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The importance of the OHSA workplace inspection



Occupational Health and Safety legislation was enacted to protect both employees and employers.

In a previous blog, we discussed the *importance of OHSA for Employers*, noting one of the key sections relating to their responsibilities. **Section 8 of the OHSA 85 of 1993: Duties of the Employers** leads with the following:

“Every employer shall provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of his employees.”

To establish whether the working environment is safe and without risk, an employer can conduct a workplace inspection. This could provide an employer with information on various activities, the current method of operation and the hazards linked to it. Health and safety inspections are becoming part of the everyday grind to eliminate potential incidents from occurring.

Conducting an inspection in the workplace can be quite daunting as not only the **OHS Act 85 of 1993** will be considered, but all applicable **regulations, South African National Standards (SANS)** and in certain instances even the **International Standards (ISO)**.

Avoiding inspections can lead to costly incidents and non-compliance. As mentioned in the blog on *Health and Safety non-compliance*, non-compliance with health and safety rules and procedures could hold severe implications for employees and the company.

Below is a short **OHS Act Compliance Survey** that provides some indication of your company's compliance.

If you have answered NO to some of the questions in Section 1 or answered YES to any of the questions in Section 2, please speak to one of our Health and Safety Advisors.

SERR Synergy protects the interests of those employed and those who employ many people to make sure that the relationship between employee and employer is lawful and mutually beneficial. Please contact us if require assistance or guidance with compliance orders.

About the author: Ilse-Marie van de Wall started her career as a Human Resources and Industrial Relations Practitioner in 2007. She holds a degree from the University of Pretoria and certificates in both NEBOSH and SAMTRAC. She is currently busy with a National Diploma in Safety Management at UNISA. As a professional Health and Safety Practitioner she is registered with SAIOSH and the SACPCMP. She started with SERR Synergy in 2016 and is employed as an Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner.

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