

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(92) 366 final - SYN 321

Brussels, 7 August 1992

Re-examined proposal for a

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

ON

**THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
FOR IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND HEALTH
PROTECTION OF WORKERS
IN THE MINERAL-EXTRACTING INDUSTRIES
THROUGH DRILLING**

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 149.2(d)
of the EEC treaty)

The initial proposal for this directive was transmitted to the Council by the Commission on 21 December 1990⁽¹⁾.

This proposal for a Council directive, based on Article 118a of the EEC Treaty, is the eleventh individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC (Council Directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work - "Framework Directive").

The proposal seeks, using minimum requirements,

- to improve the safety and health protection of workers in the mineral-extracting industries
- and fills the legislative gap resulting from the exclusion of the extractive industries from the scope of Council Directive 89/654/EEC ("Workplace Directive")

The European Parliament (first reading) and the Economic and Social Committee gave their opinions on 9 October 1991 and 29 May 1991 respectively.

The Commission sent the Council an amended version of its proposal⁽²⁾ on 20 December 1991.

On 30 April 1992 the Council adopted a common position which was examined by the European Parliament (second reading) on 8 July 1992 and adopted subject to 8 amendments.

Of these 8 amendments, the Commission has agreed to incorporate 5 in their entirety or in part in its re-examined proposal.

It rejected 3 amendments, namely Nos 1, 3 and 4.

The Commission's opinions on the amendments which it did not accept are as follows:

(The numbering given below is that used at the sitting of 8 July.)

Amendment No 1: (Article 2(ba) - new)

Contains a new definition of the word 'employer'.

Comments: This new definition is unacceptable, since the word 'employer' is already defined in the Framework Directive.

(1) COM (90) 663 final

(2) COM (91) 493 final

Amendment No 3: (Article 7, paragraph 1)

Provides for workers' representatives to be elected.

Comments: The introduction of the word 'elected' is incompatible with Article 10 of the Framework Directive.

Amendment No 4: (Article 9)

Calls for balanced representation of elected representatives on a safety committee, whose proceedings shall be recorded.

Comments: The proposed expansion is incompatible with Article 11 of the Framework Directive (see also Amendment No 3).

1 bis

Common position adopted by the
Council on 30 April 1992

Re-examined Commission proposal
under Article 149(2)(d)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

(If no alternative text is shown, the common
position remains unchanged.)

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the
European Economic Community, and in particular
Article 118a thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the
Commission⁽¹⁾, drawn up after consultation with
the Safety and Health Commission for the Mining
and Other Extractive Industries,

In co-operation with the European
Parliament⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and
Social Committee⁽³⁾

Whereas Article 118a of the EEC Treaty provides
that the Council shall adopt, by means of
Directives, minimum requirements for encouraging
improvements, especially in the working
environment, to guarantee a better level of
protection of the safety and health of workers;

Whereas, pursuant to that Article, such
Directives must avoid imposing administrative,
financial and legal constraints which would hold
back the creation and development of small and
medium-sized undertakings;

Whereas the improvement of workers' safety,
hygiene and health at work is an objective which
should not be subordinated to purely economic
considerations;

Whereas Council Directive 89/654/EEC of
30 November 1989 concerning the minimum safety
and health requirements for the workplace (first
individual Directive within the meaning of
Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)⁽⁴⁾ does
not apply to the extractive industries;

Whereas compliance with the minimum requirements
designed to guarantee a better standard of safety
and health for the mineral-extracting industries
through drilling is essential to ensure the
safety and health of workers;

Whereas the mineral-extracting industries through
drilling constitute an area of activity likely to
expose workers to particularly high levels of
risk;

Whereas this Directive is an individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work⁽⁵⁾; whereas, therefore, the provisions of the said Directive apply in full to the mineral-extracting industries through drilling without prejudice to more stringent and/or specific provisions contained in this Directive;

Whereas this Directive is a practical contribution towards creating the social dimension of the internal market,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

SECTION 1

General provisions

Article 1

Subject

1. This Directive, which is the eleventh individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC, lays down minimum requirements for the safety and health protection of workers in the mineral-extracting industries through drilling defined in Article 2(a).
2. The provisions of Directive 89/391/EEC shall apply in full to the sphere referred to in paragraph 1, without prejudice to more stringent and/or specific provisions contained in this Directive.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purpose of this Directive:

- (a) "mineral-extracting industries through drilling" shall mean all the industries practising:
 - extraction in the strict sense of the word of minerals through drilling by boreholes, and/or
 - prospection with a view to such extraction, and/or

• preparation of extracted materials for sale, excluding the activities of processing the materials extracted;

(b) "workplace" shall mean the whole area intended to house workstations, relating to the immediate and ancillary activities and installations of the mineral-extracting industries through drilling, including accommodation, where provided, to which workers have access in the context of their work.

SECTION 11

Employers' obligations

Article 3

General obligations

1. To safeguard the safety and health of workers, the employer shall take the necessary measures to ensure that:
 - (a) workplaces are designed, constructed, equipped, commissioned, operated and maintained in such a way that workers can perform the work assigned to them without endangering their safety and/or health and/or those of other workers;
 - (b) the operation of workplaces when workers are present takes place under the supervision of a person in charge;
 - (c) work involving a special risk is entrusted only to competent staff and carried out in accordance with the instructions given;
 - (d) all safety instructions are comprehensible to all the workers concerned;
 - (e) appropriate first-aid facilities are provided;
 - (f) any relevant safety drills are performed at regular intervals.

