



Report to International Labour
Organization about 2008 Activity Results
of State Labour Inspectorate

RIGA



Ladies and Gentlemen!

The State Labour Inspectorate (SLI) in the previous accounting period has contributed much to inform employers and workers about their rights and obligations. Joint work has resulted in a certain level showing that the biggest part of the society is aware how important it is to behave properly towards the country and act responsibly with regard to themselves, and this in the future could motivate society to comply with the labour legislation standards and facilitate the development of economics..

However the economic situation of the country in 2008 and 2009 has made its adjustments. Employment without labour contract at present is a very topical problem, particularly in the view of the present situation – high level of unemployment and state budget deficit, and its effect on economy.

The situation in the social field today would be more positive had the citizens be more enterprising and also sufficiently educated how to organize personal financial resources, and had they themselves saved money for hard times. Yet practice shows that most Latvian population has lived and are still living “from hand to mouth”. Besides we have observed that in a critical situation the most dissatisfied about the state support are those who have never paid taxes. .

It is generally known that the unemployed applying for work still want to receive the unemployment benefit and simultaneously the salary ‘in envelope’. Yet the situation has also a flip side, when job seekers who want to establish legal labour relations have to choose – if they demand salary with all taxes paid, then another worker will be hired instead.

Therefore the SLI should proceed with education and information work, should raise people’s awareness about the importance of this ‘safety belt’. However I would like to turn my colleagues’ attention to the fact that in the time when illegal employment essentially reduces the social protection system with regard to the society in general and each person individually, when large amounts of money miss the Treasury, when an individual in global crises conditions loses motivation to pay taxes, the State Labour Inspectorate is faced with a new

challenge – to look for completely new solutions, because the old arguments in the present situation would not help to maintain the achieved level.

I would like to thank the State Labour Inspectorate for active work and all companies that even in the present economically complicated time think about their workers, the state and simultaneously about the positive image of the company!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Augulis', written in a cursive style.

Minister of Welfare

/ U. Augulis/



Hallo!

One of the State Labour Inspectorate's priorities last year was implementation of the illegal employment reduction policy. It should be noted that harmonisation of legal enactments in the construction sector has given acknowledged results in this field. As a result of improvement and expansion of legal enactments the number of workers working without labour contracts in the above sector has fallen considerably. Yet the construction sector still presents a high illegal employment risk. Similarly it is crucial to continue in 2009 the work on the improvement of legal enactments in other risk sectors.

To implement the European Community's strategy in the field of occupational safety and health in 2007 – 2012 inspection campaigns were carried out in the companies of the sectors presenting increased accident and occupational diseases' risks. It should be noted that both the preventive and information work carried out by the SLI has given results and the number of fatal accidents at work has fallen.

Within the framework of the European Union occupational safety activities the SLI organized informative and inspection campaigns, for instance, the informative campaign of European Week "Risk assessment", during which the SLI jointly with its cooperation partners – Latvian Free Trade Union Association, Latvian Employers' Confederation and Riga Stradina University's Agency "Occupational and Environmental Health Institute"- organised the Good Practice Award Competition "Golden Helmet 2009". Thus companies were given a possibility to present themselves not only on the Latvian level – the winner of the country's competition was nominated for the evaluation on European level.

To ensure more efficient fulfilment of the SLI functions and tasks, to optimise utilization of financial resources and ensure improvement of performance quality in 2008 we carried out reorganization of the institution, as a result of which in Latvia at present there are successfully functioning five Regional State Labour Inspectorates and the SLI Board.

In 2009 we will continue work in the priority field set forth by the Government – implementation of the illegal employment reduction policy, as well as on the implementation of the Labour Protection Development Programme 2008-2012.

Like until now also in the future we will focus on public information and education because the society's awareness about their labour rights and occupational safety issues is particularly important in the present economic situation.

I would like to express many thanks to our cooperation partners - Latvian Free Trade Union Association, Riga Stradina University's Agency "Occupational and Environmental Health Institute" and Latvian Employers' Confederation, as well as particular thanks to the Latvian Constructors' Association and organization "Latvian constructors' strategic partnership" for their understanding and support to the reduction of illegal employment in the construction sector.

Sincerely yours

Director of State Labour Inspectorate



/ R.Elce /

Introduction

In 2008 the SLI proceeded with the started work aimed at making the SLI's control and supervision more effective and precise, as well as at the development of preventive culture in the public. A significant part of SLI's work was organized as campaigns. The summarized results show that campaign is an effective company control and public information method allowing to solve definite problems through precise identification of target groups. In 2008 the work was continued also on the analyses and improvement of the SLI structure's efficiency, which was aimed at the coordinated and efficient, functional divisions supported operation of the Regional State Labour Inspectorates (RSLI) throughout the territory of the state.

