

Icelandic parallel session on accidents

Nordic Labour Inspection Conference
12th – 13th of November 2024

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Our main vision is:

EVERYONE RETURNS SAFE HOME FROM WORK

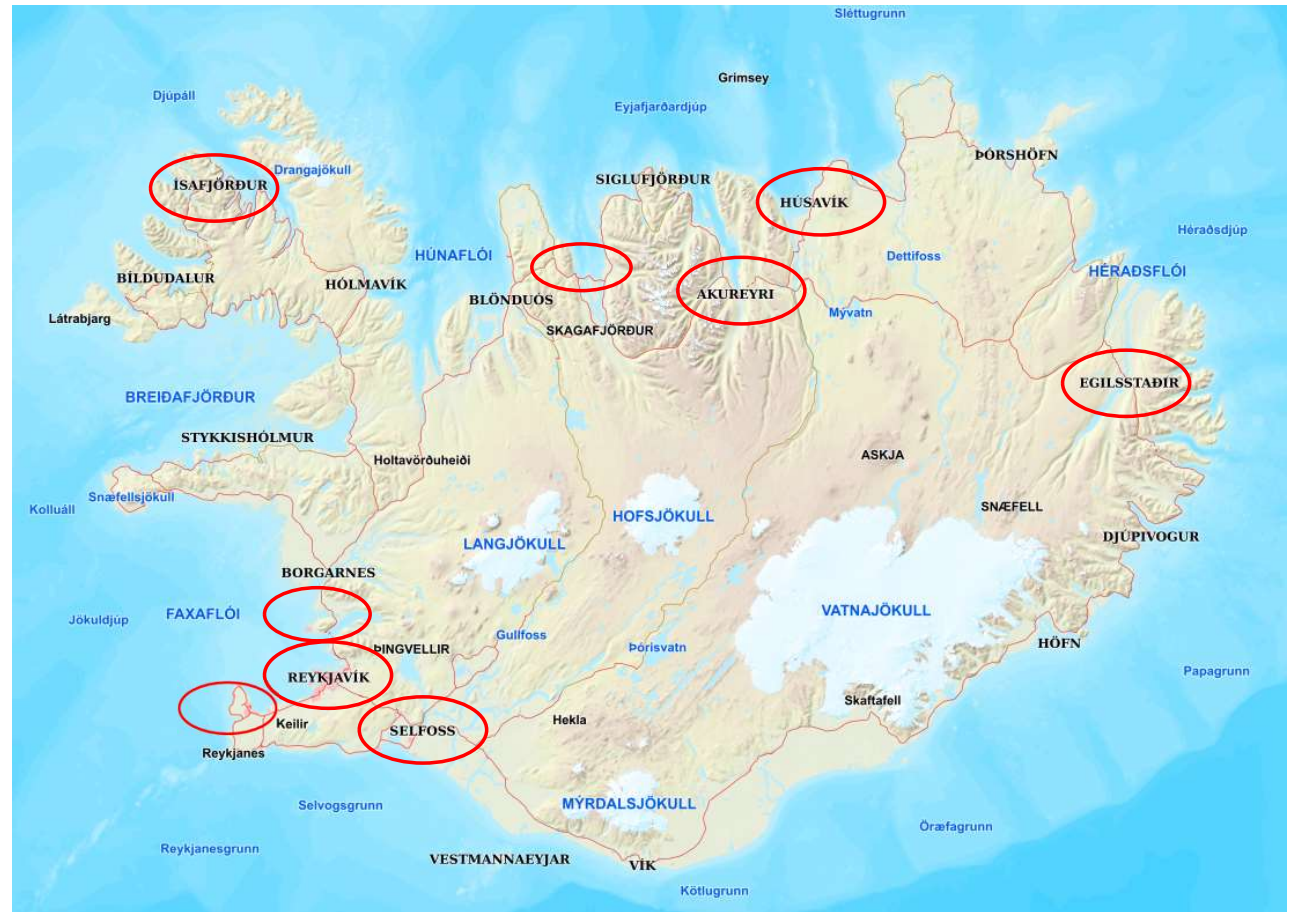
That is ensured by

- ✓ Labour inspections
- ✓ Digital communications
- ✓ Work machine and equipment inspections
- ✓ Developing promotional and educational materials in line with the need of workplaces
- ✓ Encouraging social dialogue on the importance of occupational health and safety
- ✓ Deliver messages to people directly through the media, including social media, that they use the most.



