection activity;
24.	What did the cooperation with another regulator, institution, authority for labour protection or social partner involve?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participation in preparation of supplementary materials for labour inspectors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others:

			Austrian Workers' Compensation Board had their own information campaign "Gib Acht, Krebsgefahr", coordination as a part of the Austrian Occupational Safety and Health Strategy ,synergies where used (information material)
25.	Are there any legal requirements obliging other regulators, institutions, authorities or social partners to make their data accessible to the labour inspectorate for inspection needs?		Institutions and the type of accessible data: Data on accidents and occupational diseases (Austrian Workers' Compensation Board)
26.	Does the labour inspectorate have direct online access to information and data collected by other bodies, institutions and authorities?		Institutions and the type of accessible data: Data on accidents and occupational diseases is automatically transmitted
27.	What information obtained in the above manner was used for implementing the inspection campaign?		Cooperating institutions and the type of data used in the described inspection campaign: Data on occupational diseases
F. Supporting inspection activities with training provided for employers or workers (combining inspection and educational activities)			
G. Monitoring the implementation of inspection activities			
31.	Was the implementation of inspection activities in any way monitored and coordinated?		Number of people involved in monitoring and coordination of the inspection activity 3 The function of those persons in relation to labour inspectors who implemented the activity national coordinator at the labour inspectorate's headquarter, collection and evaluation of data

32.	What was the scope of monitoring and coordinating actions regarding the inspection activity?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> assistance in solving problems: over the phone, via email, formally (official correspondence), <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monitoring the implementation level of the developed quantitative plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monitoring the implementation level of the developed qualitative plan (how?) Feedback loops and qualitative analyses of the inspection results
33.	Were IT tools used to carry out monitoring and coordination activities as part of the described inspection campaign?		- IT tools were used to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> assist labour inspector in solving problems related to inspection carried out within the inspection campaign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monitoring the implementation level of the developed quantitative plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monitoring the implementation level of the developed qualitative plan (how?) Digital Inspection activity records
H. Communicating the information about inspection campaign and its results.			
34.	Did you develop any plan to communicate the information about the inspection activities to:		
a)	stakeholders in the sector covered by the inspection activity ?		The scope of information of the communication plan Coordination with Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (see 24.) information campaign
b)	the general public?		The scope of information of the communication plan AUVA's information were for the general public. We had an intense cooperation on

			the development and detailed contents of the information
35.	What was the scope of information communicated to:		
b)	the general public?		What are the risks, which measurement are possible
36.	How was the information about the inspection activities communicated to stakeholders and the general public?		All ongoing national inspections campaigns can be found at our website along with information material. Social partners are informed of all our national inspection campaigns in advance.
I. Evaluating the results of the inspection activities. Evaluation methods and tools.			
37.	How were the results of inspection campaign evaluated?		
a)	based on a checklist		Most of our inspections campaigns (also this one on carcinogens) have checklists with specific details about the inspection topics (hazards, etc..).
b)	based on the number of legal measures issued		All of these measurements are used in evaluating a inspection campaign and gather results and insights for future activities
c)	based on the type of legal measures issued		
d)	based on the number of implemented legal measures		
e)	based on the type of implemented legal measures		
38.	How was the information about the effects of inspection campaign obtained (e.g. about the elimination of irregularities, introduction of higher standards)?		
a)	information provided by the employer		The form of information provided by the employer We oblige employers to inform us about the elimination of irregularities within a

			<p>certain time frame (depending on the nature of the irregularity)</p> <p>Was the information provided by employers randomly verified by labour inspectors?</p> <p>At this campaign we conducted a relative high number of follow-up-visits (20% of the worksites for both waves)</p> <p>What is the employer's liability for providing false information?</p> <p>In general we file a charge with the administrative penal authority, if shortcomings ascertained are not remedied within a fixed or extended period.</p>
b)	information provided by the labour inspector who conducted the next inspection at the workplace		<p>The form of the information provided by the inspector</p> <p>General consultation , information materials, collection of good-practice examples (2nd wave)</p>
39.	What performance indicators were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the inspection campaign?		Follow up-inspections and number of remedied flaws
40.	Were IT tools used to assess the effectiveness of the inspection campaign?		<p>- IT tools were used to:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> provide compilations of data on the basis of which the inspection campaign was assessed</p>
41.	How were the project effects evaluated?		
a)	Was any final summary evaluation of the inspection task (inspection campaign) made?		<p>The scope of evaluation</p> <p>Every national inspection campaign is concluded by an end report. End reports of inspection campaigns are published on our website.</p>
b)	Were partial assessments made during the inspection activity?		The frequency and scope of such assessments

			After the first wave, due to the results the questionnaire was updated
c)	Did you prepare a formal document with evaluation of the inspection activity after its completion?		The name of the entities which conducted external evaluation. By the Central-Labour Inspectorate The aspects of the evaluation included in the formal document. You can find all information including the end report here
42.	How was the final document utilized in practice?		End reports of inspection campaigns are published on our website.