Common position adopted by the
Council on 30 April 1992

Re-examined Commission proposal
under Article 149(2)(d)

2. The employer shall ensure that a document concerning safety and health, hereinafter referred to as "safety and health document", covering the relevant requirements laid down in Articles 6, 9 and 10 of Directive 89/391/EEC, is drawn up and kept up to date.

The safety and health document shall demonstrate in particular:

- that the risks incurred by the workers at the workplace have been determined and assessed;
- that adequate measures will be taken to attain the aims of this Directive;
- that the design, use and maintenance of the workplace and of the equipment are safe.

The safety and health document must be drawn up prior to the commencement of work and be revised if the workplace has undergone major changes, extensions or conversions.

3. Where workers from several undertakings are present at the same workplace, each employer shall be responsible for all matters under his control.

The employer who, in accordance with national laws and/or practices, is in charge of the workplace, shall co-ordinate the implementation of all the measures concerning the safety and health of the workers and shall state, in his safety and health document, the aim of that coordination and the measures and procedures for implementing it.

The co-ordination shall not affect the responsibility of the individual employers as provided for in Directive 89/391/EEC.

4. The employer shall report any serious and/or fatal occupational accidents and situations of serious danger to the competent authorities as soon as possible.

The employer shall report forthwith to the responsible authorities any serious and/or fatal occupational accidents and situations of serious danger. The employer shall update the safety and health document to include an account of the measures taken to prevent any repetition.

Article 4

Protection from fire, explosions and
health-endangering atmospheres

The employer shall take measures and precautions appropriate to the nature of the operation:

- to avoid, detect and combat the starting and spread of fires and explosions, and
- to prevent the occurrence of explosive and/or health-endangering atmospheres.

Article 5

Escape and rescue facilities

The employer shall provide and maintain appropriate means of escape and rescue in order to ensure that workers have adequate opportunities for leaving the workplaces promptly and safely in the event of danger.

Article 6

Communication, warning and alarm systems

The employer shall take the requisite measures to provide the necessary warning and other communication systems to enable assistance, escape and rescue operations to be launched immediately if the need arises.

Article 7

Keeping workers informed

1. Without prejudice to Article 10 of Directive 89/391/EEC, workers and/or their representatives shall be informed of all measures to be taken concerning safety and health at workplaces, and in particular of those relating to the implementation of Articles 3 to 6.
2. The information must be comprehensible to the workers concerned.

Article 8

Health surveillance

1. To ensure that workers receive health surveillance appropriate to the health and safety risks they incur at work, measures shall be introduced in accordance with national law and/or practices.
2. The measures referred to in paragraph 1 shall be such that each worker shall be entitled to or shall undergo health surveillance before being assigned to duties related to the activities referred to in Article 2 and subsequently at regular intervals.
3. Health surveillance may be provided as part of a national health system.

Article 9

Consultation of workers
and workers' participation

Consultation and participation of workers and/or of their representatives shall take place in accordance with Article 11 of Directive 89/391/EEC on the matters covered by this Directive.

Article 10

Minimum requirements for safety and health

1. Workplaces used for the first time after the date on which this Directive is brought into effect as referred to in Article 12(1) must satisfy the minimum safety and health requirements laid down in the Annex.
2. Workplaces already in use before the date on which this Directive is brought into effect as referred to in Article 12(1) must satisfy the minimum safety and health requirements laid down in the Annex as soon as possible and at the latest five years after that date.
3. When workplaces undergo changes, extensions and/or conversions after the date on which this Directive is brought into effect as referred to in Article 12(1), the employer shall take the measures necessary to ensure that those changes, extensions and/or conversions are in compliance with the corresponding minimum requirements laid down in the Annex.

SECTION III

Other provisions

Article 11

Adjustments to the Annexes

1. Purely technical adjustments to the Annexes in line with:
 - the adoption of Directives in the field of technical harmonisation and standardisation concerning the mineral-extracting industries through drilling,
 - and/or
 - technical progress, changes in international regulations or specifications, and new findings concerning the mineral-extracting industries through drilling,

shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17 of Directive 89/391/EEC.

Article 12

Final provisions

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive not later than 24 months after its adoption. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.
2. When Member States adopt the provisions referred to in paragraph 1, these shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference at the time of their official publication. The procedure for such reference shall be adopted by Member States.
3. The Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts of the provisions of national law which they have already adopted or are to adopt in the field governed by this Directive.
4. Member States shall report to the Commission every five years on the practical implementation of this Directive, indicating the views of employers and workers.

1a) On such occasions the Commission shall consult the Safety and Health Commission for the Mining and other Extractive Industries.

The Commission shall inform the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the Safety and Health Commission for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries and the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work thereof.

Article 13

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Luxembourg,

For the Council
The President

ANNEX

MINIMUM SAFETY AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
AS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 10
OF THE DIRECTIVE

Part A: Common minimum requirements applicable to
the on-shore and off-shore sectors

1. Preliminary note

The obligations laid down in this Annex apply whenever required by the features of the workplace, the activity, the circumstances or a specific risk.

2. Stability and solidity

Workplaces must be designed, constructed, erected, operated, supervised and maintained to withstand the environmental forces anticipated.

They must have a structure and solidity appropriate to the nature of their use.

