

***NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH POLICY – MAURITIUS  
(REVISED 2015)***

The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, in consultation with all stakeholders and in particular with the employers and workers organisations at the level of the Advisory Council for Occupational Safety and Health, has formulated a national safety and health policy, henceforth called policy.

The Government of Mauritius recognises that workers are its most valuable asset and that health and safety is one of their fundamental rights.

The objectives of the policy are:

- (i) To encompass all the occupational safety and health issues in all sectors including the public and private sector that may have direct or indirect, inherent or potential occupational safety and health hazards on the health and safety of employees arising from their workplace.
- (ii) To consolidate the prevention of accidents and work-related illnesses through consultative mechanisms at enterprise and national level; abiding to all legal provisions and regulations and providing the relevant information, education and training.

The policy further elaborates that:

- (a) All relevant legislations shall be complied, enforced and reviewed periodically;
- (b) The employer shall be responsible for the safety and health at work of his employees through safe systems of work;
- (c) The status of Safety and Health Officers to be enhanced and recognised through registration as safety and health professionals under an appropriate legislation;
- (d) Designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers shall provide adequate information on the product for the user;
- (e) Onsite and offsite emergency planning and preparedness in major hazardous installations shall be devised and implemented;
- (f) All stakeholders including employers shall provide appropriate education, training and information;
- (g) Specific measures shall be taken concerning physical, chemical, biological, ergonomic and psychosocial hazards at the workplace;
- (h) Arrangement shall be made for an effective system of information at the workplace;
- (i) Action shall be taken to consolidate the consultative mechanism at national and enterprise level;

- (j) The progressive development of procedures and methods for the proper recording, notification and investigation of occupational accidents, occupational diseases, commuting accidents, dangerous occurrences and incidents in all branches of economic activity shall be promoted;
- (k) Employees shall co-operate with their employers in the application of occupational safety and health measures and comply with all procedures and practices relating to safety and health at work;
- (l) Safety and health education shall be introduced in school curricula at pre-primary, primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary level with the collaboration of relevant stakeholders to provide/inculcate safety and health culture amongst the population ;
- (m) Employers shall implement an appropriate Occupational Safety and Health Management System progressively;
- (n) The legislative framework shall give adequate coverage to migrant workers, disabled persons and ageing workers;
- (o) Occupational Safety and Health is a societal responsibility which contributes significantly to the economic development and competitiveness of the nation; and
- (p) Arrangements shall be made for the conduct of research in the field of Occupational Safety and Health in Mauritius in collaboration with relevant institutions.

The policy shall be periodically reviewed to respond adequately to the introduction of new processes and machinery, modern technologies and manufacturing techniques. The progressive application of the policy shall be considered subject to availability of financial, human and technical resources.

**05 March 2015**