

## Tecnicl Press Release

### Why Workplace Evaluation?

Based on EU Directive 89/391/EEC, which member states are required to implement into national law, and in accordance with the Employee Protection Regulation effective from January 1, 1997, and the subsequent Employee Protection Act from the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour, workplaces must be examined for their suitability and risks, and if necessary, appropriate remedies or changes must be made. This regulation also serves to improve the workplace, minimize employee stress, reduce or eliminate various risks, and much more.

Initially, workplace evaluation may seem like "just another regulation that only adds administrative burden," but upon deeper consideration, the benefits of positive implementation for both employees and the company are immense. These include promoting employee health, reducing absenteeism and doctor visits, improving ergonomics, increasing employee motivation, enhancing product quality/performance, reducing waste, minimizing complaints, improving the company's image, lowering business risks, contributing to the company's profitability, and much more.

Here is an excerpt from [www.help.gv.at](http://www.help.gv.at):

#### General Information

Evaluation involves the systematic collection and assessment of workload data and hazards for employees in various work areas, determining measures against these hazards, and documenting this process in so-called safety and health protection documents.

The following must be done:

- Identify and assess existing hazards to the safety and health of employees.
- Based on this evaluation, determine measures to prevent these hazards.
- Document the results of the hazard identification and assessment, as well as the measures to be taken, in safety and health protection documents.
- Review and, if necessary, adjust the evaluation and measures after accidents, introduction of new work materials, changes in work processes, etc.
- Strive for improvements in working conditions.

## Implementation

There is essentially procedural freedom for conducting the evaluation! The approach should be chosen based on the company's circumstances.

It must be oriented to the nature of the workplaces, work processes, and technical complexity.

**Attention:** Employees or their representatives (safety representatives or workforce representatives) must be involved in identifying and assessing hazards and determining measures. These individuals must have access to the created safety and health protection documents. Safety experts and occupational physicians, as well as other specialists (e.g., chemists), should also be involved in identifying and assessing hazards.

### Sources of Potential Hazards:

- Use of hazardous work materials
- Use of work equipment
- Electrical installations and equipment
- Ergonomically designed workplaces (e.g., for screen work)

#### Note:

- Magnification devices, such as magnifying lamps
- Handling of loads
- Noise, vibrations

For assistance with evaluation, the following institutions and their documents may be helpful:

- Labor Inspection.

## Assessing Hazards and Determining Measures

After identifying hazards, it must be assessed whether and which measures—beyond legal requirements and provisions in decisions—are necessary.

**Note:** For measures that cannot be implemented immediately, appropriate deadlines must be set. Additionally, document who is responsible for these measures.

## Safety and Health Protection Documents

The results of the assessment and the measures to be taken must be documented. For workplaces with no more than ten employees and where no hazards require protective measures, a simplified safety and health protection document may be created.

**Note:** Only the minimum contents of the safety and health protection documents are specified; the external form is flexible. However, a joint documentation form that meets legal

requirements have been developed by the General Accident Insurance Institute, the Chamber of Labour Austria, and the Chamber of Commerce Austria.

These documents must include:

- Who conducted the evaluation, when, and where?
- Who was involved?
- How many employees are employed in the area covered by this document?
- What hazards were identified?
- If hazards were identified, what measures are planned?
- Who is responsible for implementation?
- By when should the measures be completed?

These documents must also include (where applicable):

- Which activities require examination?
- Which activities require specific expertise?
- What personal protective equipment is used?
- Information about specially marked areas
- What precautions are to be taken for serious and immediate dangers?
- List of hazardous work materials used
- List of work equipment requiring testing
- Information about applied standards and guidelines
- Fire safety regulations, evacuation plans, explosion protection documents

Detailed information on implementation can be found at: [www.eval.at](http://www.eval.at)

**Conclusion when including magnifying lamps in workplace evaluation:**

In the area of magnification devices, such as magnifying lamps, the question arises as to how many hours a person spends per day/month/year using them and whether it constitutes a minor, moderate, or significant burden and of what kind.

Questions also arise about overall ergonomics (viewing area, can one see continuously and without restrictions with both eyes through the lens?, angle, reflections, distortion-free, color fidelity, scratch resistance, etc.) and the strain on the eyes (hours worked, test items and



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quantity, light spectrum/color, light intensity, individual light intensity, flicker-free and strobe-free, reflections, etc.).

See also mandatory visits to the ophthalmologist.

It can be assumed that too small lenses, scratched lenses, insufficient light, flickering light, uneven light, spotty light, shadows, reflections, non-adjustable light intensity, insufficient light spectrum, inadequate ergonomics, and more can significantly burden employees, especially if this condition is persistent. This can result in increased doctor visits, absenteeism, reduced inspection quality, higher waste, increased complaints, delivery problems, and more, from potential overload to permanent eye damage.

***"Better vision" speaks for itself, "poor or insufficient vision" speaks for itself in every way.***

***Check for yourself! Compare for yourself!***

**Warning:** Never look directly or indirectly into a light source with unprotected eyes if it is likely to be stronger than your eyes can handle. Otherwise, you must expect temporary limitations and irritations, as well as permanent damage to your vision.