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LECIE
PAŃSTWOWEJ INSPEKCJI PRACY

OD WIEKU NA RZECZ
OCHRONY PRACY



REPORT

on the National Labour Inspectorate's
activity in agriculture in 2018

for the ILO



I. LEGAL PROVISIONS REGULATING THE LABOUR INSPECTORATE'S ACTIVITY IN AGRICULTURE

1. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Economy of 27 June 1997 concerning work safety and health during **storage, processing of cereals and production of feedstuffs of plant origin**
2. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Economy of 12 January 1998 concerning work safety and health during **operation of tractors, machines, tools and technical equipment used in agriculture**
3. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Economy of 26 October 1998 concerning work safety and health during **processing of milk and dairy products**
4. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Economy of 10 March 1999 concerning work safety and health during **animal slaughter and meat processing**
5. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 26 September 2001 concerning work safety and health during **potato processing**
6. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 24 June 2002 concerning work safety and health during **use and storage of plant protection products and mineral and bio-mineral fertilizers**
7. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 10 February 2003 concerning work safety and health in **enterprises processing fruit and vegetables**
8. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 12 May 2003 concerning work safety and health during **operation of ammonia cooling installations in agricultural and food processing enterprises**
9. Regulation of the Minister of Health of 30 December 2004 concerning work safety and health connected with **the existence of chemical agents in the workplace**
10. Regulation of the Minister of Health of 22 April 2005 on **biological agents harmful to health in the working environment and health protection of workers exposed to such agents at work**
11. Regulation of the Minister of Environmental Protection of 24 August 2006 concerning work

safety and health during **performance of some work tasks in forestry**

12. Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 4 August 2017 concerning work safety and health during **handling of livestock**

II. LABOUR INSPECTORATE'S STAFF IN AGRICULTURE

80 labour inspectors are competent to conduct comprehensive inspections of farming companies. 110 persons are prepared to carry out preventive and promotional activities in farming (including 84 labour inspectors and 26 specialists who are not inspectors).

III. STATISTICAL DATA ON FARMING COMPANIES SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING THEREIN (DATA OBTAINED BY THE NLI FROM THE SOCIAL INSURANCE INSTITUTION)

	2018
number of farming companies	7.8 thousand
number of persons working in those farming companies	66 thousand

IV. DATA ON NLI'S INSPECTIONS IN FARMING COMPANIES IN 2018

In 2018, NLI inspectors conducted 533 inspections in farming companies and in consequence of identifying irregularities, they issued 2 528 decisions, 1 833 instructions in improvement notices and 90 verbal instructions. Fines in the form of 131 penalty tickets were imposed on persons guilty of committing offences against the rights of individuals performing paid work. Requests for punishment were sent to court with regard to 9 persons, and towards 102 persons disciplinary measures were applied (admonition, warning, rebuke). Moreover, in 5 cases the prosecutor's office was notified of the suspicion of a crime.

Detailed data on the inspection results are included in the tables.

**Statistical data on the NLI inspections in 2018
and the applied legal measures (by the number of workers)**

Specification	inspections	NUMBER OF						
		total	DECISIONS				instructions in improvement notices	verbal instructions
			orders to stop work	orders to stop operation of machines	orders to assign other tasks to workers	orders to pay financial benefits		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TOTAL, including companies with:	533	2528	14	146	13	35	1833	90
1-9 workers	321	1313	4	75	4	21	1054	49
10-49 workers	169	959	8	53	7	13	608	38
50-249 workers	34	255	2	18	2	1	139	2
250 and more workers	9	1	0	0	0	0	32	1

**Statistical data on NLI's inspections in farming companies in 2018
- imposed sanctions (by the number of workers)**

Specification	NUMBER OF			
	imposed penalty tickets	requests to penalise the offenders lodged with courts	applied disciplinary measures	notifications to the prosecutor's office of the suspicion of a crime
1	2	3	4	5
TOTAL, including companies with:	131	9	102	5
1-9 workers	76	9	57	5
10-49 workers	46		35	
50-249 workers	8		10	
250 and more workers	1			

V. NLI'S PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN PRIVATE FARMING

In 2018, like in the previous years, the National Labour Inspectorate's employees carried out preventive and promotional initiatives for the sake of labour protection in private farming. The main form of activities conducted in the framework of the programme "Respect life. Safe work on a farm" were

training and educational initiatives. Their target group and participants were, first and foremost, farmers owning private farms, members of their families, pupils from rural primary schools and from agricultural vocational schools, persons organising apprenticeship training in farming jobs, as well as other persons risking their health and life as a result of performing agricultural work tasks. To fulfil the statutory tasks related to prevention in private

farming, **749** training meetings and lectures were conducted for **20 376** students and **6 278** farmers. Moreover, the NLI organised **229** competitions of OSH knowledge, in which **1 325** private farmers and **12 853** students took part.

