

Information For Migrant Workers about Staying Healthy and Safe at Work

October 2020

Occupational Health and Safety Authority



Every day, workers are injured on the job. But did you know that both you and your employer have a role in making your job safe? It might be that since coming to Malta, you are doing a job that you are not used to, or maybe you are using tools or machines that you have never used before. The job you do now could also be totally different from the line of work you had in your home country.

In Malta, the principal law that protects people at work is called the Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act. This Act and other regulations are there to help make workplaces safer and to also give workers basic rights (and duties) to keep them safe at work.

Who is covered by the OHS Act?

ALL workers in ALL workplaces in Malta and Gozo.

This means that apart from full-time and part-time workers, all other persons doing a job (even for a few hours) are protected. It also includes all workplaces so even domestic workers and live-in carers for example are protected.



How can you get injured or sick at work?

There are many ways how you can get injured or sick at work. It is very important to remember that if there is a danger (hazard) there is the possibility of an injury or sickness.

Some examples include working at heights without protection, doing a job you are not trained to do, working with new machines or tools, slipping on wet or slippery floors, lifting heavy things and working with chemicals without the necessary protection. Of course there are many more examples.

What should my employer be doing?

By law, all employers have to safeguard the health and safety of all workers at all times. Moreover, your employer must:

- Give you all the **information, supervision and training** to ensure that your health and safety at work are protected.
- Inform you about any **dangers** at the workplace and take all the necessary precautions to protect you.
- Ensure that **safe work procedures** are in place and that they are followed.
- Give you **personal protective equipment** (such as safety harness, hard hat, gloves, ear muffs) **free of charge** when needed.
- Make sure that **machinery, tools and personal protective equipment** are used properly.





- Ensure that all **safety equipment** is in good condition and is maintained on a regular basis. This applies for both personal protective equipment and safety guards on tools and machinery.

- Cooperate with **workers health and safety representatives** who are chosen by the workers themselves.

- Provide adequate **welfare facilities** (such as toilets, etc).
- Take action to limit or avoid the need for **manual handling of loads** which might cause injury.
- Provide access to **first aid**.
- Inform you of any **orders or inspection reports** relating to health and safety issued by the Occupational Health and Safety Authority.
- **Cannot fire you** for refusing unsafe work.

What responsibilities do I have?

As a worker, you also have responsibilities relating to health and safety at work. In fact, you should:

- Primarily **take care** of your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by the work which you carry out.
- **Use the safety equipment** (both personal and that on machinery and tools) that your employer tells you to use.
- **Cooperate** with your employer, your workers' health and safety representative and project supervisor (on construction sites) on health and safety issues.
- **Tell your employer or supervisor** about broken equipment, machinery or any other safety problems.



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- **Do not use** equipment or machinery that could harm you or other workers.
 - **Act responsibly** in the workplace.
 - **Report serious danger** and violations of the OHS Act to the employer or supervisor.

What legal rights do I have?

Under the OHS Act, you have the right to:

- Know about any health and safety hazards at your workplace.
- Participate in keeping the workplace safe and healthy.
- Refuse unsafe work.
- Be able to work in a safe and healthy workplace, without fear of violence or harassment.

Where can I get more information?

You can contact the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHS) about any concerns and queries you may have about health and safety at the workplace. Rest assured of full confidentiality – we do not tell employers who would have raised a complaint or asked us to investigate. Moreover, you can also contact us in an anonymous way.

How can I contact OHS?

OHS can be contacted through various means.

Address: 17, Triq Edgar Ferro, Pietá PTA 1533, Malta

Tel No: 21247677

After office hours and in emergencies: 99496786

Email: ohsa@gov.mt

Facebook: OHS Malta

Download the free mobile App BSafe@Work