3. Organisation and supervision

3.1 Organisation of the workplace

- 3.1.1 Workplaces must be so organised as to provide adequate protection against hazards. They must be kept clean, with any hazardous substances or deposits removed or controlled in order not to endanger the health and safety of workers.
- 3.1.2 Workstations must be designed and constructed according to ergonomic principles taking into account the need for workers to follow operations carried out at their workstations.
- 3.1.3 Areas within which there is a special hazard must be delineated and warning signs placed.

3.2 Person in charge

A responsible person who has the skills and competence required for this duty, in accordance with the national laws and/or practices, and who has been appointed by the employer, must at all times be in charge of every workplace when workers are present.

The employer may personally assume responsibility for the workplace as referred to in the first paragraph, if he has the skills and competence required for the purpose, in accordance with national laws and/or practices.

3.3 Supervision

To ensure worker's safety and health protection during all operations undertaken, the necessary supervision must be provided by persons having the skills and competence for this duty, in accordance with the national laws and/or practices, having been appointed by the employer and acting on his behalf.

The employer may personally undertake the supervision referred to in the first subparagraph if he has the skills and competence required for the purpose, in accordance with national laws and/or practices.

3.4 Competent workers

When workers are present at any workplace, there must be a sufficient number of workers with the requisite skills, experience and training to perform the tasks assigned to them.

3.5 Information, instructions and training

Workers must be given the necessary information, instructions, training and retraining to ensure their health and safety.

The employer must ensure that workers receive comprehensible instructions so as not to endanger their safety and health or those of other workers.

3.6 Written instructions

Written instructions specifying rules to be observed to ensure the safety and health of workers and the safe use of equipment must be drawn up for every workplace.

These must include information on the use of emergency equipment and action to be taken in the event of an emergency at or near the workplace.

3.7 Safe working methods

Safe working methods must be applied at each workplace or in respect of each activity.

3.8 Work permits

Where required by the safety and health document, a system of work permits must be introduced for carrying out both hazardous activities and usually straightforward activities which may interact with other activities to cause serious hazards.

Work permits must be issued by a person in charge prior to the commencement of work and must specify the conditions to be fulfilled and the precautions to be taken before, during and after the work.

3.9 Regular review of safety and health measures

The employer must ensure that the measures taken to protect the safety and health of the workers, including the safety and health management system, are regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with this Directive.

4. Mechanical and electrical equipment and plant

4.1 General

Selection, installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of mechanical and electrical equipment must take place with due regard for the safety and health of workers, taking into consideration other provisions of this Directive and of Directives 89/392/EEC⁽⁶⁾ and 89/655/EEC⁽⁷⁾.

If located in an area within which risk of fire or explosion from ignition of gas, vapour or volatile liquid exists or is likely to exist, it must be suitable for use in that area.

Equipment must, if necessary, be fitted with suitable protective devices and fail-safe systems.

4.2 Specific provisions

Mechanical equipment and plant must be of adequate strength and free from patent defect and suitable defect and suitable for the purpose for which it is intended.

Electrical equipment and plant must be of sufficient size and power for the purpose for which it is intended.

5. Maintenance

5.1 General maintenance

A suitable scheme should be set up providing for the systematic examination, maintenance and, where appropriate, testing of mechanical and electrical equipment and plant.

All maintenance, examination and testing of any part of the plant and equipment must be carried out by a competent person.

Records of examinations and tests must be made and kept in an appropriate manner.

5.2 Safety equipment maintenance

Adequate safety equipment must be maintained ready for use and in good working order at all times.

- Maintenance must be undertaken with due regard to operations.

6. Well control

Suitable well control equipment must be provided for use during borehole operations to protect against blowouts.

Deployment of such equipment must take into account the prevailing well and operational conditions.

7. Protection from harmful atmospheres and explosion risks

- 7.1 Measures must be taken for assessing the presence of harmful and/or potentially explosive substances in the atmosphere and for measuring the concentration of such substances.

Where required by the safety and health document, monitoring devices measuring gas concentrations at specified places automatically and continuously, automatic alarms and devices to cut off power automatically from electrical installations and internal combustion engines must be provided.

Where automatic measurements are provided for, the values measured must be recorded and kept as stipulated in the safety and health document.

7.2 Protection from harmful atmospheres

| Common position adopted by the Council on 30 April 1992 | Re-examined Commission proposal Under Article 149(2)(d) |
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| <p>7.2.1 Where harmful substances accumulate or may accumulate in the atmosphere, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure their collection at source and removal.</p> <p>The system must be capable of dispersing such harmful atmospheres in such a way that workers are not at risk.</p> <p>7.2.2 Without prejudice to Directive 89/656/EEC⁽⁸⁾ appropriate and sufficient breathing and resuscitation equipment must be available in areas where workers may be exposed to atmospheres which are harmful to health.</p> <p>In such cases, a sufficient number of workers trained to use such equipment must be present at the workplace.</p> <p>The equipment must be suitably stored and maintained.</p> <p>7.2.3 Where hydrogen sulphide or other toxic gases are or may be present in the atmosphere, a protection plan detailing the protective equipment available and the preventive measures taken must be held at the disposal of the competent authorities.</p> <p><u>7.3 Prevention of risks of explosion</u></p> <p>7.3.1 All necessary measures must be taken to prevent the occurrence and accumulation of explosive atmospheres.</p> <p>7.3.2 In areas where there are risks of explosion, all necessary measures must be taken to prevent the ignition of explosive atmospheres.</p> <p>7.3.3 An explosion prevention plan detailing the equipment and measures required must be prepared.</p> <p><u>8. Emergency routes and exits</u></p> <p>8.1 Emergency routes and exits must remain clear and lead by the most direct means to the open air or to a safe area, a safe assembly point or a safe evacuation point.</p> | |

8.2 In the event of danger, it must be possible for workers to evacuate all workstations quickly and as safely as possible.

