

OHSA: PHYSICAL AGENTS REGULATIONS, 2024 NOISE EXPOSURE REGULATIONS, 2024 AMENDMENT OF GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, 1986

Hi there

The Minister of Employment and Labour made the following Regulations under section 43(1)(a) and (b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993:

- Physical Agents Regulations, 2024
- Noise Exposure Regulations, 2024

The Minister also amended the General Safety Regulations, 1986.

More information:

PHYSICAL AGENTS REGULATIONS, 2024 (w.e.f. 5 September 2026)

These Regulations apply to—

(a) any employer or self-employed person who carries out work at a workplace which may expose any person to a physical agent in that workplace; and

(b) a designer, manufacturer, importer or supplier of plant and machinery for use at a workplace.

The provisions of these Regulations do not apply in the case of noise, where the Noise Exposure Regulations apply.

The Regulations deal with, inter alia-

- Information, instruction and training
- Duties of persons who may be exposed to a physical agent
- Duties of designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers
- Physical agent exposure risk assessment
- Physical agent exposure monitoring
- Medical screening and medical surveillance
- Cold stress
- Heat stress
- Illumination
- Indoor air quality
- Vibration
- Occupational non-ionising radiation
- Prevention or control of exposure to a physical agent
- Personal protective equipment and facilities
- Maintenance of control measures
- Records
- Physical agents technical committee
- Offences and penalties

The Regulations will repeal the Environmental Regulations for Workplace, 1987, *18 months after the date of promulgation of the Physical Agents Regulations.*

NOISE EXPOSURE REGULATIONS, 2024 (w.e.f. 5 September 2026)

These Regulations apply to-

(a) any employer or self-employed person at any workplace under their control, where persons are exposed to continuous or impulse noise at or above either the noise-rating limit or the noise action level where there is concomitant exposure to ototoxic chemical agents and or whole-body vibration; and

(b) a designer, manufacturer, importer or supplier of plant or machinery for use at a workplace.

Where the employer or self-employed person exposes any person to either an ototoxic chemical agent or whole-body vibration, the provisions of the Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents and Physical Agents Regulations shall apply.

The Regulations further deal with, inter alia-

- Exposure to noise
- Information, instruction and training
- Duties of persons who may be exposed to noise
- Duties of designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers
- Noise exposure risk assessment
- Noise exposure monitoring
- Medical screening and medical surveillance
- Prevention or control of exposure to noise
- Noise zone
- Hearing protective devices
- Maintenance of control measures
- Records
- Code of practice
- Noise technical committee
- Offences and penalties

These Regulations also incorporate the *Code of Practice for Audiometry*, which is a move from a reactive approach to addressing occupational hearing loss to a proactive approach.

The Regulations will repeal the Noise-Induced Hearing Loss Regulations, 2003, 18 months after the date of promulgation of the *Noise Exposure Regulations*.

AMENDMENT OF GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, 1986

The following Regulations were amended **w.e.f. 6 March 2025**:

- Regulation 2. Personal Safety Equipment and Facilities
- Regulation 14: Offences and penalties

The amendments also make provision for the addition of three new regulations, namely-

- Regulation 13H: Housekeeping
- Regulation 13I: Precaution against flooding;
- Regulations 13J: Fire precaution and means of egress;

Publication details:

Published under Government Notices:

5952 in Government Gazette 52226 of 6 March 2025

5953 in Government Gazette 52226 of 6 March 2025

5954 in Government Gazette 52226 of 6 March 2025

Where do I access the Explanatory Notes?

<https://implex.co.za/library-hs-ohs/>

We trust that this information will serve to be of some assistance to you and look forward to your positive feedback!

Implex regards,
Marlize



"Innovation comes only from readily and seamlessly sharing information rather than hoarding it." Tom Peters