

REPORT

for the period 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2015, made by the **Government of Finland**, in accordance with article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, on the measures taken to give effect to the provisions of the

Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001, No. 184 ratification of which was registered on 21 February 2003.

Direct Request, 2010

Article 4 of the Convention. National policy.

Nationally the activities of Occupational Health and Safety Administration are guided by the strategy 'Socially Sustainable Finland' of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, confirmed in 2011. To support this strategy and to guide the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, 'Policies for the work environment and well-being at work until 2020' have been drafted. The policies do not contain sector-specific goals, but the policies concern all Finnish working life. When the strategy and the policies were drafted, it was decided that there will be no progress reports done on their implementation. The part that concerns the Occupational Health and Safety Administration has been reviewed by the tripartite Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. The goals and activities of the policies will be carried out as part of the normal activities of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. The social partners will participate in this with established operating methods.

As to the continuation process, there was no desire to just simply forecast the future by looking at the past, and that is why preventive work has an emphasised significance on recognising the changes in the society and the effect they have on working life and how they are reflected in the activities. This preventive work has been done for example by the Department for Occupational Safety in their Working life 2025 review, which aimed at studying working life in 2025, and what kinds of activities the Occupational Health and Safety Administration should do in order to minimise the negative effects. The review was drafted in such a manner that the tripartite Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health regularly discussed the numbers of the review as the work progressed. The observations of the Working life 2025 review and the measures in the original policies are will be connected to the annual plan of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

The number of occupational accidents has been very constant for several years. In order to improve development, new methods are explored and, in 2014, the Department for Occupational Safety and Health commissioned a preliminary study on a modern accident programme from a consortium formed by the Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) and the Tampere University of Technology. The objective was to find new methods required by the changing working life and promoting occupational safety. As to agriculture, a VTT researcher Janne Karttunen has conducted a study on accumulation of occupational health problems among agricultural entrepreneurs. This study enables a better targeting of preventive measures in organisations promoting occupational safety.

Article 5. Labour inspection.

Agricultural enterprises in Finland are mainly micro enterprises and that way the inspection activities targeted at agriculture are mainly targeted at small enterprises. The occupational safety and health areas of responsibility are independent. The recruited inspectors must be able to carry out inspections on different industry sectors, and because of this, the trend is to choose and train inspectors to be multi-skilled. The educational level of the inspectors recruited has been higher than before, and many inspectors have several degrees. The inspectors will receive needed additional training both in different areas of responsibility and nationally.

During the time period 1.6.2010-31.12.2014, according to monitoring information systems (VERA and VATI), there was a total of 2671 inspections to primary production. From these, 569 were document inspections and 2102 were workplace inspections. That means that annually there have been an average of 593 inspections, 467 of which were targeted to workplaces. In 2013, the percentage of occupational accidents in primary production was 3,4% of all the occupational accidents among wage-earners. Annually there are approximately 12 500 occupational safety inspections targeted at micro enterprises. This means that 3,7% of the inspections were targeted to workplaces of primary production, which is slightly more than what the numbers of occupational accidents would require.

The agricultural sector employs large numbers of young, foreign seasonal workers in berry picking and horticulture. Based on the reports, the rights of seasonal workers are, as a main rule, implemented just like those of employees with a permanent employment relationship. The lines of production that use seasonal workers are quite geographically centred in different parts of Finland. The occupational safety and health areas of responsibility choose the focus areas of supervision based on the situation of their own regions. The targets of the occupational safety and health areas of responsibility differ so much from each other that it is difficult to give a clear picture of the implementation of the supervision and its results on a national level. The evaluation should be carried out on regional level. As an attempt to solve this problem, it has been agreed that the occupational health and safety responsibility area of Eastern Finland takes responsibility of coordinating the supervisory projects of agriculture. However, this coordinating experiment has begun only in 2014.

Article 14. Animal handling.

As to avian and swine influenzas, the main focus in control is in prevention. In prevention, the central instruction-giving authorities are the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira. The industry's and entrepreneurs' own organisations like Animal Health ETT and The Poultry Association organise training and give entrepreneurs information on prevention. The National Institute for Health and Welfare in Finland gives the instructions on how to protect oneself from avian and swine influenzas. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration then distributes this information to be used at workplaces, and the availability of protective equipment is monitored during inspections. So far, there has been no avian influenza cases at Finnish farms. During the reporting period, annually there has been 0-2 cases of swine influenza.

