



Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments
Ministry of Labour and Employment



FIRE SAFETY



Factory fire can causes **death, injury, damage to the production equipment, delay in product delivery, and harm the reputation.**

This is why it is important that Top Management puts in place a **system for fire safety:**

- Every factory where at least 500 workers are employed must have a **Fire Safety Officer**. His/her task covers management of the firefighting team and of the fire safety equipment.
- Each section of the factory must have a **Firefighting Team**. The number of workers in the team is 6% of the total number of workers in the section.

- The starting point of fire prevention is to conduct periodic **risk assessments**: i.e. identifying fire hazards and deciding preventive-corrective actions. It consists mainly in identifying possible ignition sources and avoiding that combustible substance is stored or used nearby.
- The factory must be equipped with the right type of fire safety equipment, in the right quantity and at the right place: **fire alarm, automatic fire detection device, extinguishers, sand buckets, water containers and reservoir, hose, possibly sprinkler**. The decision about the equipment is made based on the risk assessment, on the legislation and on instructions received from the Fire Brigade/General Inspector.
- BLR requires that the **exit stairways are built in fire resistant material and are smoke proof**.
- The factory must have a good system of
 - **Housekeeping** (e.g. enough bins, regular dust and waste removal) and
 - **Daily-weekly checks** (e.g. fire extinguishers still at the right place / have not been used; fire safety equipment not obstructed).
- Electrical installation, hazardous equipment (such as boiler, transformer) and the fire safety equipment must be regularly **maintained**.
- The factory must have the required **licenses / certificate** (e.g. Fire license from the Department of Fire Service & Civil Defense; Electricity Certificate; annual inspection of boiler). *A list of all licences / permits helps to easily identify when to start the renewal procedure.*
- All workers should receive basic **training** on fire prevention during their *induction*. *At least 18% of the staff of each section of the factory must be trained in the use of fire extinguishers. Fire drill must be conducted at least every 6 months.* Boiler operators must be certified.
- **Company regulations and procedures** must be adopted (such as prohibiting smoking in the workplace, procedure for boiler, for burning waste, for welding)



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