8.3 The number, distribution and dimensions of the emergency routes and exits depend on the use, equipment and dimensions of the workplaces and the maximum number of persons that may be present.

Accommodation and rest rooms must have at least two separate escape routes situated as far apart as possible and leading to a safe area, a safe assembly point or a safe evacuation point.

8.4 Emergency doors must open outwards or, if this is impossible, be sliding doors.

Emergency doors should not be so locked or fastened that they cannot be easily and immediately opened by any person who may require to use them in an emergency.

8.5 Specific emergency routes and exits must be indicated by signs in accordance with the national regulations transposing Directive 92/.../EEC⁽⁹⁾ into law.

8.6 Emergency doors must not be locked.

The emergency routes and exits, and the traffic routes and doors giving access to them, must be free from obstruction so that they can be used at any time without hindrance.

8.7 Emergency routes and exits requiring illumination must be provided with emergency lighting of adequate intensity in case the lighting fails.

9. Ventilation of enclosed workplaces

9.1 Steps shall be taken to ensure that there is sufficient fresh air in enclosed workplaces, having regard to the working methods used and the physical demands placed on the workers.

If a forced ventilation system is used, it must be maintained in working order.

Any breakdown must be indicated by a control system where this is necessary for workers' health.

- 9.2 If air-conditioning or mechanical ventilation installations are used, they must operate in such a way that workers are not exposed to draughts which cause discomfort.

Any deposit or dirt likely to create an immediate danger to the health of workers by polluting the atmosphere must be removed without delay.

10. Room temperature

- 10.1 During working hours, the temperature in rooms containing workplaces must be adequate for human beings, having regard to the working methods being used and the physical demands placed on the workers.
- 10.2 The temperature in rest areas, rooms for duty staff, sanitary facilities, canteens and first aid rooms must be appropriate to the particular purpose of such areas.
- 10.3 Windows, skylights and glass partitions should allow excessive effects of sunlight in workplaces to be avoided, having regard to the nature of the work and of the workplace.

11. Floors, walls, ceilings and roofs of rooms

- 11.1 The floors of workplaces must have no dangerous bumps, holes or slopes and must be fixed, stable and not slippery.
- Workplaces containing workstations must be adequately insulated against heat, bearing in mind the type of undertaking involved and the physical activity of the workers.
- 11.2 The surfaces of floors, walls and ceilings in rooms must be such that they can be cleaned or refurbished to an appropriate standard of hygiene.

| Common position adopted by the Council on 30 April 1992 | Re-examined Commission proposal under Article 149(2)(d) |
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| <p>11.3 Transparent or translucent walls, in particular all-glass partitions in rooms or in the vicinity of workplaces and traffic routes must be clearly indicated and made of safety material or be shielded from such places or traffic routes to prevent workers from coming into contact with walls or being injured should the walls shatter.</p> <p>11.4 Access to roofs made of materials of insufficient strength must not be permitted unless equipment is provided to ensure that the work can be carried out in a safe manner.</p> <p>12. <u>Natural and artificial lighting</u></p> <p>12.1 Every workplace must be provided throughout with lighting capable of supplying illumination sufficient to ensure the health and safety of persons therein.</p> <p>12.2 Workplaces must as far as possible receive sufficient natural light and be equipped, <u>taking in account climatological conditions</u>, with artificial lighting adequate for the protection of workers' safety and health.</p> <p>12.3 Lighting installations in rooms containing workplaces and in passageways must be placed in such a way that the type of lighting does not present a risk of accident to workers.</p> <p>12.4 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.</p> <p>12.5 Lighting installations must be designed to ensure that operational control areas, escape routes, embarkation areas and hazardous areas remain illuminated.</p> <p>Where workplaces are occupied only occasionally, the obligation referred to in the first paragraph is limited to the period during which workers are present.</p> <p>13. <u>Windows and skylights</u></p> | |

| Common position adopted by the Council on 30 April 1992 | Re-examined Commission proposal under Article 149(2)(d) |
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| <p>13.1 Windows, skylights and ventilation devices which are meant to be opened, adjusted or secured must be designed so that these operations can be carried out safely.</p> <p>They must not be positioned so as to constitute a hazard to workers when open.</p> <p>13.2 It must be possible to clean windows and skylights without risk.</p> <p>14. <u>Doors and gates</u></p> <p>14.1 The position, number and dimensions of doors and gates, and the materials used in their construction, are determined by the nature and use of the rooms or areas.</p> <p>14.2 Transparent doors must be appropriately marked at a conspicuous level.</p> <p>14.3 Swing doors and gates must be transparent or have see-through panels.</p> <p>14.4 If transparent or translucent surfaces in doors and gates are not made of safety material and if there is a danger that workers may be injured if a door or gate should shatter, the surfaces must be protected against breakage.</p> <p>14.5 Sliding doors must be fitted with a safety device to prevent them from being derailed and falling over unexpectedly.</p> <p>14.6 Doors and gates opening upwards must be fitted with a mechanism to secure them against falling back unexpectedly.</p> <p>14.7 Doors along escape routes must be appropriately marked.</p> <p>It must be possible to open them from the inside at any time without special assistance.</p> <p>It must be possible to open the doors when the workplaces are occupied.</p> | |

