

LAW 19.587 of July 21, 1972

CDI

This standard was retrieved from InfoLEG, the database of the Center for Documentation and Information (CDI – *Centro de Documentación e Información*), Ministry of Economy and Public Finance.

**LAW OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE AND SAFETY**

**LAW No. 19.587**

Buenos Aires, July 21, 1972

Through the exercise of the authority vested in him by Article 5 of the Statute of the Argentine Revolution,

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION SANCTIONS AND PROMULGATES WITH THE FORCE OF LAW:

**Article 1** – Conditions of occupational hygiene and safety are to be adjusted, in all of the territory of the republic, to the standards of the present law, and to such regulations as may be issued in consequence thereof.

Its provisions shall apply to all establishments and operations, whether for profit or not-for-profit, whatever the economic nature of their activities, the setting where they are performed, the character of the facilities and work stations and types of machinery, materials, devices or procedures that are used or adopted.

**Article 2** – For the purposes of this law, the terms “establishment,” “operation,” “work places” or “work station” designate every place intended for the execution of work, or where tasks are performed of any kind or nature with the permanent, circumstantial, temporary or tentative presence of natural persons, and to the premises and attached facilities of all kinds where they must remain or to which they repair or appear for such purpose, either on the occasion of work or with the express or tacit consent of the principal. The term ‘employer’ designates the natural or juridical, private or public person who uses the activities of one or more persons on the basis of an employment contract or relationship.

**Art. 3** – When the provision of work is executed by third parties, in establishments, work places or work centers of the principal giver, or with machinery, elements or devices provided by him, the latter shall be jointly responsible for compliance with the provisions of this law.

**Art. 4** – Occupational hygiene and safety shall encompass the technical standards and health measures, precautionary and custodial measures or those of any nature whose purpose it is to:

- a) Protect life, preserve and maintain the psycho-physical wellbeing of workers;
- b) Prevent, reduce, eliminate or isolate risks of different work places or stations;
- c) Stimulate and develop a positive attitude with respect to the prevention of accidents or illnesses that may result from work activities;

**Art. 5** – For purposes of the application of this law, the following principles and methods of execution are held to be fundamental:

- a) The creation of occupational hygiene and safety services, and occupational medicine of a preventive and care-giving character.
- b) Gradual institutionalization of a system of general or specific regulations concerning environmental conditions or ecological factors and the incidence of areas or factors of risk;
- c) Sectorial implementation of the regulations based on fields of activity, professional specialization and the size of enterprises;
- d) Distinction for all purposes of this law between normal, very difficult or hazardous activities, or determinants of premature aging or exhaustion and/or activities performed in unhealthy places or environments;
- e) Standardization of the terms used in hygiene and safety, establishing specific and uniform definitions for the classification of occupational accidents, injuries and illnesses;
- f) Research into the determining factors of occupational accidents and illnesses, especially physical, physiological and psychological factors.

LAW 19.587 of July 21, 1972

- g) Compilation and centralization of standardized statistics on occupational accidents and illnesses as a prerequisite for a study of the determining causes and means of prevention;
- h) Study and adoption of measures to protect the health and life of workers in the context of their occupations, especially with regard to services rendered for tasks that are very difficult, hazardous, or determinants of premature aging or exhaustion and/or performed in unhealthy places or environments;
- i) Application of corrective techniques for work environments in cases in which levels of noxious elements harmful to health are permanently present during working hours;
- j) Establishment of guiding principles with respect to the selection or hiring of personnel based on risks that different employment tasks, operations, or manual activities give rise to;
- k) Determination of minimal conditions of hygiene and safety to authorize the functioning of enterprises or establishments;
- l) Adoption and application through the intervention of competent authorities of appropriate, up-to-date scientific and technical measures to uphold the objectives of this law;
- m) Participation in all hygiene and safety programs by specialized, public and private institutions, and by professional employers' associations and members of labor unions;
- n) Observance of international recommendations to the extent that they are adapted to the country's own characteristics and ratification, on the aforementioned conditions, of international conventions concerning the matter;
- ñ) Dissemination and publicity concerning recommendations and techniques for prevention that prove universally advisable or appropriate;
- o) Conduct of entrance exams and periodic medical exams, based on such standards as may be established in the respective regulations.

