



Healthy work

Activities of the occupational safety and health authority in Finland / Occupational hygiene



Photo: Anu Pynnönen



Activities are prioritized
by setting out the strategic goals

“ Our strategic goals



Working conditions

- Our aim is to reduce the occurrence of accidents, occupational diseases and work-related health hazards.
- We promote safety management at workplaces to achieve permanent changes.

Fair working life

- Our aim is to reduce uncertainty in working life and promote fair competition.
- Our focus is on actors that do not observe the rules of working life or are not aware of them.
- Particularly vulnerable groups, such as young people and foreign workers, are taken into account in supervision.

Psychosocial workload

- We ensure that employers take measures needed to identify and manage psychosocial workload.
- We promote cooperation between workplaces and occupational health care in the identification, prevention and reduction of negative psychosocial workload.



The impact of operations

- The impact of occupational safety and health divisions is achieving a goal-oriented change at workplaces so that work in Finland is as safe, healthy and fair as possible



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How the inspections are targeted

How to target our activities?

- Data mining is used to find and combine information on the potential targets for enforcement of the occupational health and safety legislation. Information is gathered from various databases in order to find the right targets for the enforcement.
- Customer segmentation is used as a framework in the targeting of activities. The same employer may belong to different segments in different phenomena.
- We will continue to develop methods we use for targeting our activities.



Data mining

The OSH authority's own data on employers include data from the previous OSH enforcement: The objects of supervision, inspections carried out and operational obligations given.

We utilize also advance notifications of construction work, advance notifications of asbestos work and notifications of posted workers.

The OSH authorities own data is combined with national building permit data, the data from the register of workers exposed to carcinogenic agents and the data on the notified food premises and their inspection results.



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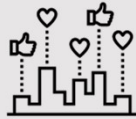
Customer segments



Pioneer

A workplace where the health, safety and fairness of working are a competitive advantage.
More than the minimum is done.

Autonomous



Basics in order

A workplace where occupational safety and health meets the minimum.
The workplace experiences no need for continuously enhancing the safety at work.

Independent



Developing

A workplace with a will to take care of occupational safety and health matters properly but lacks expertise and/or resources.

Needs support



Avoider

A workplace that does not consider occupational safety and health important and doesn't see it as a benefit.

Needs enforcement



A wide variety of supervisory methods and
means of influence

Enforcement and advice

- Inspections
 - workplace, document and remote inspections
- Improvement notice documents, procedural decisions
- Licensing and permits
- Statements and opinions to other authorities
- Advice
 - telephone service and advice in connection with inspections

Other means of influence

- Communications
 - Tyosuojelu.fi website
 - webinars, trainings
 - media releases, direct messages, newsletters, annual report
 - fairs, campaigns
- Societal influence
 - cooperation with stakeholders and authorities
 - drafting of legislation



The key figures and results year 2023

The year 2023 of the occupational safety and health administration in a nutshell

About
24,500
inspections

About
19,700
sites inspected

About
45,000
instances of written
advice

About
6,300
improvement notices

About
900
permits processed

About
36,000
customer contacts

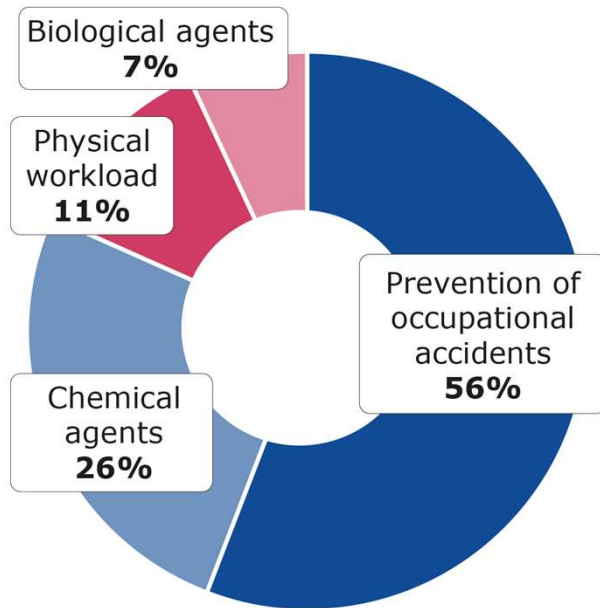
More than
26,000
workplaces reached with
other means of influence

About
1.4 million
visits to the
Tyosuojelu.fi website



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Inspections of the working conditions phenomenon



Working conditions -occupational health

About 9,300 inspections.

Almost all inspections were carried out on site at workplaces.