| Common position adopted by the Council on 30 April 1992 | Re-examined Commission proposal under Article 149(2)(d) |
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| <p>14.8 Doors for pedestrians must be provided in the immediate vicinity of any gates intended essentially for vehicle traffic, unless it is safe for pedestrians to pass through; such doors must be clearly marked and left permanently unobstructed.</p> <p>14.9 Mechanical doors and gates must function without risk of accident to workers.</p> <p>They must be fitted with easily identifiable and accessible emergency shut-down devices and, unless they open automatically in the event of a power failure, it must also be possible to open them manually.</p> <p>14.10 Where chains or similar devices are used to prevent access at any place, these should be clearly visible and appropriately identified by signs denoting any prohibition or warning.</p> <p>15. <u>Traffic routes</u></p> <p>15.1 It must be possible to reach workplaces without danger and leave them quickly and safely in an emergency.</p> <p>15.2 Traffic routes, including stairs, fixed ladders and loading bays and ramps, must be calculated, dimensioned and located to ensure easy, safe and appropriate access for pedestrians or vehicles in such a way as not to endanger workers employed in the vicinity of these traffic routes.</p> <p>15.3 Routes used for pedestrian traffic and/or goods traffic must be dimensioned in accordance with the number of potential users and the type of undertaking.</p> <p>If means of transport are used on traffic routes, a sufficient safety clearance must be provided for pedestrians.</p> <p>15.4 Sufficient clearance must be allowed between vehicle traffic routes and doors, gates, passages for pedestrians, corridors and staircases.</p> | |

| Common position adopted by the Council on 30 April 1992 | Re-examined Commission proposal under Article 149(2)(d) |
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| <p>15.5 Traffic and access routes must be clearly identified for the protection of workers.</p> <p>16. <u>Danger areas</u></p> <p>16.1 If the workplaces contain danger areas in which, owing to the nature of the work, there are risks including that of the worker or objects falling, the places must be equipped, as far as possible, with devices preventing unauthorised workers from entering those areas.</p> <p>16.2 Appropriate measures must be taken to protect workers authorised to enter danger areas.</p> <p>16.3 Danger areas must be clearly indicated.</p> <p>17. <u>Room dimensions and air space in rooms : freedom of movement at the workstation</u></p> <p>17.1 Workrooms must have sufficient surface area, height and air space to allow workers to perform their work without risk to their safety, health or well-being.</p> <p>17.2 The dimensions of the unoccupied area at the workstation must allow workers sufficient freedom of movement and enable them to perform their work safely.</p> <p>18. <u>Rest rooms</u></p> <p>18.1 Where the safety or health of workers, in particular because of the type of activity carried out or the presence of more than a certain number of employees, so requires, workers must be provided with an easily accessible rest room.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This provision does not apply if the workers are employed in offices or similar workrooms providing equivalent relaxation during breaks.</p> <p>18.2 Rest rooms must be large enough and equipped with an adequate number of tables and seats with backs for the number of workers.</p> | |

| Common position adopted by the Council on 30 April 1992 | Re-examined Commission proposal under Article 149(2)(d) |
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| <p>18.3 In rest rooms appropriate measures must be introduced for the protection of non-smokers against discomfort caused by tobacco smoke.</p> <p>18.4 If working hours are regularly and frequently interrupted and there is no rest room, other rooms must be provided in which workers can stay during such interruptions, wherever this is required for the safety or health of workers.</p> <p>Appropriate measures should be taken for the protection of non-smokers against discomfort caused by tobacco smoke.</p> <p>19. <u>Outdoor workplaces</u></p> <p>19.1 Workstations, traffic routes and other areas or installations outdoors which are used or occupied by the workers in the course of their activity must be organised in such a way that pedestrians and vehicles can circulate safely.</p> <p>19.2 Workplaces outdoors must be adequately lit by artificial lighting if daylight is not adequate.</p> <p>19.3 When workers are employed at workstations outdoors, such workstations must as far as possible be arranged so that workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) are protected against inclement weather conditions and if necessary against falling objects; (b) are not exposed to harmful noise levels nor to harmful external influences such as gases, vapours or dust; (c) are able to leave their workstations swiftly in the event of danger or are able to be rapidly assisted; (d) cannot slip or fall. <p>20. <u>Pregnant women and nursing mothers</u></p> | |

Pregnant women and nursing mothers must be able to lie down to rest in appropriate conditions.

21. Handicapped workers

Workplaces must be organised to take account of handicapped workers, if necessary.

This provision applies in particular to the doors, passageways, staircases, showers, washbasins, lavatories and workstations used or occupied directly by handicapped persons.

Part 8: Special minimum requirements applicable to the on-shore sector

1. Fire detection and fire fighting

1.1 Wherever workplaces are designed, constructed, equipped, commissioned, operated or maintained, adequate measures must be taken to prevent fires from starting and spreading from the sources identified in the safety and health document.

Provision must be made for fast and effective fire fighting.

1.2 Workplaces must be equipped with appropriate fire-fighting equipment and, as necessary, with fire detectors and alarm systems.

1.3 Non-automatic fire-fighting equipment must be easily accessible and simple to use and, where necessary, protected from damage.

1.4 A fire protection plan detailing the precautions to be taken, in accordance with Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this Directive, to protect against, detect and combat the outbreak and spread of fires must be kept on site.

