



Thematic inspection in companies whose employees were diagnosed with an occupational disease for the first time in 2019

LATVIA

- **DURATION:** November 2020
- **SECTOR:** various industries
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTED ENTITIES:** 161
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTORS ENGAGED IN THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES:** 60



OVERVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

The main objective of the inspections carried out within the framework of the campaign was to check what actions and preventive measures the employer had taken at the workplace after being informed by the State Labour Inspectorate that an employee had been diagnosed with an occupational disease. A total of 71% of the inspections were carried out in companies with more than 50 employees. It was found that 81% of the inspected employers had taken technical measures to improve the working conditions of employees with occupational diseases, 72% of the employers reduced the workload of these persons, 37% of the employers transferred employees to other jobs where exposure to harmful working environment factors was excluded.



PLANNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

The priority area of the campaign was chosen on the basis of the State Labour Inspectorate's own database on occupational diseases. Specific occupational hazards and the associated incidence of occupational diseases were prioritised. The number of confirmed occupational diseases in the previous year was taken into account when selecting companies for inspection. In Latvia, there are 5 regional units of the State Labour Inspectorate, and usually for the purposes of campaigns, the number of companies to be inspected is evenly distributed among all regions. If there are no employers in a region to be covered by a particular campaign, then labour inspectors from a particular regional unit carry out more inspections under another campaign in order to meet the targets set jointly for all units of the SLI. At the planning stage of the campaign, cooperation was also initiated between the State Labour Inspectorate and the employers' unions, which had the opportunity to make suggestions on the organisation of the office's campaign activities.



ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Inspections were carried out consistently throughout the campaign. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, inspections were carried out largely remotely, so it is difficult to determine the average duration of inspection activities carried out at the inspected entity and activities at the State Labour Inspectorate office. All inspectors were involved in the inspection activities. At the inspectors' disposal during the inspection activities were checklists and a description of the reporting requirements. Two persons were involved in monitoring and coordination activities, who prepared: checklists, information on how to carry out inspections, lists of companies to be inspected, the campaign schedule and – at the final stage – a summary of the campaign. They were also responsible for downloading the checklist in the State Labour Inspectorate's IT system. They assisted the labour inspectors in solving problems and monitored the level of implementation of the quantitative plan.

CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT

The effects of the campaign were assessed on the basis of checklists, the number and type of legal measures issued by labour inspectors. A summary of the campaign was included in the State Labour Inspectorate's annual report. The results of the activities were also communicated during promotional events (e.g. seminars) organised by the SLI.