In 2008 the SLI work was based on the principle of priorities and the following were set out for the reporting period.

1. The priority set out by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia - „**Implementation of illegal employment reduction policy**” has been the SLI's priority already for four successive years, because on the Latvian labour market illegal employment is a lasting and characteristic feature causing not only social damping, but creating also unequal working conditions for employees and distortions of market competition. In 2008 the SLI officials carried out 4 554 inspections connected with illegal employment, during which there were identified 1 623 shadow workers. With the revealed 600 shadow workers their employers concluded labour contracts and it supplemented the state budget with LVL 400 021¹. No labour relations were continued with 1 023 shadow workers identified by the SLI, which fact shows that compared to the previous years the involved parties are more and more unwilling to conclude labour contracts, thus continuing to maintain the risk of illegal employment.

It should be noted that even despite the present economic situation in Latvia and growth of unemployment level the number of employees registered with the State Labour Inspectorate (SLI) with whom the employer has concluded a written labour contract, continued growing (yet with a sharp decline in the two last months of the year). Generally the increase is continuing since January 2005, which also indirectly characterizes the SLI activity positively.

2. Implementation in Latvia the campaigns defined by the European Union (EU) was another big priority of the SLI. In 2008 the SLI carried out the **European Week informative campaign “Risk assessment”**. The slogan of the campaign was “Safe and healthy workplaces. Good for you. Good for your business”.

The European Week informative campaign was launched by a national partnership conference in Riga with the participation of employers, workers, workers' representatives, trade unions, medical workers, representatives of competent organizations, policy makers, etc.

Within the European Week informative campaign the SLI already for the fifth year invited employers and organizations to participate at the Good Practice Award Competition. The aim of the competition was to promote an integrated management approach to the assessment of working environment risks. In 2008 five companies participated at the Good Practice Award Competition and the representatives from the Occupational and Environmental Health Institute, Latvian Free Trade Union Association and Latvian Employers Confederation participated in their evaluation. The Good Practice Award “Golden Helmet 2008” was granted to A/S “Latvenergo”, which using the computerised working environment monitoring system – LEDA, has developed an effective working environment risk assessment method. With this victory in Latvia the A/S “Latvenergo” was nominated for the European Good Practice Award

¹ Calculations are made based on the minimum salary set out in Latvia for 2008 (LVL 160).

Competition. The European Good Practice Award Competition and final conference was held on April 27, 2009 in Bilbao, Spain. For Latvian companies participation at this event is an excellent possibility to popularise itself to the representatives of different European companies, governments and other organizations, as well as to establish contacts on international level.

Within the European Week informative campaign the SLI in cooperation with European Occupational Safety and Health Agency (Agency) organized a seminar for the participants of the exhibition "For safe work 2008" where all participants were given a possibility to learn about the current events in legal enactments, to gain knowledge about different risk assessment aspects, as well as to listen also about the practical experience of other companies in the field of internal monitoring of working environment.

3. In 2008 the SLI implemented also the **EU Senior Labour Inspectors Committee's (SLIC) informative and inspection campaign "Manual handling of loads"** in retail trade and construction sectors. In the construction sector during the campaign there were inspected 174 construction sites, and for the elimination of 244 stated violations there were issued 78 enforcement reports, as well as there were charged 24 administrative penalties (LVL 4 700) and issued 35 oral warnings. In the retail trade sector during the campaign there were inspected 191 companies, and for the elimination of 402 stated violations there were issued 111 enforcement reports, as well as there were charged 34 administrative penalties (LVL 6 750) and issued 30 oral warnings.

The analyses of the campaign's results and their evaluation show that:

- in the construction and retail trade sectors employers have become aware of the importance of workers' health and safety (in most inspected companies workers had been sent to mandatory health examination);
- the risk caused by the manual handling of loads, particularly in retail trade sector is insufficiently assessed;
- the load's packaging is not marked accordingly, weight and gravitation center's marking is insufficient;
- employers still do not inform the workers about the working environment risk assessment results, and not all companies have developed an occupational safety activity plan; similarly risk assessments are not carried out regularly – not less than once a year, therefore the employer, workers' trusted persons, occupational safety experts must inform workers about the occupational safety requirements, personal protective equipment, participation in the company's working environment risk assessment, and other issues related to occupational safety;
- employers should carry out respective activities to avoid or reduce manual handling of loads.