1.5 The fire-fighting equipment must be indicated by signs in accordance with the national regulations transposing directive 92/.../EEC⁽⁹⁾ into law.

Such signs must be placed at appropriate points and be made to last.

2. Remote control in emergencies

Where required by the safety and health document, certain equipment must be capable of remote control at suitable locations in the event of an emergency.

Such equipment must include systems for the isolation and blowdown of wells, plant and pipelines.

3. Communication, general and emergency

3.1 Where required by the safety and health document, every workplace at which workers are present must be provided with:

(a) an acoustic and optical system capable of transmitting an alarm indication to every manned part of the workplace as necessary;

(b) an acoustic system capable of being heard distinctly at all parts of the installation where workers are frequently present.

3.2 Facilities for raising the alarm must be provided at suitable locations.

3.3 When workers are present at workplaces which are not normally manned, appropriate communication systems must be placed at their disposal.

4. Safe assembly points and muster list

Where required by the safety and health document, safe assembly points should be specified, muster lists should be maintained and the necessary action should be taken.

5. Means of evacuation and escape

5.1 Workers must be trained in the appropriate actions to be taken in emergencies.

5.2 Rescue equipment must be provided at readily accessible and appropriately sited places and kept ready for use.

5.3 Where escape routes are difficult, and where irrespirable atmospheres are or may be present, self-contained escape apparatus must be provided for immediate use at the workstation.

6. Safety drills

Safety drills must be held at regular intervals at all workplaces at which workers are usually present.

The main purpose of such drills is to train and check the skills of workers to whom specific duties have been assigned in the event of emergency involving the use, handling or operation of emergency equipment.

Where necessary, workers should also be drilled in the correct use, handling or operation of that equipment.

7. Sanitary equipment

7.1 Changing rooms and lockers

7.1.1 Appropriate changing rooms must be provided for workers if they have to wear special work clothes and where, for reasons of health or propriety, they cannot be expected to change in another room.

Changing rooms must be easily accessible, be of sufficient capacity and be provided with seating.

7.1.2 Changing rooms must be sufficiently large and have facilities to enable each worker to lock away his/her clothes during working hours.

If circumstances so require (e.g. dangerous substances, humidity, dirt), lockers for work clothes must be separate from those for ordinary clothes.

Provision must be made to enable wet work clothes to be dried.

The main purpose of such drills is to train and check the skill at carrying out tasks, in accordance with the criteria laid down in the safety and health document, of workers to whom specific duties have been assigned in the event of emergency involving the use, handling or operation of emergency equipment.

Where necessary, workers so assigned should also be drilled in the correct use, handling or operation of that equipment.

7.1.3 Provision must be made for separate changing rooms or separate use of changing rooms for men and women.

7.1.4 If changing rooms are not required under 7.1.1, each worker must be provided with a place to store his/her clothes.

7.2 Showers and washbasins

7.2.1 Adequate and suitable showers must be provided for workers if required by the nature of the work or for health reasons.

Provision must be made for separate shower rooms or separate use of shower rooms for men and women.

7.2.2 The shower rooms must be sufficiently large to permit each worker to wash without hindrance in conditions of an appropriate standard of hygiene.

The showers must be equipped with hot and cold running water.

7.2.3 Where showers are not required under the first subparagraph of 7.2.1, adequate and suitable washbasins with running hot and cold water must be provided in the vicinity of the workstations and the changing rooms.

Such washbasins must be separate for, or used separately by, men and women when so required for reasons of propriety.

7.2.4 Where the rooms housing the showers or washbasins are separate from the changing rooms, there must be easy communication between the two.

7.3 Lavatories and washbasins

Separate facilities must be provided in the vicinity of workstations, rest rooms, changing rooms and rooms housing showers or washbasins, with an adequate number of lavatories and washbasins.

Provision must be made for separate lavatories or separate use of lavatories for men and women.

8. First aid rooms and equipment

8.1 First aid equipment must be appropriate to the type of activity carried out.

One or more first aid rooms must be provided.

Clearly visible first aid instruction in the event of accidents must be displayed in these rooms.

8.2 First aid rooms must be fitted with essential first aid installations and equipment and be easily accessible to stretchers.

They must be signposted in accordance with the national regulations transposing Directive 92/.../EEC⁽¹⁾ into law.

8.3 In addition, first aid equipment must be available in all places where working conditions require it.

This equipment must be suitably marked and easily accessible.

8.4 A sufficient number of workers must be trained in the use of the first aid equipment provided.

9. Traffic routes

Where road vehicles enter the workplace, traffic regulations must be established as necessary.

Part C: Special minimum requirements applicable to the off-shore sector

1. Preliminary remark

1.1 Without prejudice to Article 3(2), the employer who, in accordance with national legislation and/or practice, is responsible for the workplace covered by this Part C must ensure that the safety and health document shows that all relevant measures have been taken to protect the safety and health of workers in both normal and critical situations.