The second main group of NLI's preventive activities were **visitations** on farms and in places of

field works in spring and autumn, as well as during the harvesting period. In the reporting year the NLI's inspectors and other employees conducted **2 824** visitations on private farms and in places where field works were performed, during which they assessed the work safety of **3.7 thousand** persons. In the course of such activities, the NLI's members of staff

**SOME EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL LABOUR INSPECTORATE PROGRESSED IN TWO PHASES
– A THEORETICAL PART AT FIRST, THEN FOLLOWED BY A PRACTICAL ONE**



revealed irregularities which had a direct impact on the safety of the working individuals. In **46%** of the visited farms the production part was not separated from the residential one. Almost **42%** of the assessed farming buildings had entrances with thresholds (which are the most frequent cause of trips and falls). In **39%** of buildings the doors were not prevented from accidental slamming that may have been caused by wind gusts. Ladders used on farms also raised our concerns – **21%** of them did not meet technical requirements for safety. The NLI's representatives also reported the revealed irregularities connected with the use of self-made tools, in poor technical condition, with no safeguards whatsoever against potential injuries that may have been inflicted by moveable working parts and creating a high risk of electrical shock.

In the course of the visitations of 2018, the labour inspectors **assessed the technical condition** of agricultural machines and equipment, including approximately **2.9 thousand tractors**, almost **800 combine harvesters**, plus over **2.9 thousand other farming machines** and equipment, e.g. tillage

machines, circular and chain saws, presses, manure spreaders, mowers, spraying machines and seeders.

Although during the visitations the NLI's inspectors noticed a larger number of new tractors, machines and equipment for agricultural production, numerous cases were still identified where people operated worn-out machines that posed the risk to the life and health of their operators. The most frequently revealed irregularities resulted from excessive wear and tear, makeshift repairs, lack of shields and safeguards or use of inappropriate ones, **use of "home-made" machines with structural defects, inappropriate technical and ergonomic solutions**. The most commonly revealed shortcomings were related to **manure spreaders – 42%** of the assessed cases, and to **combine harvesters – 39%** of the assessed cases. No guards on driving elements were installed in the inspected machines or the existing guards were damaged or incomplete.

The circular saws used for woodworking purposes on farms continue to be very dangerous. Over 65% of the assessed saws **did not meet**

**DURING VISITATIONS IN PLACES OF FIELD WORKS NLI'S SPECIALISTS MAY DIRECTLY INSTRUCT FARMERS
ON HOW TO PERFORM WORK SAFELY**



the work safety requirements on installation of protective devices, such as shields on a saw blade and on a drive gear. Most of the noticed irregularities concerned self-made saws which did not meet any OSH requirements at all and yet could still be found on many farms.

Moreover, the NLI's members of staff revealed that the used agricultural tractors often did not meet technical requirements. **32% of the assessed tractors were out of order.** The findings confirmed many cases of: lack of fire-extinguishers and first-aid kits on tractors, worn-out tyres and lack of proper lights. Besides, it has to be mentioned that use of new machinery does not automatically mean that working methods are correct because many farmers find it difficult to organise work properly.

Trailers used for transport in agriculture are often damaged due to intensive use. **39%** of the trailers assessed in the course of visitations had technical faults.

At the time of visitations to places of field works,

special attention was paid to the safety of children and youth. Unfortunately, children are still being engaged in activities which they should not perform due to the risk to their health or life. Last year **125 such cases were observed**, including **19 which related to the performance of works forbidden to juveniles. 68 children stayed** in the danger zone – **close to working farming machines and equipment.**

45 356 persons in total took part in all NLI's preventive and promotional activities carried out in 2018 for the benefit of inhabitants of villages and persons connected with farming communities. **67 646 copies of publications** on work safety in farming and protection of health and life of rural inhabitants were distributed among them.

