



Lighting at the Workplace The EU OSH Perspective

Lighting and Well-Being in Buildings
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- ***Framework Directive 89/391/EEC***
 - **General provisions to improve health and safety at the workplace**
 - **Employers have a duty to ensure the safety and health of workers in every aspect related to the work**
 - **Article 6 details these obligations and includes, among other things:**
 - **The development of a coherent overall prevention policy which covers technology, organisation of work, working conditions and the *influence of factors related to the working environment***
 - **The adaptation of work to the individual, especially as regards the design of workplaces (*ergonomic principle*)**

- ***Directive 89/654/EEC***

- **Sets minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace**
- **Annex I and II to the Directive detail such requirements and also include provisions for artificial room lighting, which state in particular that:**
 - **Workplaces must be equipped with artificial lighting adequate for the protection of workers' safety and health**
 - **Lighting installations in rooms containing workstations and in passageways must be placed in such a way that there is no risk of accident to workers as a result of the type of lighting used**
 - **Workplaces in which workers are especially exposed to risks in the event of failure of artificial lighting must be provided with emergency lighting of adequate intensity**

- ***Directive 90/270/EEC***
 - **Sets minimum safety and health requirements for work with DSE**
 - **Requirements, as detailed in the Annex, also include provisions for lighting; in particular, it is stated that:**
 - **Room lighting and/or spot lighting (work lamps) shall ensure satisfactory lighting conditions and an appropriate contrast between the screen and the background environment, taking into account the type of work and the user's vision requirements**
 - **Possible disturbing glare and reflections on the screen or other equipment shall be prevented by coordinating workplace and workstation layout with the positioning and technical characteristics of the artificial light sources**

- **Delivering on its Communication *Safe and Healthier Work for All – Modernisation of the EU OSH Legislation and Policy* (COM(2017) 12), the Commission is conducting a stakeholder consultation, with the support of the tripartite ACSH, to identify ways for possible updating of a number of OSH Directives, including Directives 89/654/EEC (workplace) and 90/270/EEC (work with DSE)**
- **Revision of the Annexes to these Directives are among the possible options discussed**
- **While emphasis is put on the need to clarify and provide more details on legal provisions, e.g. regarding "adequate lighting", a less prescriptive approach is also recommended to avoid the rapid outdate of technical provisions due to rapid technological advances**

- **OSH is not only about compliance with legislation, but also about fostering a culture of prevention and well-being at work**
- **Both the WHO and the ILO have defined occupational health as the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and social well-being of workers**
- **The concept has become part of the EU OSH culture - see as a starting point for discussion Commission Communication *Adapting to change in work and society: a new Community strategy on health and safety at work 2002-2006* (COM(2002) 118)**
- **In this context, promoting a positive work environment, including physical conditions like lighting, can improve and sustain the health and (not only the physical but also the psychological)well-being of workers.**

Thank you for your attention!