To this end, the document must:

- (a) identify the special sources of hazard associated with the workplace, including any concomitant activity which could cause accidents likely to have serious consequences for the health and safety of the workers concerned;
- (b) assess the risks involved in the special sources of hazard referred to in (a);
- (c) show that adequate precautions have been taken to avoid the accidents referred to in (a), to limit the spread of accidents and to allow efficient and controlled evacuation and checking of the workplace in emergency situations;
- (d) show that the management system is adequate to comply with the provisions of Directive 89/391/EEC and this Directive in both normal and critical situations.
- 1.2 The employer shall observe the procedures and arrangements laid down in the safety and health document during planning and implementation of all the relevant stages covered by this Directive.
- 1.3 Different employers who are responsible for different workplaces shall co-operate, where appropriate, in preparing safety and health documents and in measures necessary to ensure the safety and health of workers.
2. fire detection and fire fighting
- 2.1 Appropriate precautions, as identified by the safety and health document referred to 1.1, must be undertaken to protect against, detect and combat the outbreak and spread of fires.
- where appropriate, fire walls should be provided for the purpose of segregating fire risk areas.
- 2.2 Adequate fire detection and protection systems, fire-fighting systems and alarms must be provided at all workplaces in accordance with the risks identified in the safety and health document referred to in 1.1.

These may include but are not limited to:

- fire detection systems,
- fire alarms,
- fire water mains
- fire hydrants and hoses,
- water deluge systems and water monitors,
- automatic sprinkler systems,
- gas extinguishant systems,
- foam systems,
- portable fire extinguishers,
- fireman's equipment.

2.3 Non-automatic fire-fighting equipment must be easily accessible, simple to use and, where necessary, protected from damage.

2.4 A fire protection plan detailing the precautions to protect against, detect and combat the outbreak and spread of fires must be kept at the workplace.

2.5 Emergency systems must be segregated or otherwise afforded protection from accidents to the extent necessary to ensure that the emergency functions remain operational in an emergency.

Such systems shall be duplicated where appropriate.

2.6 The equipment must be indicated by signs in accordance with the national regulations transposing Directive 92/.../EEC⁽⁹⁾ into law.

Such signs must be placed at appropriate points and be made to last.

3. Remote control in emergencies

3.1 Where required by the safety and health document referred to in 1.1, a remote control system in the event of an emergency must be set up.

That system must incorporate monitoring stations at suitable locations which may be used in the event of an emergency including, if necessary, monitoring stations at safe assembly points and evacuation stations.

| Common position adopted by the Council on 30 April 1992 | Re-examined Commission proposal under Article 149(2)(d) |
|---|---|
| <p>3.2 Equipment capable of remote control as referred to in 3.1 must at least include systems for ventilation, emergency shutdown of equipment which could give rise to ignition, the prevention of the escape of flammable liquids and gas, fire protection and well control.</p> <p>4. <u>Communication: general and emergency</u></p> <p>4.1 Where required by the safety and health document referred to in 1.1, every workplace at which workers are present must be provided with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an acoustic and optical system capable of transmitting an alarm to every manned part of the workplace as necessary;• an acoustic system capable of being heard distinctly in all parts of the installation where workers are frequently present;• a system capable of maintaining communication with the shore and rescue services. <p>4.2 Such systems must be capable of remaining operational in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>the acoustic system should be supplemented by communication systems which are not reliant on vulnerable power supplies.</p> <p>4.3 Facilities for raising the alarm must be installed at suitable locations.</p> <p>4.4 When workers are present at workplaces which are not normally manned, communications systems appropriate to the circumstances must be provided.</p> <p>5. <u>Safe assembly points and muster list</u></p> | |

5.1 Adequate measures must be taken to protect evacuation points and safe assembly points from heat, smoke and, as far as possible, the effects of explosion, and to ensure that escape routes to and from evacuation points and safe assembly points remain passable.

These measures must be such as to provide protection to workers for a sufficient period to enable safe evacuation, escape and rescue to be organised and carried out where necessary.

5.2 Where required by the safety and health document referred to in 1.1, one of the protected locations specified in 5.1 must provide appropriate facilities to enable the equipment specified in 3 of this Part C to be remote-controlled and the shore and emergency services to be communicated with.

5.3 Safe assembly points and evacuation points must be readily accessible from accommodation and work areas.

5.4 For each individual safe assembly point, a list containing the names of workers assigned to that safe assembly point must be kept up to date and displayed.

5.5 A list of persons assigned special duties in the event of an emergency must be provided and displayed at suitable locations at the workplace.

Their names must be noted in the written instructions referred to in 3.6 of Part A.

6. Means of evacuation and escape

6.1 Workers must be trained in the appropriate actions to be taken in emergencies.

In addition to general emergency training, workers must receive training specific to the workplace which should be specified in the safety and health document referred to in 1.1 concerning that workplace.

6.2 Workers must be given suitable training in survival techniques.

Workers must be given suitable training in survival techniques and be in possession of a certificate in accordance with the criteria laid down in the safety and health document.

6.3 Suitable and sufficient means of evacuation in an emergency and means of escape direct to the sea must be provided at every workplace.

6.4 An emergency plan for sea rescue and workplace evacuation situations must be drawn up.

The plan, which must be based on the safety and health document referred to in 1.1, must provide for the use of standby vessels and helicopters and include criteria concerning the capacity and response time of standby vessels and helicopters.

The required response time must be given in the safety and health document for each installation.

Standby vessels must be designed and equipped to meet evacuation and rescue requirements.

5.5 The minimum requirements for every survival craft (lifeboat), life-raft, life-buoy and life-jacket which is provided are that they:

- must be suitable and equipped to maintain life for a sufficient time;
- must be in sufficient number for all the workers likely to be present;
- must be of a type suitable for the workplace;
- must be properly constructed of suitable materials having regard to their life-saving function and the circumstances in which they may be used and kept ready for use; and
- must be of such colour as will make them conspicuous when in use, and equipped with devices such that the user can use them to attract the attention of rescuers.

