



Targeted inspection focus on the use of carcinogens-mutagens in the working environment

ESTONIA

- **DURATION:** January – February **2024**
- **SECTOR:** : manufacture of furniture and technical inspection points for cars
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTED ENTITIES:** **72** (with 2589 employees)
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTORS ENGAGED IN THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES:** **12**



OVERVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

The main objective of the targeted inspections was to raise awareness of the hazards associated with carcinogenic chemicals and work processes and to prevent health risks. During the inspections carried out in the framework of the campaign, the inspectors identified 435 infringements, 166 of which were formalised as written precepts, which meant that more than 7 calendar days were needed to remedy them.



PLANNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

The priority area of the campaign was selected on the basis of analyses of the research results presented by the National Institute for Health Development. The research report was titled 'Estimation of the number of occupational cancer cases in Estonia'. A particular hazard in a specific sector was defined as priority area of the campaign – it was exposure to wood dust in manufacturing of furniture and exposure to diesel exhaust in car's maintenance.

Estonian labour inspectorate does not have regions but it was planned to cover whole Estonia's territory by inspection activities to get objective picture. IT tools were used to identify the target group of inspected entities: information on economic sector, number of employees, location, exposure to CMR in labour inspectorate's database was taken into account.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Inspections were carried out throughout the whole two months period of the campaign. The duration of the inspection activities carried out in the inspected entity in the framework of the campaign was between 2 and 4 hours. As well as the duration of the activities carried out in the office of the labour inspectorate.

A task force group consisting of 12 inspectors was established in the labour inspectorate. Inspections conducted within the framework of the campaign were assigned to the task force group. The rationale and the description of the inspection activities, as well as the checklists, were at the inspectors' disposal during the inspection activities. Notice letters were sent to entities selected for inspections.

Two people – leading senior labour inspector and head of the unit – were involved in the monitoring and coordination activity. They assisted labour inspectors in solving problems and monitored the implementation level of the quantitative and qualitative plan through the labour inspectorate's IT tools.

Cooperation between the labour inspectorate and employers' associations was initiated at the stage of popularizing the information about the results of the inspection activity performed in the framework of the campaign. Special meeting and thematic events were organized for employers' organizations after inspections. Also radio podcasts were issued.

CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT

Results of inspection campaign were evaluated on the basis of checklists provided, of number and type of legal measures issued and implemented by the employers after inspections. Inspected employers informed inspectors on their follow-up activities. 10% of the entities were covered by the follow-up inspections. Results of the above-mentioned inspections were also taken into account in the evaluation of the campaign.