Vinnueftirlitið

- One organization
- 62 employees
- Different locations
- Head office in Reykjavík
- This year we expect to do approx. 1400 inspections



Our main goals - vision



FIVE MAIN GOALS

Our strategy is structured around **five main goals**. Each one of them should contribute to long-term improvements and positive changes in order to make the vision a reality



WELL-BEING



SAFETY



PARTICIPATION



SIMPLIFICATION



ADJUSTMENT

Organization chart - Vinnueftirlitið



Occupational Safety and Health

When assessing the work environment , we look at the different elements. The purpose is to promote safety and health in the workplace so that everyone can get home safe.

- Musculoskeletal system
- Psychosocial work environment
- Occupational environmental factors, air quality, noise, etc
- Chemicals
- Machines and Equipment



Labour Inspections Teams



Changes in legislation

- Uptil now when Vinnueftirlitið spots nonconformities during inspections, there have been issued administrative orders on improvement or in serious cases orders to stop work
- If companies do not make improvements within given time, it has been possible to lay on per diem fines
- From 1st of January 2025 Vinnueftirlitið can lay on direct administrative fines, if during inspections we find specific issues in the working environment
 - ✓ We are now in the process to define under which conditions we will use the fines
- Further, surveillance regarding work related crime and migrant workers will be on the responsibility of Vinnueftirlitið, now these issues are handled by other organizations



Accidents at work – General figures

- Employers are required to report accidents electronically to Vinnueftirlitið, if employee suffers damage and is absent from work at least on the day of the accident and the day after, due to the accident
- There are approximately 2.000 accidents reported yearly, which corresponds to about 1 % of the total workforce, 2 out of 3 are males overall
- The frequency is highest in:
 - ✓ Production
 - ✓ Public administration
 - ✓ Transportation and storage
 - ✓ Construction
- Fatal accidents average 2,5 pr. year last 10 years, half of them in construction
- Statistics from accident reporting system are used for example for inspection planning



Accidents at work – serious accidents

- Employers shall further directly report serious accidents, as soon as possible
- About 200 direct notifications come each year, mostly through first aid service i.e. if an ambulance is called to the scene
- Vinnueftirlitið follows up on these notifications in a systematic manner
- We also monitor accident reporting system to see if there are some special accidents that were not reported directly and sometimes, we do a follow up based on this



Accidents at work – follow up on notifications



- A team of 5 inspectors monitors, during office hours, notifications coming in
- The person that reported the accident is contacted to get some basic information
 - ✓ What happened?
 - ✓ Where did it happen?
 - ✓ What job was the injured person performing?
 - ✓ How serious are injuries?
- Based on this information the accident is categorized in categories, 1-3

Accidents at work – follow up on notifications

- Categorization is made with prevention value in mind since accident prevention is one of our main focuspoints
- All information gathered in this process is filed in our central filing system
- This includes:
 - ✓ Time of notification
 - ✓ Company name
 - ✓ Names and phone numbers of persons contacted
 - ✓ Brief description of the accident
 - ✓ Reason for the given categorization



Accidents at work – category 1

- Accident that have minor consequences
 - ✓ There come also some notifications where the result is no absence or just the day of the accident
- Also common accidents even with severe consequences where accident investigation will not add anything new to the knowledge about accidents
 - ✓ Example could be someone falls due to ice outside in january
- Regularly Vinnueftirlitið publishes, on social media for example, reminder on common accidents and what to do to prevent them
- In theese cases employer is reminded on his responsibility to report.
 - ✓ Follow up is done in the accident database to check if report has been sent in, if not we can send a formal reminder which is possible to follow up with per diem fines if needed



Accidents at work – category 2

- Accidents that have some or serious consequences and where the reasons are not obvious
- Accidents in this category are examined in more detail
 - ✓ There can be either an inspection visit with focus on the accident or requesting documents from the employer and if applicable the police
- If the inspection reveals that the accident was more serious than initially thought, it could be transferred to category 3, but the accident could also be transferred to category 1



Accidents at work – category 3

- Accidents that are serious and/or complex, in such cases an inspector always goes to the scene along with specialist from the accident team
- This always includes fatal accidents, even if the reason looks obvious
- Category 3 accidents are on the responsibility of the accident team, but they often call for a more extensive investigation often in cooperation with the police

