



Strategy for the inspection of chemical risks in the working environment

POLAND

- **DURATION:** 2022-2024
- **SECTOR:** multisectoral inspections targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTED ENTITIES:** 2022 – 807 entities, 2023 – 1011 entities
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTORS ENGAGED IN THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES:** labour inspectors specialised in chemical safety from all SLI local units – approx. 50 people



OVERVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

The State Labour Inspection adopted, as one of the three key priorities for its 2022-2024 activities, inspection and supervision in the area of broadly understood chemical safety when producing, using and storing chemical substances and mixtures in various sectors of economic activity. During this initiative particular attention was paid to the monitoring of chemical agents harmful to health in the work environment and to relevant measures taken by employers to minimise occupational exposure and thus to reduce adverse health effects.



PLANNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

The SLI Strategy for the inspection of chemical risks in the working environment fits into EU lines of action regarding the protection against harmful effects on health of chemical substances and their mixtures. This corresponds both with the objectives of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and with the EU priorities, as set out by SLIC, for the enforcement of OSH legislation on chemical risks. This strategy also responds to the European challenges defined in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment.



ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Inspections conducted in Poland by the State Labour Inspection covered issues regulated by the EU REACH and CLP Regulations, as well as protection of workers exposed to chemical substances and mixtures of carcinogenic or mutagenic effect, which present a particular health risk. Inspections concerned groups of chemicals for which there are separate regulations, i.e. biocidal products, explosives for civil use and pyrotechnic products. They also covered exposure to asbestos dust as a chemical substance for which the maximum permissible concentration in the work environment has been defined. Additionally, inspections broadly covered occupational safety and health in specific economic sectors of industry, as regards workers' exposure to hazardous and harmful chemical agents, and workplaces with a potential explosive atmosphere due to the substances and mixtures used, as well as establishments with a potentially high risk of a serious industrial breakdown.

CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT

The activities conducted under the SLI Strategy were connected, among others, with the ongoing national legislative amendments (closely related to the direction of setting the values of hygiene standards in the EU) and contributed to fast responding in terms of increasing the level of safety of those working in specific areas where new hygiene standards apply – in Poland referred to as maximum permissible concentration. The comprehensive inspection and monitoring activities in the area of chemical safety resulted in the improved working conditions achieved through increased knowledge of regulations and compliance, which benefits the health of workers exposed to harmful chemical agents in the work environment.