The National Labour Inspectorate has for years been involved in organising an all-Poland art competition titled "Safely in villages", targeted at children from rural primary schools. In 2018 its 8th edition took place and over 36.1 thousand works by children from almost 3 thousand schools were

assessed. It has been an important educational initiative for the youngest, aimed at developing proper behaviour patterns and attitudes connected with the protection of work and life on a farm.

In the reporting year, during mass events attended by farmers (fairs, harvest festivals, etc.) District Labour Inspectorates arranged information stands to promote the rules of safe work. In total, 61 such stands were set up and visited by approximately 11 thousand persons. Additionally, advice on limiting accident risks was provided to all those interested in the topic and they were offered NLI's publications devoted to safety in farming work (brochures, leaflets and job cards).

The NLI's organisational units also organised 14 shows of safe work, watched by almost 400 farmers and students of agricultural schools.

Having taken account of the results of visitations conducted by the NLI's representatives on farms owned by private farmers, it may be concluded that accident statistics to a large extent reflect insufficient

awareness among farmers of accident risks and of the methods to reduce them. Almost half of the farmers still poorly organise work, walkways for persons and manual handling of loads on their farms (approx. 50% of the accidents were related to falls). About 12% of accidents involved improper operation and incorrect use of farming machinery, whereas 11% of accidents were directly connected with attending to farm animals.

However, a fall in accident numbers noticeable in the recent years may suggest that farmers' approach to issues of work safety has been gradually changing for the better.

It is, therefore, **necessary to continue the National Labour Inspectorate's preventive and promotional activities** such as visitations, training events, talks and competitions to further improve the level of work safety in that sector of economy. Subject-related reference materials, such as, among others: guidelines, OSH-cards for jobs, *Checklists*, video films, training presentations for adults and children

ONE MAY ALWAYS OBTAIN INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS REMINDING READERS ABOUT THE RULES OF SAFE WORK AND BENEFIT FROM SPECIALIST ADVICE ON NLI'S STANDS



from rural areas improve the attractiveness of the conducted actions and supplement them.

Additionally, in 2018 the National Labour Inspectorate conducted the competition titled “Safe Farm”.

Its objective is to promote the rules of protecting health and life on farms. The initiative of 2018 was organised by: the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS), the National Labour Inspectorate and the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture with the support of local self-government authorities, units of voluntary fire brigades, the police, agricultural chambers, farming advisory centres, professional and social organisations of farmers, as well as manufacturers of products for farming. The competition gained an honorary sponsorship of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda.

The media sponsorship was provided by, among others: TVP1 television – its “Agrobusiness” programme, an interactive television of the agricultural

portal AgroNews.com.pl, a biweekly Agro Serwis, other periodicals and internet portals.

The competition participants were adult persons conducting agricultural activity and insured in KRUS. The competition was divided into three phases: regional, provincial and central. **1 087** private farms enrolled for the XVI edition (by 6.5% more than in 2017). Most of them were farms of the area between 0-50 hectares. 16 farms qualified for the nationwide finals; 10 of them grew crops and 6 - bred animals. In accordance with the rules, the competition commissions assessed all aspects of work safety, the conditions of working and living on farms. The National Labour Inspectorate’s employees participated in visitations on **780** farms.

The farms of the finalists of the XVI All-Poland “Safe Farm” Competition were visited and assessed by the Central Competition Commission, composed of representatives of the organisers. The Commission stated that all the finalists were distinguished by: order and tidiness on their farmyards, well-planned,

THE CHIEF LABOUR INSPECTOR WIESŁAW ŁYSZCZEK AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND ALEKSANDRA HADZIK DURING THE 39. INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM TITLED “VISION ZERO – THE WORLD PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR FARMING”



maintained and lighted communication routes, very good technical condition of the operated machines and equipment, workshops properly equipped with tools, care and respect for the natural environment. The majority of the assessed farms were built by several generations of their owners.

The Central Competition Commission decided in 2018 that **the safest farm** is the one owned by Agata and Zbigniew Przyjemski from Kamieńczyce in Świętokrzyskie province. The winners were awarded Ursus C-380 tractor as the first prize. The second place and a financial prize of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development were won by Aneta and Radosław Bakaj from Wierzbica in Lubelskie province. There was no third winner, while all the other finalists, owners of farms, received prizes and honorary mentions.