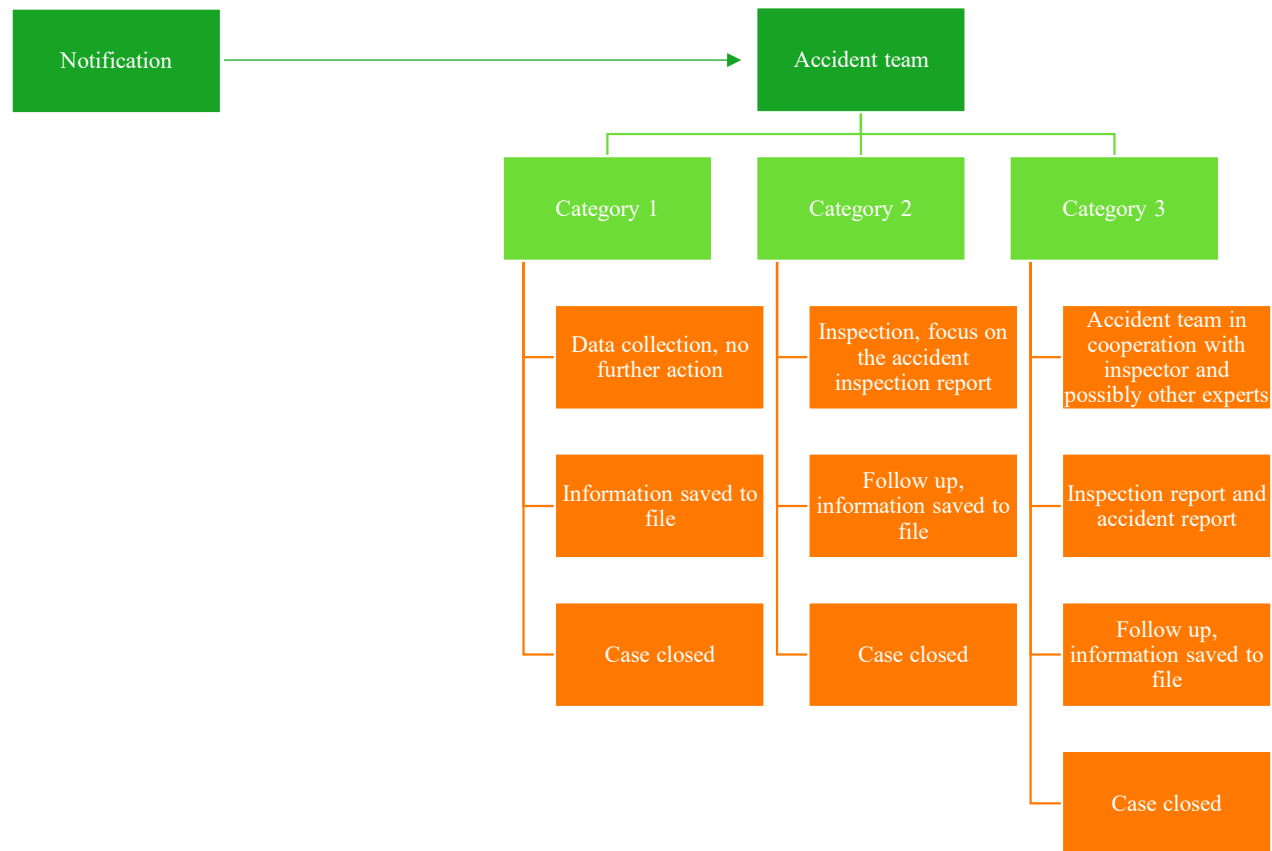


Accidents at work – category 3

- The reasons can be complicated, and it may be necessary to call other experts to the table, even external ones if needed
- Investigation of accidents in category 3 is concluded with report
- Report can't be used in court
- Investigation procedure, based on ILO guidelines



Response and categorization



Challenges

- Inspector training
- Few inspectors
 - ✓ Number of inspectors pr. 1.000 workers is maybe similar og slightly lower than in other Nordic countries, but population in Iceland is small, so most inspectors do all kind of inspections, also outside their field of expertise
- Difficult customers



Vinnueftirlitið

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Thank you