During the inspection campaign the SLI supplies information also to mass media, thus the public in general as well as employers and workers whose companies the SLI does not inspect within the campaign are informed about the occupational safety requirements in the respective sector. Fulfillment of enforcement reports issued by the SLI officials helps to arrange the working environment, workplaces.

4. In 2008 the SLI priority was also "**Organization of inspection campaigns in companies carrying out business in sectors with increased risk of accidents and occupational disease**" (construction sector; sewing and textiles manufacturing companies; hairdressers' and beauty parlours).

Within the construction sector campaign 317 construction companies (235 construction sites) were inspected, which is 67% more than in 2007. During inspections the employers were issued 162 enforcement reports to prevent 554 stated violations and there were applied 86 administrative penalties (LVL 25 120). It was stated that employers do not inform workers about the working environment risk assessment results, do not assess working environment

risks once a year, when making risk assessment do not take into consideration changing working environment, etc.

The results of the construction campaigns, which the SLI is organizing already for two successive years, show that when company inspections are focused and campaign like, during which when violations are identified there are issued enforcement reports or applied administrative penalties, the number of accidents in construction companies is falling, which allows to conclude that the objective set forth for the campaign, has been achieved.

Table 1

	2007	2008
Serious	77	73
Fatal	21	12
Light	158	144
total	256	229

The campaign in the textiles and clothes manufacturing companies. During the campaign there were inspected 188 companies, issued 139 enforcement reports for the elimination of 1040 violations, and applied 44 administrative penalties (LVL 4650).

In textiles and clothes manufacturing companies most often there are violated regulatory enactments related to the working environment risk assessment and internal monitoring of working environment, mandatory health examinations and labour protection in workplaces.

The campaign results show that in large textiles and clothes manufacturing companies (more than 50 workers) the working environment is more harmonized than in smaller ones. The SLI inspection campaign activated labour protection problems existing in the sector and employers' attention was more focused on them, what will facilitate harmonization of working environment in companies and will allow to reduce the risk of occupational diseases.

The campaign in hairdressers' and beauty parlours was organized with the objective to inspect observation of labour protection requirements in the sector's companies, to find out the actual situation in the field of occupational safety, because until now the SLI had not carried out a campaign of preventive inspection in the companies of the above sector. During the campaign there were inspected 222 companies, issued 147 enforcement reports for the elimination of 798 violations, and there were applied 27 administrative penalties (LVL 1770).

The campaign results show that in general the field of labour protection in hairdressers' and beauty parlours is not harmonised. Solution of labour protection issues at least in those companies, which were inspected during the campaign, will certainly promote fulfilment of administrative statements issued by the SLI officials. In the inspected companies there were observed also examples of good practice – risk assessment for all workplaces and work categories, high quality tools, manicure tables with local exhaust ventilation, personal protective equipment that corresponds to the work being done.

1. Laws and regulations related to the SLI activity

1.1. Laws regulating the SLI's activity that has become effective in 2008

The State Labour Inspectorate Law (took effect on June 19, 2008).

Essential changes in the SLI activity took place in 2008 connected with the new State Labour Inspectorate Law, because from July 10 the SLI does not any more carry out market surveillance of dangerous equipment and control over fulfilment of requirements of legal acts regulating their operation, and does not carry out registration of dangerous equipment and investigation of accidents with dangerous equipment.

1.2. Laws, statutes and regulations the enforcement of which is supervised by the SLI and which took effect in 2008:

- Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers (CM) of the Republic of Latvia (RL) of September 8, 2008 No.723 "Regulation on the requirements to competent institutions and competent specialists in the field of occupational safety and to competency evaluation procedure" (it will come into effect on January 1, 2009);
- RL CM Regulation of September 22, 2008 No. 784 "Procedure for limited use of genetically modified organisms and granting permit thereof";
- RL CM Regulation of September 29, 2008 No. 803 "Labour protection requirements when coming in contact with carcinogenic substances at workplaces".

2. SLI staff

2.1. From January 1, 2008 till July 10, 2008 the SLI had 238 staff positions. Following the Government's instructions and to fulfil the requirements of regulatory enactments, in the second half of 2008 the SLI staff list was reduced by 27 positions. Thus the SLI started year 2009 with 211 staff positions. As of 31 December 2008 the SLI had **198 occupied staff positions**, of which the total number of SLI inspectors – **124**.