The Chief Labour Inspector granted **a special prize** to one of the farms for applying innovative solutions which improve work safety. It was for Sylwia and Mariusz Pawlak from Poddębice in Kujawsko-pomorskie province.

Moreover, the owners of the 16 farms participating in the competition were granted special engraved plaques as well as sets of working clothes and personal protective equipment, funded by the Chief Labour Inspector. The National Labour Inspectorate also prepared prizes for winners of the regional and provincial phases.

All the distinguished and other finalists were presented by the organisers with material prizes, diplomas and congratulatory letters during a ceremony

accompanying the “Agroshow” exhibition of farming machinery in Bednary near Poznań, on 21 September 2018.

The competition and all activities undertaken during its implementation, inclusive of visitations on private farms, contribute to introducing changes that help improve work safety, as well as to raising the safety of children on farms.

Observations suggest that farmers would like to make changes for the betterment of safety, yet they need support and not always know where from they could get it. The “Safe Farm” Competition, during which the participants benefit from assistance and advice of staff of NLI’s and KRUS’s prevention divisions, significantly helps raise the awareness of accident risks in farming and the knowledge of safe working methods in that sector, as well as it enables the authorities to directly influence the improvement of protection of the health and life of persons living and working on farms.

The National Labour Inspectorate’s representatives also supported **farmers and farming entrepreneurs** by organising conferences, competitions and training events. Labour inspectors of the District Labour Inspectorate in Łódź took part in the Presidential Harvest Festival in Spała, during which they gave farmers advice on OSH in farming. Moreover, farmers were shown and given brochures and guides issued by the Chief Labour Inspectorate to promote the rules of safe work by adults and children in farming.

VI. STATISTICAL DATA ON WORK ACCIDENTS IN FARMING, INCLUDING THEIR CAUSES

Victims of work accidents in farming according to the data of Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS), Statistics Poland (GUS) and National Labour Inspectorate (NLI)		2018	Accident causes
KRUS¹	Data on accidents in farming work, reported to KRUS by private farmers (or their families) entitled to receive benefits from social insurance for farmers	Total number of victims, including fatal ones 15 295 81	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> poor condition of a farmyard, communication routes, manoeuvring areas, etc. on farms; poor condition of farm buildings; poor condition of machines, equipment and tools; poor technical condition of ladders, platforms, scaffolding and other ancillary structures used on farms; poor condition of communication routes (roads, pavements, etc.) and buildings located outside farms; incorrect operation of machines, equipment and tools; failure to use protective measures and devices; incorrect movement of limbs in the danger zone; incorrect handling of farm animals; failure to use or an incorrect way to ascend and descend ladders, platforms and scaffolding during work at heights.
GUS²	Data on work accidents reported to GUS by farming companies	Total number of victims, including fatal ones 723 5	<p>Groups of causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorrect behaviour of a worker; improper condition of a material agent; improper wilful behaviour of a worker; lack, or improper use, of a material agent; incorrect work organisation; incorrect organisation of a workstation.
NLI³	Data on work accidents reported to the NLI and examined in terms of correctness of the applied preventive measures	Total number of victims, including fatal ones 31 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of protective devices; lack of collective protective measures; lack of instructions on how to conduct a technological process; lack of instructions on how to operate machines and equipment; lack of supervision of workers; incorrect coordination of team work tasks; connivance of the supervising personnel for breaches of regulations and rules of safe work; no training in the form of workstation instructions; allowing a worker to perform work despite medical counter-indications or without medical examinations; incorrect operation of machines and equipment; neglecting hazards (risky behaviour); ignorance of the hazard and paying insufficient attention to the performed activities; walking, driving or staying in prohibited areas; failure to use personal protective equipment by a worker; ignorance of the hazard; improper wilful behaviour of a worker.

¹ Data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

² Initial data of the Statistics Poland (GUS) refer to PKD groups 01.1-01.7; the data of GUS comprise accidents reported in 2018.

³ The NLI's data refer to Agriculture (PKD groups 01.1-01.6) and they comprise accidents that occurred in the reporting year.

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