Prevention of accidents 5,744 (56%)

Chemical agents 2,670 (26%)

Biological agents 705 (7%)

Physical workload 1,163 (11%)

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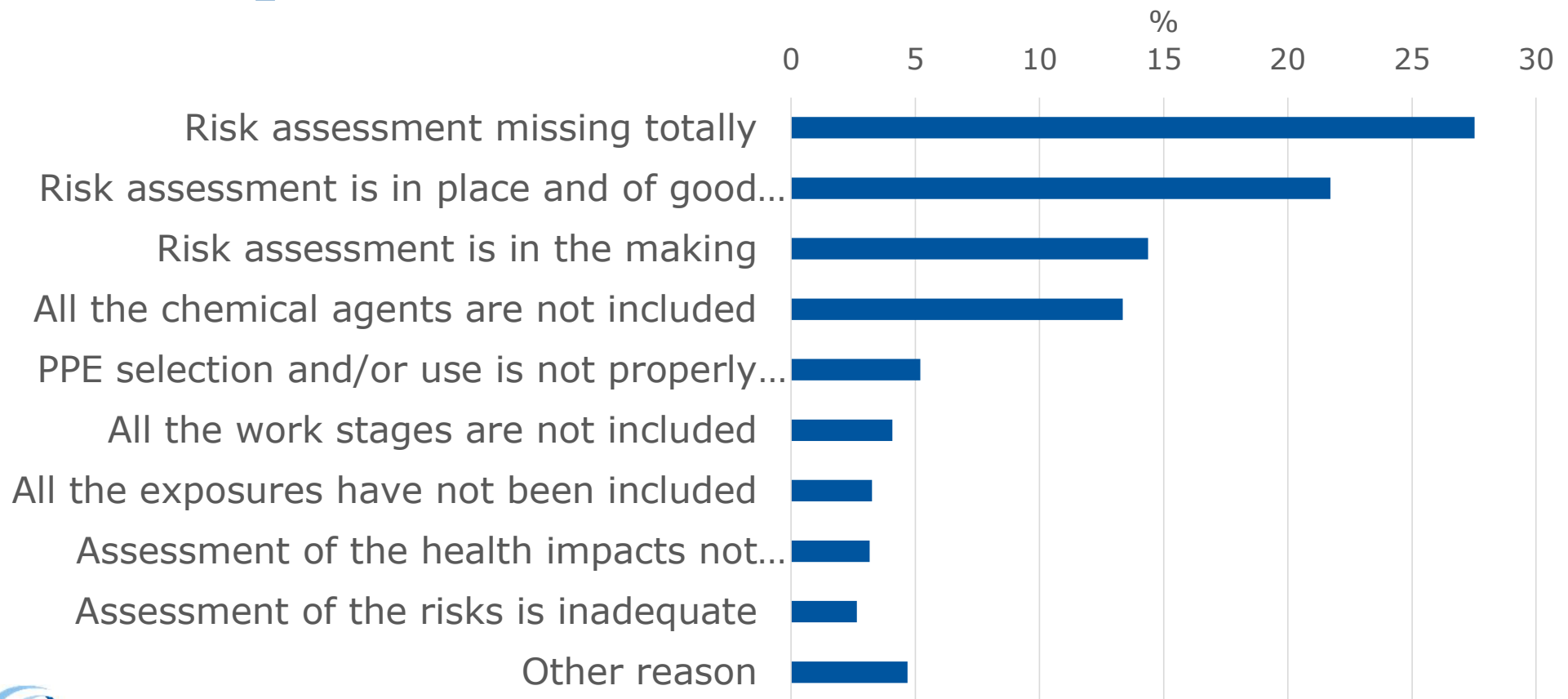


Aluehallintovirasto
Työsuojelu

Occupational hygiene Improvement notices Top 10

1. Risk assessment of chemical agents
2. Health examinations in work with a particular risk
3. Dust control
4. Management of chemical hazards
5. List of chemicals
6. Personal protective equipment in construction work
7. Indoor air quality
8. Assessment of health significance
9. Local exhaust ventilation
10. Air handling equipment for asbestos work

Status of the Risk Assessment of Chemical Agents (first inspections)





Trends and Challenges



Trends and Challenges

- At-risk employee groups (young people, the elderly, people with partial work ability, foreigners, temporary agency workers) will play an increasingly important role in the labour market.
- The awareness of the employers using foreign labour must be increased preventively on the basics of labour legislation.
- The increase in entrepreneur-based work, the platform economy and the blurring of the employer-employee relationship challenge the supervision.



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Trends and Challenges

- The faster adoption of new technologies puts significant pressure on employers to ensure healthy and safe work.
- Psychosocial stress comes from many different sources. The harm it causes is significant. Occupational safety and health supervision must identify the key themes through which the phenomenon is addressed.



