

Compiling legislation

This unique database aims to identify OSH requirements set out in the national law using as benchmarks the provisions of the key ILO Convention Nos. 155 (1981), 161 (1985) and 187 (2006). Its development has built on the experience and know-how of various departments within the ILO and from other experts with the sole purpose of providing the world of work with a data platform to support informed policy making decisions with regard to protecting the safety and health of workers.

The database classification structure comprises both binary (yes/no) and textual data, including summaries of/ or quotes from specific paragraphs of laws and regulations, in relation to several OSH items.

In order to collect the necessary information, researchers first reviewed existing laws that have been submitted to the ILO by member States (e.g. by using NATLEX) and browsed official government web sites, mainly pertaining to public institutions involved in the administration of OSH, academic institutions and legal databases in order to check for updated pieces of legislation. Partly, special requests for information about the national legislation were sent by researchers to Ministries of Labour and/or Health or other relevant national authorities to seek information on any recent legislative developments and amendments.

There were considerable challenges in gathering the information which are inherent to desk reviews, ranging from lack of public access to legislation and unavailable translations of legal texts to complex regulatory processes in some countries. The validation of the information is planned to take place in the coming year.

Citations

The database cites references for all legislative provisions and provides a direct link to NATLEX. Bibliographic references and .url/pdf-links are provided as available and where the document is not yet included in NATLEX. Each time a legislative provision is used in a specific item in the database, the relevant article or paragraph is cited. References to legal provisions were mostly standardized as "§", regardless of the term used in the original legal text (e.g. "Article", "Section", "Paragraph", "Clause" etc.); however, when a reference is made to an Annex, Title, Table or any other classification term used in the original text, it is specified.

Language

The database provides authentic legal texts in their original language. Some legislative texts are available in one of the ILO's official languages (usually English), even when this is not the official language of the member State. In some cases these are official translations by the Member State; in others, translations are unofficial versions, translated by the ILO, national Governments or other national organizations. In many cases, if the text of a legislative provision is in a language other than English, French or Spanish, the name of the act provided in English is a translation by the researcher, followed by the name of the act, if possible, in the original language.

About Empty Data Fields and Blank Search Results

For some countries in the database, information for a few categories may be missing despite any effort to provide complete and standardized information across all topics and countries. There are several possible reasons for missing information and searches that yield no result:

- Legislative provisions concerning a particular issue may not exist in that particular country;
- Legislation regulating the issue was not available at the ILO and could not be found through other methods by the researchers;

In those cases a "No data available" message will be displayed as a result of the search.

Other limitations

In general, it should be noted that the information included in the database is based on the data that was available to or found by the researchers. In some cases, and despite all efforts made, this may not be the most recent legislation if the Member State has not forwarded current legislation to the ILO. Additionally, if an unofficial translation has been used, or if translation was not available, there may be errors due to misunderstandings, or problems of interpretation. It is also important to keep in mind that in many cases relevant legal provisions have been summarized by the researchers which imply a certain degree of interpretation. Therefore, it should be used for information purposes only, and not taken as legal advice.