2.2. Of all SLI inspectors:

- chief inspectors – 41;
- senior inspectors – 58;
- inspectors – 25;

2.3. Number of the SLI inspectors – women – 77, of whom:

- chief inspectors – 22;
- senior inspectors – 37;
- inspectors – 18;

2.4. Information on the geographical location of SLI structural units

During the reporting period there was continued the improvement of SLI structure, as a result on July 1, 2008 the Dienvidu (Southern) Regional State Labour Inspectorate (RSLI) was liquidated, in its turn the Austrumvidzemes (Eastern Vidzemes) RSLI was merged with the Ziemeļvidzemes (Northern Vidzemes) RSLI, forming the Vidzemes RSLI. 8 regional offices were liquidated to optimise use of the SLI resources. Simultaneously, to avoid provision of worse services (consultations, examination of applications, etc.) and level of accessibility for employers and workers in rural areas, there was organized a unified SLI network of consultation places.

On the territory of Latvia there are functioning **5 Regional State Labour Inspectorates**. Each RSLI has its own supervision territory that is determined according to the division of Latvia into administrative territorial districts. Borders of each RSLI supervision territory coincide with the borders of respective districts of Latvia.

- **Kurzemes RSLI** carries out supervision in Saldus, Kuldīgas, Talsu, Ventspils and Liepājas districts. The RSLI centre is situated in Liepāja.
- **Latgales RSLI** carries out supervision in Krāslavas, Ludzas, Preiļu, Jēkabpils, Rēzeknes and Daugavpils districts. The RSLI centre is situated in Daugavpils.
- **Rīga RSLI** carries out supervision in Rīga and Jūrmala town and Rīga district. The RSLI centre is situated in Rīga
- **Vidzemes RSLI** carries out supervision in Balvu, Alūksnes, Madonas, Gulbenes, Limbažu, Valkas, Cēsu and Valmieras districts. The RSLI centre is situated in Valmiera
- **Zemgales RSLI** carries out supervision in Ogres, Aizkraukles, Bauskas, Dobeles, Tukuma and Jelgavas districts. The RSLI centre is situated in Jelgava.

3. Data on companies under the control of SLI and number of employees working in these companies

Number of companies under the control of the SLI – **93422**.

Number of employees in the companies under the SLI's supervision – **1011200**.

4. Statistical data on inspections

Number of companies inspected by the SLI in 2008 – **10469**, of which
more than once a year – **2102**;

The SLI in 2008 has carried out **13 238** inspections in companies.

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5. Statistical data on discovered violations and applied sanctions

In the reporting period the SLI has applied **7656** sanctions (among which there were issued **4690 enforcement reports** and applied **2966 administrative penalties**) for the stated **28567** violations of regulatory enactments on legal labour relations and occupational safety.

When analysing the structure of **all violations** one can conclude that:

- 4957 were in the field of labour legal relations;
- 23164 - in the field of labour protection;
- 446 - in the field of technical supervision and market surveillance of dangerous equipment.

5.1. In 2008 the SLI inspectors have issued the employers **4690 enforcement reports**, stating altogether **25601 violations**, of which:

- in the field of labour legal relations – 3386;
- in the field of labour protection – 21804;
- in the field of supervision of dangerous equipment – 370;
- in the field of market surveillance – 41.

5.2. The analyses of violations showed in the enforcement reports allows to conclude, that:

- **13,2% of violations is in the field labour legal relations.**

Of all violations of labour legal relations more than a half or 54,9% is on incomplete labour contracts. Most often labour contracts do not comprise all required information set out in Article 40 of the Labour Law. 14,8% of violations of labour legal relations is connected with labour payment, mainly on non-payment of labour payment and holiday compensation or their only partial payment, on calculation o and payment of labour payment less than the minimum amount set out in the country, on payment of salary that does not correspond to the salary set out in the labour contract, etc. 13% of violations of labour legal relations are connected with working time, and most often it is stated that hours worked at night and during holidays are not registered precisely, there is no (work) shift schedule developed and workers have not been informed about them not less than a month before they become effective, the labour contract or working procedure rules do not state the beginning, end of working time, and breaks, etc.

- **85,2% of violations in the field of occupational safety.**

In the field of occupational safety 34,2% there were stated violations of the CM Regulation of 2 October 2007 No 660 "Procedures for the performance of internal supervision of the work environment". It is mostly connected with the employers' attitude and approach to the observation of the above Regulation. One part of employers does not regard the working environment risk assessment in the company as a basis for the formation of really functioning occupational safety system and safe working environment, and they believe that it is enough if they have formally assessed working environment risks, which is not followed by an actual activity aimed at its reduction or prevention; after making the risk assessment rather often the workers are not even informed about the risks they are exposed to during work. 16,5% violations are connected with the CM Regulation of 17 June 2003 Nr 323 „Regulation on training in occupational safety matters"- the company has not developed and approved occupational safety instructions, introductory instruction or repeated instructions of workers are not carried out, the fact of instruction is not registered according to regulatory enactments, and company's OSH expert has not mastered the required basic (160 hours training) knowledge in occupational safety, etc.; 11.9% of violations are connected with the CM Regulation of 8 June 2004 Nr. 527 „Procedure on carrying out mandatory health examinations" – in most cases workers are not sent to primary or periodical mandatory health examination, in the company there is no list of workers who must undergo mandatory health examination according to the harmful working environment risk factor assessment, etc.

