



# Occupational Health and Safety

## What is OHS about?

It's about prevention; to prevent people from being injured by work related activities and or becoming ill by taking precautionary measures and providing a reasonable safe and healthy working environment.

## How is the Health and Safety of people then protected?

There are rules and regulations, which requires all of us not to put ourselves or others in danger. The OHS Act also requires us to protect the public from workplace dangers.

## Do Health and Safety Law apply to small business?

Yes, the Occupational Health and Safety Act apply to all businesses no matter how small. It applies to self-employed people too.

## What laws are applicable?

The Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993; The Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, Act 130 of 1993; The Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Act 75 of 1997; The Labour Relations Act, Act 66 of 1995; The Unemployment Insurance Act, Act 63 of 2001 and Act 4 of 2002 (Contributions); and the Employment Equity Act, Act 55 of 1998.

## Do you have control over Health and Safety in your workplace?

In order to put control measures in place at the workplace, a risk assessment should be conducted on all activities in order to get the required information about the dangers relating to work activities. Only if all dangers have been identified the risk assessor will be able to identify the hazards associated with the activities. Sensible measures can then be put in place to control the risks associated with that specific activities.

## What is a risk assessment?

It is an evaluation of the activities and processes in your workplace, which could cause harm to people and or property.

## What type of risks and injuries can be sustained in the workplace?

There is a number of risks that can be found at work and the following are a few examples of possible risks:

- Slipping and Tripping
- Hazardous chemicals
- Falling from heights
- Noise
- Vibration
- Electrical shock
- Fires
- Explosions, etc...

## What should be done when an injury occurs at work?

The employer or self-employed person should report the incident as contemplated in Section 24 (1 & 2) to the Department of Labour.

This type of incidents shall be reported within 7 days by means of Annexure 1 to the General Administrative Regulation. The incident then should be investigated internally, and feedback must be given to the Health and Safety Committee for further discussion and treatment.

## Where can I get assistance on the implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act?

Edwilo Risk Consultants CC, is an accredited OHSE training provider through the HW SETA, and provides the following services tailored to the specific needs of the client:

- \* Construction OHS programs and training
- \* OHS Risk Assessments
- \* OHSE Legal Compliance Audits
- \* OHSE Facility Audits
- \* OHSE Training
- \* OHSE Skills programmes
- \* Occupational Health Clinics
- \* Occupational Hygiene Services

For further detail you can contact us on 011 913 4203 (Bernadette Venter) or 082 571 6015 (PTA – Steven Jansen van Vuuren)

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