

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESSES what they are - what to do - your rights

This booklet contains basic information that provides workers with an explanation of their principal rights in the event of ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESSES CAUSED BY WORK.

Work is important for everyone, but we need to be very careful because of the risk of injury.

If an accident occurs, we should know exactly what to do and what our rights are.

Men and women who work in Italy, including foreigners, have rights. In the event of an accident or illness caused by work, rights are always guaranteed, even for those who do not have insurance or who cannot be insured because they do not have a permit to work in Italy.

I hurt myself while I was at work
(this can be considered a work-related accident)

I had an accident on my way to work
(this can be considered an accident on the way to or from work)

My doctor told me that my illness could have been caused by work.
(this may be a work-related illness)

**IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS CAUSED BY WORK,
THE WORKER'S RIGHTS ARE ALWAYS GUARANTEED.**

If you are injured or become ill because of your work, you have the right to protection from INAIL and, depending on the case, to health care and financial benefits.

You are entitled to benefits even if your employer did not insure you (this right is called "automatic entitlement to benefits").

WHERE IS INAIL?

PRATO – VIA VALENTINI 10/12

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

WHAT IS

- A work-related accident
- An accident on the way to and from work
- A work-related illness

A WORK-RELATED ACCIDENT

Italian legislation acknowledges that a "work-related accident" is involved, if the worker, because of the work he is doing and due to a violent cause (for example: falls from heights, being struck by an object, crushed under weight, burnt by fire or by a chemical substance, injured by glass, by sheet-metal, etc.), suffers physical and/or psychological injury that prevents him from continuing to work for a long or short period of time. This must be determined by a doctor with the appropriate documentation (work-related accident medical certificate).

AN ACCIDENT ON THE WAY TO OR FROM WORK

Italian legislation also insures the worker against physical and/or psychological injury due to an accident that occurs along the normal route to and from the worker's place of residence and the workplace (for example: involvement in a traffic accident, injury due to slipping, falling, being struck by an object, etc.).

An accident medical certificate is also required in this case.

A WORK-RELATED ILLNESS

A work-related illness is understood to be an illness contracted during work activity because of the work being carried out (for example: Deafness due to noise, tumours

caused by special paints or colouring agents, asbestosis or tumours caused by asbestos fibre, respiratory diseases caused by silicon and other chemical agents, etc.), provided they are certified by a doctor on the appropriate documentation (work-related illness medical certificate).

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

In the event of an accident at work or on the way to or from work:

Notify, or have someone notify, your employer, or the person designated by him, immediately.

Depending on the case:

- Contact the doctor of the company you work for, if he is present at the workplace.
- Go or have someone take you to the Accident and Emergency Department at the nearest hospital.
- If needed, call or have someone call the ambulance service by dialling the number 118.
- Contact your family doctor. Always tell the doctor how and where the accident occurred.

The doctor will issue an initial "medical certificate" in several copies.

The diagnosis and the number of days of absence from work initially expected due to the work-related accident will be indicated on the certificate.

A copy must be delivered immediately to your employer (in person or by someone else, family members, friends), and a copy must be retained by the worker (Warning! Photocopies of the medical certificate are not valid).

In the event of hospitalisation, the hospital will send copies of the certificates directly to INAIL and to your employer.

If the doctor has certified that the worker will not be able to work for more than three days, the employer must notify INAIL immediately by sending a copy of the medical certificate together with the appropriate "accident report" form to the competent offices.

In the event that the employer does not report the accident to INAIL, the worker may inform INAIL in person by submitting the medical certificate to the offices of the Institute.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

Daily benefits for total temporary disability:

When a worker is injured because of work and the doctor does not expect him to recover in less than three days, INAIL pays the worker a daily sum of money, known as "temporary benefit", which partly replaces wages during the period of absence from work.

This benefit is due from the fourth day following the day on which the accident occurred and throughout the entire period of time that the doctor considers necessary for the worker's recovery or stabilisation.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IN THE EVENT OF A PERMANENT DISABILITY CAUSED BY WORK?

INAIL assesses the psychophysical injury and pays the worker cash benefits.

DEATH OF A WORKER OR RECIPIENT OF INAIL INCOME SUPPORT DUE TO A WORK-RELATED ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS:

Income support for survivors and funeral cheque In the event of the death of a worker due to work-related causes (accident, accident on the way to or from the place of work, workrelated illness), INAIL will make a monthly payment to the legally recognised spouse (wife or husband) according to Italian law and to children until they reach the age of 18 years (legal age). The spouse (wife or husband) only loses the right to receive the income support in the case of remarriage.

Income support for survivors is also paid to children of age who are students and who do not have their own income and to children of age who are totally disabled.

In the absence of a spouse and children, the income support may be paid to the parents only if it can be proven that, not disposing of sufficient means of subsistence, they live on the money of their son or daughter who died due to a work-related accident or illness.

The funeral cheque is a legally established sum amount of money paid by INAIL, established by law, that INAIL pays to the family of the deceased worker, or to any other person who can prove that they paid the funeral expenses.