In the field of labour protection in 2008 the mutual relation of organizational (81,46%) and technical (18,54%) nature violations generally remained similar to that of the previous year (in 2007 - 80,3 % were organizational nature, 19,7 % - technical nature violations). It shows that employers still believe that technical improvement of and maintenance is much more important and pay insufficient and adequate attention to the organization and maintenance of a qualitative labour protection system, to workers' instructing and training. The SLI officials have observed that employers of small companies often have not fully understood the character and practical necessity of working environment risk assessment, or have a falsely believe that lack of financing is a noteworthy obstacle for the elimination of organizational violations in small companies and private farms.

- **1,6 % violations are in the fields of dangerous equipment supervision and market surveillance**

Most often current technical inspection of dangerous equipment was not performed, information about the next inspection of dangerous equipment is not put in a visible place, there is no book for the recording of technical servicing and periodic inspection of dangerous equipment, periodical inspections of measuring devices and chemical substance storage tanks are not carried out, in the company they use personal protective equipment having no CE marking, etc.

5.3. Applied sanctions and their types

In 2008 there were charged **2966 administrative penalties** for the violation of regulatory enactments on labour legal relations, labour protection and operation of dangerous equipment:

- **2504 pecuniary penalties** (for the sum total of 505 894 LVL):

- for the violation of labour legal relation legislation – 1571 penalties (LVL 268 569);
- for the violation of labour protection legislation 1360 penalties (LVL 233225);
- for the violation in the field of supervision of dangerous equipment and market surveillance – 35 penalties (LVL 4100);

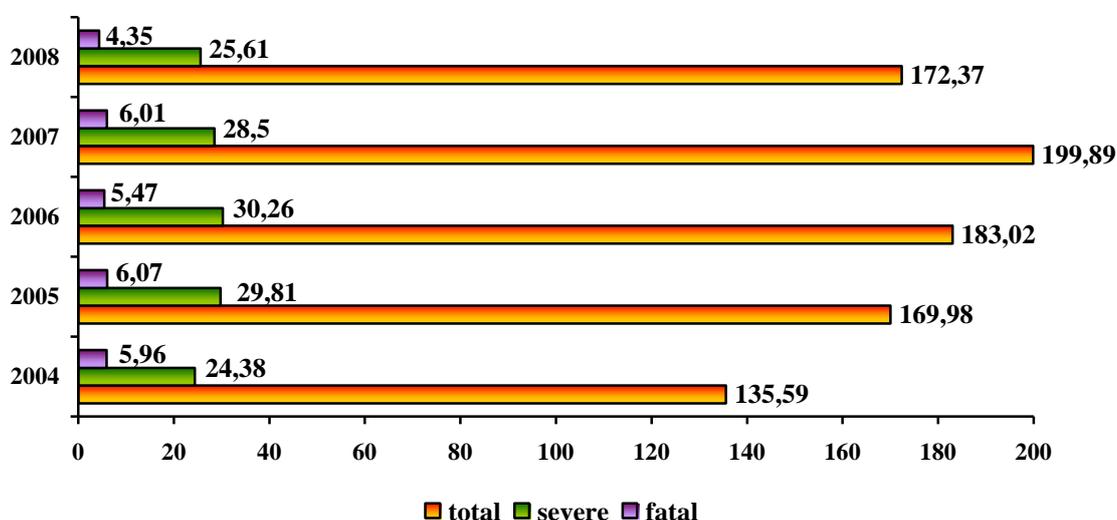
- **462 warnings**.

6. Statistical data about accidents at work

According to the SLI information in 2008 in the country the number of employees that had suffered at accidents was 1739, including 40 fatal accidents and 259 severe injuries. In comparison with the data of 2007 the total number of persons that had suffered at accidents has fallen by 190 cases (9,9 %), the number of fatal accidents by 18 cases (31 %), but the number of severely injured has fallen by 16 cases (5,9%). It should be added that at the end of 2008 in the Baltic Sea, as a result of turning over and sinking of a fishing vessel “Beverīna” 2 of the crewmembers perished and 4 are still missing. Therefore as soon as the death of these seamen is confirmed officially the number of those perished in 2008 will grow.

Figure 1.

