

## PLEASE NOTE

A work and health anamnesis must be carried out for each examination; this must include at least the following:

- Description of the work of the employee
- Duration and level of exposure
- Duration of the work at the company
- Duration of the work at other companies
- Technical safety measures
- Personal safety measures
- Additional stresses and strains
- Level of training of the employee

## What happens in the case of noise exposure?

Before starting the work, suitability examinations must be carried out, and regular examinations must also be carried out every five years. Noise exposure examination includes an otoscopy and an audiometry, to be carried out immediately afterwards.

In the case of an exposure limit of 80 dB(A), examinations must be offered if risk assessment indicates a risk for health.

## What other examinations are there?

Employers must enable examinations for employees at their request (Section 5 VGÜ) in the case of:

- Working materials which are definitely cancer-causing
  - Biological agents in Group 2, 3 or 4
  - Vibrations (hand-arm vibrations or full-body vibrations)
- and also
- In the case of night work

These examinations must be carried out by occupational physicians. The employer bears the costs.

## Further obligations of the employer

Record keeping of the examined employee is obligatory until he/she leaves the company and subsequently have to be sent to the General Accident Insurance Board (AUVA).

## Legal foundations

Health and Safety at Work Act (ASchG), Federal Law Gazette No. 450/1994

Regulation on health surveillance at work (VGÜ), Federal Law Gazette II No. 27/1997

Regulation on occupational exposure limit values 2001 (GKV 2001), Federal Law Gazette II No. 253/2001

Austrian Law on Strenuous Night Employment (NSchG), Federal Law Gazette No. 354/1981

Regulation on biological agents (VbA), Federal Law Gazette II No. 237/1998

Austrian Ordinance on Noise and Vibrations (VOLV), Federal Law Gazette II No. 22/2006

[www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at](http://www.arbeitsinspektion.gv.at)

**Labour Inspection is always happy to advise you**

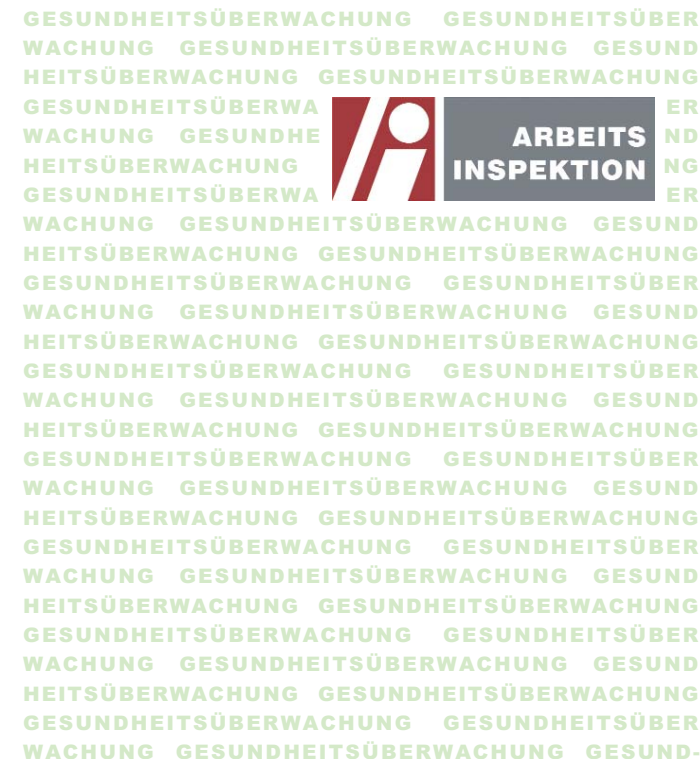
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# HEALTH AT WORK

## Health surveillance at Work

## PLEASE NOTE

Employers are obliged to ensure that employees who are exposed to the following substances/effects whilst working undergo medical examinations.

Employees may not be employed on jobs involving the following substances/effects without undergoing medical examinations.

## Substances/effects requiring medical examinations

- Lead or its alloys or compounds
- Mercury or its inorganic compounds
- Arsenic or its compounds
- Manganese or its compounds
- Cadmium or its compounds
- Chromium-VI compounds
- Cobalt or its compounds
- Nickel or its compounds
- Aluminium dust or welding fume containing aluminium
- Dust containing quartz or asbestos or hard metal dust
- Welding fume
- Fluoride or its inorganic compounds
- Crude paraffin, tar, creosotes, anthracene, tar pitch or soot with a high proportion of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, if the evaluation and assessment of the hazards indicates that there could be a risk to health
- Benzene
- Toluene
- Xylene
- Chloroform, trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride (tetrachloromethane), tetrachloroethane, perchloroethylene or chlorobenzenes

- Carbon disulphide
- Dimethyl formamide
- Ethylene glycol dinitrate glycerin trinitrate (nitroglycerin)
- Aromatic nitro compounds and aromatic amines
- Phosphoric acid ester
- Dusts from raw cotton, raw hemp or raw flax
- Isocyanates
- Work during which respiratory equipment with more than 5 kg weight must be worn for longer than 30 minutes per working day
- Gas rescue services, mine rescue brigades and appropriate guides
- Work in irksome heat in terms of Section VII Paragraph 2 line 2 of the Austrian Law on Strenuous and Night Employment (NSchG)
- Work in reduced oxygen concentration levels (less than 17 vol %, not less than 15 vol %)
- Employees aged under 21 working underground in the mining industry

## When are medical examinations necessary?

There is an obligation to be medically examined if employees have to work with these substances/influences for at least one hour per working day.

In the case of substances which are definitely tumorigenic, there is an obligation to be medically examined even if working with them for less than one hour per working day (Section 2 VGÜ).

The medical examinations must be carried out before starting the work and at precisely stipulated intervals if the work is continued for a longer period.

The medical checks shall take place during company working time while continuing to receive normal pay.

## Who carried out the examinations?

Physicians who have been given authorisation by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection. These are listed by name in the list of the Central Labour Inspection Authority which is published once a year.

## PLEASE NOTE

The list of authorised physicians is available at the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Central Labour Inspection Authority, Favoritenstrasse 7, 1040 Vienna, and is published regularly on the Labour Inspection website.

Telephone: +43-(0)1-71100 2191  
E-mail: VII4@bmask.gv.at

## Who bears the costs of the examinations?

Employees are entitled to a reimbursement of costs of the examinations by the responsible accident insurance company in the case of activities or influences which could result in an occupational disease.

Exceptions: In the case of respiratory protection and heat inspections, in the case of examinations of gas rescue services and mine rescue brigades and reduced oxygen concentration levels, the employer bears the costs which arise.

## How are the examinations and evaluations of diagnostic findings conducted?

The authorised physicians carry out the examinations and preliminary assessments in accordance with standard guidelines.

These evaluations are checked by physicians of the Labour Inspection Authorities, who are exclusively authorised to make the final decision concerning aptitude or shorter intervals between examinations.