



International
Labour
Office
Geneva

LIST OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES (revised 2010)

Identification and recognition
of occupational diseases:
Criteria for incorporating diseases
in the ILO list of occupational diseases

Occupational
Safety and Health
Series

74

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Preface

The International Labour Organization's Recommendation concerning the List of Occupational Diseases and the Recording and Notification of Occupational Accidents and Diseases, 2002 (No. 194), was adopted at the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference. The Committee which was established and entrusted by the Conference in 2002 to work on Recommendation No. 194 requested the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (ILO) to update the list of occupational diseases annexed to this Recommendation in accordance with the mechanism stipulated in Paragraph 3 of the Recommendation as a matter of priority.

To this end, two Meetings of Experts were organized by the ILO, one in 2005 and one in 2009, which established a new list of occupational diseases. This new list was approved by the Governing Body at its 307th Session in March 2010. It replaces the one adopted in 2002 in the Annex to Recommendation No. 194 and can be referred to as the "List of occupational diseases (revised 2010)". This list of occupational diseases is designed to assist countries in the prevention, recording, notification and, if applicable, compensation of diseases caused by work.

The new list reflects the state-of-the-art development in the identification and recognition of occupational diseases. It includes a range of internationally recognized occupational diseases, from illnesses caused by chemical, physical and biological agents to respiratory and skin diseases, musculoskeletal disorders and occupational cancer. Mental and behavioural disorders have been, for the first time, specifically included in the ILO list. The list also has open items in all the sections dealing with the aforementioned diseases. The open items allow for the recognition of the occupational origin of diseases not specified in the list if a link is established between exposure to risk factors arising from work activities and the disorders contracted by the worker.

The Governing Body requested the Office to promote the application of this new list of occupational diseases and to involve experts appointed by governments, employers and workers in preparation for future updating of the list on the basis of the criteria listed in the "Identification and recognition of occupational diseases: Criteria for incorporating diseases in the ILO list of occupational diseases", a document prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate the work of the 2009 Meeting of Experts. The Governing Body also recommended that the document should be published.

This publication is both a response of SafeWork to the recommendations of the 2009 Meeting of Experts and part of its efforts to promote the application of the new list of occupational diseases as requested by the Governing Body. It includes the newly established list of occupational diseases, the working document "Identification and recognition of occupational diseases: Criteria for incorporating diseases in the ILO list of occupational diseases", and the reports of the two Meetings of Experts which developed this list.

Dr Shengli Niu, Senior Specialist on Occupational Health in SafeWork, carried out the Office's technical work on the development of the new list of occupational diseases and prepared this publication. It is our hope that this publication will enable readers to understand the basis on which the list of occupational diseases was updated, as well as facilitate the application of the 2010 list.

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