Total number of persons that have suffered accidents, perished and got severe injuries per 100 000 workers (2004 – 2008)^{2,3}



In 2008 for the first time within 5 years the number of accidents has fallen. One of the essential factors facilitating the reduction of the number of victims in accidents at work is inspection campaigns implemented by the SLI in the sectors with the biggest number of accidents at work in the last years, and choosing for preventive purposes sectors where until now no inspection campaign has been organized, as well as active publicity in mass media (TV, radio, etc.) about the importance of observation of occupational safety requirements and organization of safe working environment in the companies. Similarly during the period of rapid economic development there were observed larger investments by responsible employers into the organization and improvement of company's occupational safety system.

² The total number of persons that have suffered an accident, perished or got severe injuries per 1000 000 workers for 2004 – 2008 is calculated based on the SRS data, for 2008 – on the basis of Data of Central Statistical Board.

³ Calculations on the total and fatal accidents for 2008 are made with a view that as soon as the death of 4 missing sailors of the shipping vessel „Beverīna” is confirmed officially the number of fatal accidents of 2008 will be 44.

Comparison of number of accidents at work (2007 and 2008.) in sectors where inspection campaigns were organized in 2008

Sector	Total		Severe		Fatal	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Construction	256	229	77	73	21	12
Incl. construction of houses	193	110	60	38	18	4
Textiles manufacturing	17	9	1	0	0	0
Clothes manufacturing	4	9	0	0	0	0
Retail trade	115	126	11	9	3	0

During the reporting period due to the activity of SLI inspectors, in cooperation with other state institutions (State Social Insurance Agency, medical institutions, mass media, etc.), as well as because of the intention of the victims or their relatives not to let the employers to conceal accidents there were discovered 112 uninvestigated concealed accidents at work, which by 13,1 % exceeds the figures of 2007.

The analyses of the accident statistical data, broken down by **categories of economic activity**, shows that in 2008 the biggest number of accidents was in the timber-processing sector. The main accident reasons were small work experience of victims (up to one year), as well as insufficient training and professional skills. 42% of accident victims had working experience up to 1 year. It should be noticed that an essential cause of accidents at work is the fact that personal protective equipment was not used and lack of safety appliances for work equipment, which often causes dragging in and amputation (palm, fingers) danger.

Compared to 2007 in the health and social care sector one can observe a 9% increase of accident victims. Similar to the previous years it can be explained by the fact that according to the CM Regulation of August 9, 2005 No 585 "Procedures for Investigation and Registration of Accidents at Work" a "Statement on accident at work" is drawn up for the medical institution's personnel in case they fulfilling official duties come into contact with blood or other liquids or objects that are or might be infected, but employment incapacity has not yet set in. It witnesses the successful campaign of 2007, during which alongside with the control and explanation of legal requirements on "Manual handling of loads" the staff of medical institutions were informed also about the need to follow the above regulations, because the drawn up "Statement on accident at work" when coming in contact with sharp objects, liquids, etc., in the future will ensure social guarantees in case of a possible illness. In 2008 of 164 injured in this sector in 84 cases (51%) a "Statement on accident at work" was drawn up on the fact that the victim had come into contact with a sharp object (syringes, scalpels, etc.).

The data of 2008 show that the number of victims in the accidents at work in the guarding service sector has grown 5 times. This increase is connected mainly with the violation by third persons (attacks) against guarding company workers. Of 34 accident victims in 53% violations has been the cause of the accident. Often also those guarding workers who are performing collectors' work, guard gambling halls, shops, different entertainment places, etc. suffer accidents and incur different injuries. It should be noted that objectively neither the employer, assessing violation as a risk factor, nor SLI consultancy activity and supervision are unable to prevent completely all violation risks. However, an organized occupational safety system in guarding sector companies, which is in line with the requirements of legal acts allows to prepare more successfully for a probable attack situation, and thus to reduce the seriousness of attack on employees' health and life.

Table 3

Breakdown of accident victims by sectors (according to NACE classifier)

	Sectors	Including					
		Total		Serious		Fatal	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	66	64	17	11	4	4
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	11	13	4	2	0	1
C	PROCESSING INDUSTRY	621	483	71	63	9	6
D	ELECTRIC ENERGY, GAS AND HEAT SUPPLY, AND AIR CONDITIONING	49	48	4	9	2	0
E	WATER SUPPLY; WASTE WATER, WASTE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION	17	22	5	4	1	0
F	CONSTRUCTION	256	229	77	73	21	12
G	WHOLESALE TRADE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF CARS, MOTOR-CYCLES,	177	166	21	13	4	2
H	TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	269	262	29	31	13	9
I	LODGING AND CATERING SERVICES	33	27	1	2	1	0
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES	10	14	0	5	0	0
K	FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITY	9	7	1	1	0	1
L	REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS	27	15	4	1	1	1
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	6	7	0	0	0	0
N	ACTIVITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE COMPANIES	18	44	1	6	1	2
O	STATE ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE; COMPULSORY SOCIAL INSURANCE	66	72	5	13	1	1
P	EDUCATION	59	58	11	11	0	0
Q	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	151	164	9	7	0	0
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	16	23	3	5	0	0
S	OTHER SERVICES	68	21	12	2	0	1
	Total	1929	1739	275	259	58	40

