



National OSH Inspection campaigns in Cyprus by the Department of Labour Inspection (DLI)

CYPRUS

- The Cypriot Department of Labour Inspection (DLI) has used the questionnaire not to describe a specific inspection campaign but to explain the general rules regarding how the inspection campaigns are planned, conducted, monitored and assessed in Cyprus. All the inspection campaigns conducted by the Cypriot labour inspectorate are focused on ensuring compliance of employers with national OSH legislation and targeting high-risk workplaces, where occupational accidents and diseases prevail.



OVERVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

The main aims of the inspection campaigns in Cyprus are: compliance of employers with relevant OSH legislation, minimizing of work accidents, dangerous occurrences, and occupational diseases. All inspection activities are described in the two year OSH Inspection Programme, which includes monthly, bimonthly or 3-month long specific inspection campaigns. The number of establishments inspected varies according to the targeting of the specific inspection campaigns.



PLANNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

Different sources of information are used in selecting the priority area for inspection – national sources (Labour Inspectorate's own database of workplace accidents, previous inspections and complaints) as well as European (EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027, SLIC recommendations, e.g. evaluation of Labour Inspection System in Cyprus of 2019, SLIC inspection campaigns). High rates of workplace accidents, including fatal and serious accidents, and guidelines from other state authorities determine selecting the inspection priority area. A particular sector of economy or a specific hazard is usually defined as a priority area.



ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The inspections are carried out in the framework of the specific campaign as a series of intensified inspections in predetermined short periods of time. Each labour inspector who is dealing with OSH issues at work is expected to carry out 192 inspections per year, that means approximately 16 inspections per month. During the months where there is a predetermined campaign, inspectors are expected to conduct 5 out of the 16 inspections on entities in the framework of the campaign. The majority of the labour inspectors participate in OSH inspection campaigns. Inspectors carrying out activities in the framework of campaigns are equipped with: checklists, specialist, issue-related materials, examples of reactive actions to be taken by inspectors upon identification of typical cases of non-compliance, information about the rules of programme evaluation, promotional and communication materials for employers.

Regarding the organisation, implementation and monitoring of each campaign, a Labour Inspection Officer at the DLI's headquarters is appointed as the central coordinator. The head and a coordinator at each of the 5 district labour inspection offices are also engaged. For each campaign, the NACE codes of the Economic Activity Sectors falling within the scope of the campaign are selected and relevant workplaces are recorded and sent to the 5 district labour inspection officers for inclusion in the campaign. Prior to the conduct of each inspection campaign, relevant information is uploaded to the DLI's website to inform all employers, employed persons and other interested parties. Social partners are also informed, in order to disseminate relevant information to their members throughout Cyprus.

CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT

The following legal measures are taken into consideration when evaluating the effectiveness of the campaign: infringement letters, notices of improvement and/or prohibition, extrajudicial fines, penal prosecutions. These indicators are compared with the results of the previous years. A campaign report is then prepared internally in the DLI. The following aspects with regard to the campaign are included in the report: target, publicity, observations, results, comments and suggestions. The comments and suggestions of the final report are taken into consideration when preparing the assumptions for the campaign of the following year.