



Protecting workers from the risk associated with heat damage

ITALY

- **DURATION:** August 2022
- **SECTOR:** agriculture, floriculturists and construction



OVERVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

The main objective of the inspection campaign was to intensify prevention and control activities on heat risk in order to prevent serious and fatal accidents at work. The campaign included the inspection of industries such as agriculture, floriculture and construction, as particularly vulnerable to the effects of high temperatures in the summer period.



PLANNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

The priority area was selected because of the exceptionally high temperatures recorded during the summer, which prompted actions aimed at preventing risks associated with high temperatures in workplaces organised in the open air. The planned inspection activities were aimed both at making sure that the inspected entities were compliant with the applicable legislation and at bringing about visible, positive changes – such as a reduction in the number of accidents and occupational diseases. In selecting the entities to be inspected, labour inspectors were guided by personal knowledge of the supervised workplaces, reports received, as well as criteria combining location and sector of activity (e.g. in the case of florists in certain regions of the country). IT tools based on a system of notifications of planned construction projects, which include basic information about the investment and the participants in the construction process, were used to identify the target group of inspections at construction sites. Thanks to the digital registration of these notifications, it was possible to quickly and efficiently identify areas and entities with a higher risk of heat-related hazards.



ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The campaign was organised as a series of inspections carried out evenly throughout the period of planned activities. The number of inspections and the selection of specific entities to be inspected were determined by the labour inspection territorial offices, which took into account the workload of the office staff and the number of available inspectors. All labour inspectors were involved in the implementation of the campaign. During the implementation of the inspection campaign, labour inspectors used their own knowledge of inspected entities, as well as external databases such as 'INFOCAMERE'. Complementary external resources such as business catalogues and information from mass media were used. The implementation of the project was supported operationally by giving the inspectors a detailed operational note with instructions and directives. A brochure was also available to the labour inspectors, which provided information to help them understand and control the risks associated with heat hazards.

CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT

There was no detailed analysis or formal evaluation of the effectiveness of the inspection campaign in the form of a report. The effectiveness of the project was mainly based on reports from labour inspectors, who were able to issue prescriptions to correct the irregularities found during the inspections and to draw up reports on irregularities.