When analysing **the accident victims of 2008 by professions** it can be concluded that most often the victims are equipment and machine operators and article assemblers, self-propelled vehicle drivers, operators of lifting machines and equipment, a.o.), qualified workers and craftsmen (metal processing, machine building and related fields, a.o.); workers of ordinary professions (in mining, construction, industry and transport, a.o.).

Table 4

Breakdown of accident victims by occupation
(according to profession classifier of RL)

	Profession	Total		Including			
				Serious		Fatal	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
1	LAWMAKERS, STATE OFFICIALS, PUBLIC SERVANTS IN MANAGERS POSITION AND MANAGERS	58	44	13	11	5	2
2	SENIOR SPECIALISTS	101	85	13	8	0	1
3	SPECIALISTS	132	158	14	10	3	2
4	OFFICE WORKERS	103	87	9	5	2	3
5	SERVICE AND TRADE EMPLOYEES	218	214	15	14	1	1
6	QUALIFIED AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY WORKERS	17	22	3	6	1	0
7	QUALIFIED WORKERS AND CRAFTSMEN	492	398	86	88	19	11
8	EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE OPERATORS AND ARTICLE ASSEMBLERS	433	411	57	64	15	14
9	ORDINARY PROFESSIONS	375	320	65	53	12	6
	Total	1929	1739	275	259	58	40

In the reporting period the SLI stated that one of the reasons of accidents at work are shortcomings in the work organization and related problems (19 %), i.e., poor instruction of workers about occupational safety and health issues, insufficient training on work to be done, lack of adequate safety appliances or lack of personal protective equipment, a.o. Another reason of accidents at work is connected with the non-compliance of the labour safety instructions by workers (37 %). Often accidents at work happened because of the carelessness of workers themselves (slipping, falling, etc.), as well as because provided personal protective equipment is not used, thus exposing themselves to the injury risk.

Table 5

Breakdown of accidents by accident causes

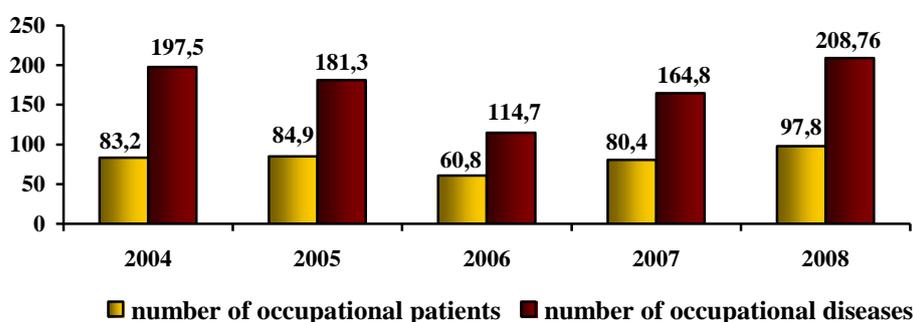
	Accident causes	Total		Including			
				Serious		Fatal	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
1	Unsatisfactory conditions at workplace	148	136	42	46	5	6
2	Unsure human action (action/person)	1559	1468	226	214	32	25
3	Labour organization and related shortcomings	257	263	116	122	28	26
4	Violation of road traffic rules	154	105	28	24	14	6
5	Violence (attacks)	97	101	7	3	0	2
6	Others	24	21	4	5	3	0
	Total	2239	2094	423	414	82	65

7. Statistical data on occupational diseases

In 2008 in Latvia there were confirmed 989 new occupational patients (in 810 active companies and 179 liquidated companies), which is 213 (27,4%) occupational patients more than in 2007. The Medical Board on Occupational Diseases and occupational doctors often have stated that one patient has several diseases; therefore the number of recorded occupational diseases exceeds the number of occupational patients.

Figure 2

Dynamics of number of new occupational patients and first time occupational diseases (2004 – 2008⁴) in Latvia per 100000 workers



Business sectors with the highest confirmed number of occupational patients are the same as the previous year: processing industry (33%), transport and storage (18,8%), health and social care (16,5%).

