

THE FEATURES OF ERGONOMIC RISK ASSESSMENT IN LITHUANIAN MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS/ENTERPRISES

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Introduction. Occupational risk factors can cause injuries or other health-related disorders to workers due to harmful or hazardous work environment factors. The employer should investigate the work environment and assess and document any risk factors discovered. Risk factors relevant to the workplace should be assessed. The risk assessment should be carried out in a systematic way. It should be planned in advance and performed in cooperation with workers. Investigations should be based not only on the experiences of the individual worker but also on objective descriptions of the working conditions. It is important to include the entire workforce in the risk assessment (e. g., both women and men) and to take into account the age distribution at the workplace. In the case of ergonomic risk factors to be assessed, the frequency, duration, and intensity of the work should be considered as well as the number of workers exposed to risk factors. If protective and preventive measures cannot be organized due to a lack of competent personnel in the enterprise, the employer shall enlist competent external services or persons.

Aim. To investigate the features of ergonomic risk assessment in Lithuanian municipal institutions/enterprises.

Tasks:

1. To investigate the features of the risk and those at risk;
2. To determine the features of risk characteristic evaluating and prioritizing;
3. To investigate the characteristic of action deciding on preventive measures and Monitoring and reviewing.

Methodology. Type of study – quantitative cross-sectional type of study. 389 Lithuanian municipal institutions/enterprises, the list of which is published on the website of the State of the Republic of Lithuania (<https://lrvalstybe.lt/>), were invited to participate in the study. In total, 54.5 % Lithuanian municipal institutions/enterprises agreed to participate in the survey and completed the questionnaires. Research instrument – a list of questions for assessing the quality of risk assessment and measures concerning ergonomic risks.

Results. The study revealed, that 60,8 % of Lithuanian municipal institutions/enterprises were evaluated occupational risk. The most valued ergonomic (92,2 %) risk factors, less – physical (lighting, noise, vibration) (79,8 %) psychosocial (66,7 %), chemical (49,6 %), biological (25,6 %) risk factors. Increased ergonomic factors were found in 11 percentage of institutions/enterprises. It was determined that risk assessment at companies is mainly (86 %) carried out by specialized institutions or persons assessing occupational risk factors. In 88,4 percentage institutions/enterprises, the identified risks were being listed in order of importance. Mostly, the risk assessment covered the workers' groups: women and men, young and old, shift workers. Generally, the risk assessment covered existing ergonomic risks: manual handling, lifting, and carrying, repetitive work, work postures, prolonged sitting, visual ergonomics and knowledge of ergonomically correct working methods and how to use technical aids and, etc. 26,4 % of institutions/enterprises were revised risk assessment, then working conditions changed. The actions taken to minimize or prevent MSDs were systematically evaluated to establish what works, to assess the effectiveness of the actions (92,2 % institutions/enterprises).

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