In 2005, a full-cost responsibility system was introduced in medical care compensation of the statutory accident insurance. With this full-cost renewal, the insurance inspections pay for all the medical care given in health care services because of an occupational accident or an illness. In addition, the patient fee charged from the injured person is compensated. The full-cost renewal significantly lowered the threshold of accident reporting, and this can be seen in the occupational accident statistics as a notable growth in accident numbers in 2005 and the following years (attachment 1). When studying the accident distribution, it can be seen that the increase occurred

especially in minor accidents (attachment 2). With this renewal, the occupational accidents that earlier went unreported became visible.

Article 20. Working time arrangements.

A link to the generally binding collective agreement: <https://www.finlex.fi/data/tes/stes2622-MU45maaseu1402.pdf>

Part V of the report (statistical information)

Appendix 1:



The SAS System

ACCIDENT CATEGORY workplace

MAIN PROFESSION CATEGORY	ACCIDENT YEAR															TOTAL
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 *	
agriculture and forestry, fishing	2762	2652	2544	2676	2483	2618	3243	3434	3264	3394	3113	3208	3166	3303		45066
TOTAL	2762	2652	2544	2676	2483	2618	3243	3434	3264	3394	3113	3208	3166	3303	3206	45066

* Preliminary information for 2013. The information concerning especially occupational accidents that resulted in long sickness-related absences and in pensions are still incomplete, and therefore not comparable with earlier years.

As of accident year 2005, the numbers of accidents are not directly comparable with earlier accident years due to the reform concerning so-called health care full-cost renewal.



Appendix 2:

MAIN
PROFESSI
ON
CATEGORY
:
AGRICULTU
RE AND
FORESTRY,
FISHING
AM1LK IN
('4')

SEVERITY	ACCIDENT YEAR															TOT AL
	199 9	200 0	200 1	200 2	200 3	200 4	200 5	200 6	200 7	200 8	200 9	201 0	201 1	201 2	201 3*	
fatal	3	6	4	1	3	1	4	6	4	3	2	2	0	1	2	42
180+ or pension	35	41	56	46	54	44	51	53	49	45	58	45	53	53	27	710
91-180 days	64	64	76	56	54	76	74	67	78	85	83	79	53	60	68	1037
31-90 days	315	291	288	287	253	267	262	268	276	261	243	258	261	244	251	4025
15-30 days	443	375	382	448	384	376	396	392	360	406	341	335	302	314	305	5559
7-14 days	724	668	677	700	648	638	771	807	677	698	590	640	577	608	570	9993
4-6 days	495	460	409	455	467	477	517	504	475	505	443	428	440	457	452	6984
0-3 days	840	896	840	843	781	897	138	156	157	163	152	163	170	176	173	1961
Total	291 9	280 1	273 2	283 6	264 4	277 6	345 7	366 0	349 5	363 3	328 9	342 2	338 6	350 3	341 2	4796 5

* Preliminary information for 2013. The information concerning especially occupational accidents that resulted in long sickness-related absences and in pensions are still incomplete, and therefore not comparable with earlier years.



As of accident year 2005, the numbers of accidents are not directly comparable with earlier accident years due to the reform concerning so-called health care full-cost renewal.

I Legislation and regulations

During the reporting period, the following amendments, also related to agriculture, have entered into force:

Amendments to Occupational Safety and Health Act (738/2002):

1232/2011 Amendments to regulations concerning the identification of a person working on a shared construction site, the duties of a self-employed constructor on a shared workplace and the section concerning occupational safety violations.

369/2012 Amendment to regulation concerning personnel facilities

329/2013 Amendments to regulations concerning the identification and assessment of work-related risks, the education and guidance provided to employees, and the appointment of persons responsible for first aid and rescue.

364/2013 Amendment to regulations concerning the maintenance of a list of the duties of a self-employed constructor on a shared workplace and of occupational safety violations.

II

Articles 1-3

Nothing new to report.

Articles 4-5

See the general comments to articles 4, 5, 14 and 20.

Articles 6-13

Nothing new to report.

Article 14

See the general comments to articles 4, 5, 14 and 20.

Articles 15-19

Nothing new to report.

Article 20

Please see direct request, article 20.

Article 21

Nothing new to report.

As to the Conventions 129 and 184, the responses of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will be reviewed in the Rural Industries Division set by the Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health.

III-V

Nothing new to report.

VI

A copy of this report has been sent to the following labour market organisations:

The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK)

The Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK)

The Finnish Confederation of Professionals (STTK)

The Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland (AKAVA)

The Commission for Local Authority Employers (KT)

The State Employer's Office (VTML)

The Federation of Finnish enterprises