In processing industry the confirmed occupational patients most often suffer from musculoskeletal disorders – 44,3%. It constitutes nearly one half of occupational diseases in the sector. Nervous system diseases account for 24,45% and diseases of respiratory system for 16%. Most diseases in the above sector are connected with overload, handling of loads, forced work postures and physical factors (mainly noise and vibration).

In transport and storage sectors 44,6% are constituted by the group of confirmed injuries, poisoning and other diseases caused by external influence, 42,8% - by musculoskeletal diseases, 6% - diseases of nervous system. In this sector occupational diseases are confirmed for workers with long service life in the sector. Their main causes are ergonomic and physical working environment risk factors (general and local vibration, lasting forced sitting posture) workers have been exposed to for a long time.

The health and social care sector in 2008 accounts for the third biggest number of registered occupational patients. Most often medical staff suffers from musculoskeletal diseases – 59,5%. They are caused mostly by biomechanical factors – forced working postures, fast and repetitive movements, lifting and handling of loads, etc. Relatively less there are confirmed diseases of nervous system – 20,25% and infections – 11,66%.

⁴ The number of new occupational patients and occupational diseases per 100000 workers for 2004-2007 has been calculated on the basis of data of SRS, for 2008 – on the data of Central Statistical Board.

Table 6

Breakdown of occupational patients by sectors (according to NACE Classifier)

	Categories of activity according to NACE Classifier	2007	2008
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	96	72
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	8	3
C	PROCESSING INDUSTRY	260	327
D	ELECTRIC ENERGY, GAS AND HEAT SUPPLY, AND AIR CONDITIONING	14	11
E	WATER SUPPLY; WASTE WATER, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION	8	11
F	CONSTRUCTION	43	55
G	WHOLESALE TRADE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF CARS, MOTOR-CYCLES,	22	28
H	TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	126	186
I	LODGING AND CATERING SERVICES	9	15
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES	5	3
K	FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITY	2	0
L	REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS	5	6
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	0	3
N	ACTIVITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE COMPANIES	1	4
O	STATE ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE; COMPULSORY SOCIAL INSURANCE	11	28
P	EDUCATION	31	43
Q	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	114	163
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	3	7
S	OTHER SERVICES	16	24
U	ACTIVITY OF NON TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS	2	0
	Total	776	989

When analysing the structure of occupational patients' professions (see Table 5), one can see that the biggest number of patients is in the following groups: equipment and machine operators and article assemblers – 34,3%; qualified workers and craftsmen – 22%.

Table 7

Breakdown of occupational patients by professions

	Profession groups according to profession classifier	2007	2008
1	LAWMAKERS, STATE OFFICIALS, PUBLIC SERVANTS IN MANAGERS POSITION AND MANAGERS	4	11
2	SENIOR SPECIALISTS	68	87
3	SPECIALISTS	68	96
4	OFFICE WORKERS	17	21
5	SERVICE AND TRADE EMPLOYEES	49	99
6	QUALIFIED AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY WORKERS	32	33

7	QUALIFIED WORKERS AND CRAFTSMEN	198	218
8	EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE OPERATORS AND ARTICLE ASSEMBLERS	279	339
9	ORDINARY PROFESSIONS	61	85
	Total	776	989

When analysing occupational diseases according to the 10th International Classifier of Diseases and Health Problems one can conclude that their number has grown essentially only in the group of musculoskeletal system diseases (in 2007 - 322, in 2008 – 462), which fact can be explained by the increase of the number of occupational patients employed in transport sector. A slight increase is also in the group of nervous system diseases (in 2007 – 131, in 2008 – 174).

Table 8

Groups of occupational diseases according to the 10th International Classification of Diseases

	Groups and code of occupational diseases	2007	2008
A00-B99	Infectious and parasite diseases	21	20
C00–D48	Tumours (malignant and pre-cancer diseases)	11	8
F00–F99	Mental and behaviour disorders	0	2
G00-G99	Diseases of nervous system	131	174
H60-H95	Ear and ear knoll diseases	17	22
I00-I99	Blood circulation diseases	1	8
J00-J99	Respiratory system diseases	95	102
L00-L99	Skin and subcutaneous diseases	14	10
M00-M99	Skeleton – muscular – connective tissue diseases	322	462
R00-R99	Symptoms and anomalous clinical and laboratory findings not classified anywhere	3	3
S00-T98	After-effects of injuries, poisoning and other external influence	160	178
Y10-Y34	Injuries caused by unspecified intention	1	0
	Total	776	989

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