

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

NO. 5954

6 March 2025

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 1993 (ACT NO. 85 OF 1993)

GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, 2025

The Minister of Employment and Labour has, under section 43(1)(a) and (b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993), after consultation with the Advisory Council for Occupational Health and Safety, made the regulations in the Schedule.



MS N METH, MP**MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR****DATE:** 04 February 2025

NOTICE REGARDING AMENDMENT TO GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS

Regulation 2. Personal Safety Equipment and Facilities

(1) [Subject to the provisions of paragraph (f), (g), (h) and (i) of regulation 5 of the General Administrative Regulations published under Government Notice R2206 of 5 October 1984,] Every employer and every user of machinery shall make an evaluation of the risk attached to any condition or situation which may arise from the activities of such employer or user, as the case may be, and to which persons at a workplace or in the course of their employment or in connection with the use of machinery are exposed, and he shall take such steps as may under the circumstances be necessary to make such condition safe.

Regulation 13H: Housekeeping

(1) A user of machinery shall provide and maintain sufficient clear and unobstructed space at every machine to enable work to be carried out without danger to persons.

(2) An employer shall -

(a) with the exclusion of workplaces where building work is performed, make at least 2.25 square meters of effective open floor area available for every employee working in an indoor workplace;

(b) make available and maintain an unimpeded work space for every employee;

(c) keep every indoor workplace clean, orderly and free of materials, tools and similar things which are not necessary for the work done in such work place;

(d) keep all floors, walkways, stairs, passages and gangways in a good state of repair, skid-free and free of obstructions, waste or materials;

(e) keep the roof and walls of every indoor workplace sound and leak-free;

(f) board over or fence, or enclose with rails or guards, or take other measures which may be necessary under the circumstances to ensure the safety of persons, all openings in floors, all hatchways and all stairways and any open sides of floors or buildings through or from which persons are liable to fall: Provided that such boarding or guarding may be omitted or removed for the time and to the extent necessary for the access of persons or the movement of material; and

(g) erect a catch platform or net above an entrance or passageway or above a place where persons work or pass, or fence off the danger area if work is being performed above such entrance, passageway, place or danger area and there is a possibility of persons being struck by falling objects.

(3) No employer shall require or permit any person to, and no person shall, dispose of any article from a high place except by hoist or chute unless arrangements have been made to secure the safety who may be struck by falling objects.

Regulation 13I: Precaution against flooding;

(1) Where a substantial risk exists that a workplace may be flooded, the employer shall take measures to be informed forthwith of any imminent flooding.

(2) Every employer shall take measures to be informed forthwith of any imminent flooding from constructions for conserving water, or which may cause water to converge or accumulate on his premises, and shall, prior to the erection of such a construction, give notice in writing to all persons situated in the danger zone below such construction of the possibility of flooding owing to such construction.

Regulations 13J: Fire precaution and means of egress;

(1) In order to expedite the evacuation of a workplace in case of fire, every employer shall ensure that -

(a) any emergency escape door from any room or passage or at a staircase shall, as far as is practicable, be hung so as to open outwards;

(b) every door of a room in which persons may be present, and every door of a passage or at a staircase serving as a means of exit from such room, shall be kept clear and capable of being easily and rapidly opened from inside so as to ensure quick and easy evacuation;

(c) the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) shall also be complied with in respect of the outer escape exit from the workplace;

(d) staircases and steps leading from one floor to another or to the ground shall be provided with substantial hand-rails;

(e) staircases intended to be used as fire escapes shall -

(i) be constructed of non-combustible material;

(ii) be kept clear of any material or other obstruction; and

(iii) not terminate in an enclosed area;

(f) staircases, passages and exits intended for escape purposes shall be of a width and of a gradient which will facilitate the quick and safe egress of the number of persons intended to make use of them; and

(g) having regard to the size, construction and location of a workplace, the number of persons, and the activity therein, such workplace is provided with at least two means of egress situated as far apart as is practicable.

(2) Having regard to the size, construction and location of the workplace, and the amount and type of flammable articles uses, handled or stored on the premises, an employer shall provide on the premises an adequate supply of suitable fire-fighting equipment at strategic locations or as may be recommended by the fire chief of the local authority concerned, and such equipment shall be maintained in good working order.

Regulation 14: Offences and penalties

Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of regulation 2(1), 2(2), 2(4), 2(5), 2(6), 2A, 2C, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8(1), 8(2), 8(3), 8(4), 9, 10(1), 10(2), 10(3), 10(4), 11(1), 12, [13A, 13B, 13C, 13D, 13E, 13F, 13G], 13H, 13I or 13J shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and, in the case of a continuous offence, to an additional fine of R200 for each day on which the offence continues, or to additional imprisonment of one day for each day on which the offence continues: Provided that the period of such additional imprisonment shall in no case exceed 90 days.