**Art. 6** – The regulations for hygiene conditions in the work environment must primarily consider the following things:

- a) Design characteristics of industrial plans, establishments, facilities, work places and stations, machinery, equipment and procedures followed in work;
- b) Physical factors: spatial volume, ventilation, temperature, thermal load, pressure, humidity, lighting, noise, vibrations and ionizing radiation;
- c) Environmental pollution: physical and/or chemical and biological agents;
- d) Industrial effluents.

**Art. 7** – Regulations of occupational safety conditions must primarily consider the following things:

- a) Installations, devices and accessories; utensils and tools; location and conservation;
- b) Protection of machines, installations and devices;
- c) Electrical installations;
- d) Individual protective gear for workers;
- e) Occupational accident and disease prevention at work;
- f) Identification and labeling of harmful substances, and placing signs on hazardous and extremely hazardous places;
- g) Prevention and protection against fires and any kind of accident.

LAW 19.587 of July 21, 1972

**Art. 8** – All employers must adopt and put into practice adequate hygiene and safety measures to protect the life and wellbeing of workers, especially with regard to the following things:

- a) The construction, adaptation, installation and equipment of buildings and work places in adequate environmental and sanitary conditions;
- b) The placement and maintenance of safeguards and protective housing for machinery and all kinds of installations, with hygiene and safety arrangements pursuant to the best technical advice;
- c) The supply and maintenance of personal protective gear;
- d) Work operations and processes.

**Art. 9** – Without impairment to what is particularly set forth in the regulations, the employer also has the following obligations:

- a) To provide a pre-occupational exam and periodic review of personnel, recording their results in the respective health records;
- b) To maintain machinery, installations and utensils in a good state of repair, use and operating condition;
- c) To install the equipment necessary for refreshment of the air and elimination of gases, vapors and other impurities produced in the course of work;
- d) To keep in a good state of repair, use and operating condition electrical installations and drinking water services;
- e) To avoid the accumulation of trash and waste that may pose a hazard to health, conducting the appropriate cleaning and disinfection regularly.
- f) To eliminate, isolate or reduce noises and/or vibrations harmful to the health of workers;
- g) To install the equipment necessary to deal with risks in the event of fire or any other accident;
- h) To store hazardous substances with the appropriate safeguards under safe conditions;
- i) To provide adequate means for the immediate provision of first aid;
- j) To place and keep prominently displayed notices or posters that indicate measures for hygiene and safety, or that warn against hazards in machinery and installations;
- k) To undertake training of personnel in matters of occupational hygiene and safety, particularly with regard to prevention of specific risks of assigned tasks;
- l) To report occupational accidents and illnesses.

**Art. 10** – Without impairment to what is particularly set forth in the regulations, workers shall have the following obligations:

- a) To comply with hygiene and safety standards and with such recommendations as may be formulated concerning the use, conservation and care of personal protective gear and the protective gear of the machinery, operations and work processes;
- b) To undergo preventive and periodic medical examinations and comply with the prescriptions and indications issued for such purpose;
- c) To pay attention to notices and posters indicating hygiene and safety measures and heed their prescriptions;
- d) To collaborate in the organization of training and education programs concerning hygiene and safety, and attend classes given during working hours.

LAW 19.587 of July 21, 1972

Art. 11 – THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY shall issue the regulations necessary for the implementation of this law and shall establish the conditions and financing terms whereby the national government in power shall adopt the appropriate ratings with respect to the activities encompassed herein, in relation to the standards governing the duration of the working day. Until such time, the regulatory provisions in force in this regard shall continue to apply.

Art. 12 – Infractions of the provisions of this law and its regulations will be sanctioned by the respective national or provincial authority, pursuant to Law 18.608, in accordance with the regimen established by Law 18.694.

Art. 13 – Let notification hereof be given, let it be published, forwarded to the National Bureau of Official Records and be duly filed.

LANUSSE

Rubens G. San Sebastian