6.6 Adequate life-saving appliances must be available for immediate use.

7. Safety drills

At workplaces at which workers are usually present, safety drills must be held at regular intervals in which:

- all workers to whom specific duties have been assigned involving the use, handling or operation of emergency equipment are trained and examined in the execution of such duties.

Where appropriate, workers must also be drilled in the correct use, handling or operation of that equipment;

- all emergency equipment used in the drill is examined, cleaned and, where appropriate, recharged or replaced and all portable equipment so used is returned to the place where it is ordinarily kept;
- survival craft are verified for operation.

8. Sanitary equipment

8.1 Changing rooms and lockers

8.1.1 Appropriate changing rooms must be provided for workers if they have to wear special work clothes and where, for reasons of health or propriety, they cannot be expected to change in another room.

Changing rooms must be easily accessible, be of sufficient capacity and be provided with seating.

8.1.2 Changing rooms must be sufficiently large and have facilities to enable each worker to lock away his/her clothes during working hours.

If circumstances so require (e.g. dangerous substances, humidity, dirt), lockers for work clothes must be separate from those for ordinary clothes.

Provision must be made to enable wet work clothes to be dried.

- all workers to whom specific duties have been assigned involving the use, handling or operation of emergency equipment are trained and examined in the execution of such duties in accordance with the criteria laid down in the safety and health document.

8.1.3 Provision must be made for separate changing rooms or separate use of changing rooms for men and women.

8.1.4 If changing rooms are not required under 8.1.1, each worker must be provided with a place to store his/her clothes.

8.2 Showers and washing facilities

In addition to those facilities provided in any accommodation area, suitable showers and washing facilities must if necessary be provided in the vicinity of workstations.

8.3 Lavatories and wash-basins

In addition to those facilities provided in any accommodation, lavatories and washbasins must if necessary be provided in the vicinity of workstations.

Provision must be made for separate lavatories or separate use of lavatories for men and women.

9. First-aid rooms and equipment

9.1 One or more first-aid rooms must be provided according to the size of the installation and the type of activity being carried out.

9.2 The first-aid rooms must have suitable equipment, facilities and medicines and a sufficient number of specialised workers, as required by the circumstances, for giving first-aid or, where necessary, treatment under the direction of a registered medical practitioner (who may or may not be present).

They must be signposted in accordance with national rules transposing Directive 92/.../EEC⁽⁹⁾ into law.

9.3 In addition, first-aid equipment must be available in all places where working conditions require it.

This equipment must be suitably signposted and easily accessible.

10. Accommodation

- 10.1 If the nature, scale and duration of operations so require, the employer must also provide employees with accommodation which must be:
- suitably protected against the effects of explosion, the infiltration of smoke and gas and the outbreak and spread of fire as identified in the safety and health document referred to in 1.1;
 - suitably equipped with ventilation, heating and lighting facilities;
 - provided at each level with at least two independent exits leading to escape routes;
 - protected against noise, smells and fumes likely to be hazardous to health from other areas, and against inclement weather;
 - separate from any workstation and located away from dangerous areas.
- 10.2 Such accommodation must contain sufficient beds or bunks for the number of persons expected to sleep on the installation.
- Any room designated as sleeping accommodation must contain adequate space for the occupants to store their clothes.
- Separate sleeping rooms for men and women must be provided.
- 10.3 Such accommodation must include a sufficient number of showers and washing facilities equipped with hot and cold running water.
- Provision must be made for separate shower rooms or separate use of shower rooms for men and women.
- Showers must be sufficiently spacious to permit each worker to wash without hindrance in suitably hygienic conditions.
- 10.4 The accommodation must be equipped with a sufficient number of lavatories and washbasins.

Provision must be made for separate facilities or separate use of such facilities for men and women.

- 10.5 The accommodation and its equipment must be maintained to adequate standards of hygiene.

11. Helicopter operations

- 11.1 Helicopter decks at workplaces must be of sufficient size and located so as to provide a clear approach to enable the largest helicopter using the deck to operate under the most severe conditions anticipated for helicopter operations. The helicopter deck must be of a design and construction adequate for the intended service.

- 11.2 There should be provided, and stored in the immediate vicinity of the helicopter landing area, equipment needed for use in the event of an accident involving a helicopter.

- 11.3 On installations with a resident workforce, a sufficient number of emergency response trained personnel for the purpose must be available on the helicopter deck during helicopter movements.

12. Positioning of installations at sea - Safety and stability

- 12.1 All the necessary measures must be taken to ensure the safety and health of workers in the mineral-extracting industries through drilling while off-shore installations are being positioned at sea.

- 12.2 Operations in preparation for the positioning of off-shore installations must be carried out in such a way as to ensure their stability and safety.

- 12.3 Equipment used and procedures followed for the activities referred to in 12.1 must be such as to reduce any risk to workers in the mineral-extracting industries through drilling, having regard to both normal and critical conditions.

- (1) OJ No C 32, 7.2.1991, p. 7.
- (2) OJ No C 280, 28.10.1991, p. 79 and Decision of ... (not yet published in the Official Journal).
- (3) OJ No C 191, 22.7.1991, p. 34.
- (4) OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 1
- (5) OJ No L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1
- (6) OJ No L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 9, Directive amended by Directive 91/368/EEC (OJ No L 198, 22.7.1991, p. 16)
- (7) OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 13
- (8) OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 18
- (9) Insert number of tenth individual Directive (signs).