

# Chapter 11: Awareness /Understanding of Workers and the Public



[11.1 Legal Information of the Awareness /Understanding of Workers and the Public](#)

[11-2 Related Activities to Provide Information to Workers and the Public](#)



*The aim of this chapter is to provide an overview of the mechanisms mainly legal instruments, programmes, policies and related activities, which are available to provide information to the public concerning the potential risks associated with all stages of the chemical life cycle. The understanding by the workers and the public, of the characteristics of the substances that they deal with on a day to day basis is one of the important ways by which accidents may be forestalled. Workers knowledge of the likelihood of adverse effects that may result from handling the chemical substances brings out the sense of alertness. However, with time and experience disregard for full operational procedures may lead to accidents. To establish working environment standards for each industry, legal provisions have been made to ensure uniformity or adherence.*

11.1 Legal information of the Awareness /Understanding of Workers and the Public

First: Law No. 38 of 1967 for public cleanliness

Full title & no. Of the regulation

***Law No. 38 of 1967 Concerning Public Cleanliness***

Published in the Official Gazette, issue No. 77 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1967.

## ***Objective and scope of regulation***

The main objective of this law and its executive Regulation is to keep cities and villages clean in order to protect public health, well organized and beautiful, and erase all violations to this effect. The law also aims at simplifying procedures and

granting local councils more authority within the framework of decentralization. This would lead to effective protection of the environment, protection against diseases and preventing their spreading in order to enhance public health.

The scope of the law encompasses prohibiting disposal of garbage and waste in locations other than those dedicated for their disposal. The law also obligates all institutions and individuals to store garbage and waste in special containers and regulates the processes of collecting and transportation of garbage, wastes and dirt, in addition to regulating their disposal. The law also regulates methods of sanitary drainage in locations lacking sewerage networks, setting rules for sanitary waste collection and burning, or draining of sanitary drainage tanks. The law also provides that owners of vacant land pieces should surround them with walls (to prevent their use as sites for throwing garbage).

Relation and dependency of other regulation for protection of public health  
Law No. 38 integrates with its executive regulation issued by the Minister of Housing Decree no. 134 of 1968 Said Regulation depends on the Law for its existence. Law No. 38 of 1967 integrates with Law No. 4 of 1994 concerning environment protection. Law No. 38 integrates also with Law no. 93 of 1992 and its Executive Regulation concerning discharging of liquid waste and with Law no. 48 for year 1982 concerning the protection of river Nile and waterways from pollution.

### ***Second: Labour Law no. 137 for the year 1981***

#### ***Full title & no. of the regulation***

Law No. 137/1981 Promulgating Labour Law As amended by Law No. 33/1982 and Law No. 119/1982.

#### ***Objective and scope of regulation***

***The objective of Law No. 137 of the year 1981 is to organize employment relations, clarify the duties and rights of the employment agreement's parties and ensure safety and vocational health. The scope of the law is regulating the work relation between the organization and its employees. Moreover, it protects employee's health during working. This Law does not apply to Civil Servants employed by the government or employees of local units or public authorities, except for the provisions concerning vocational health and safety. This law does not apply to household servants and family members who are direct dependants of the employer.***

### ***Relevant paragraphs***

Paragraphs of Law No. 137/ 1981 dealing with HCW are found in articles: 110, 115, 116, 117, 118 and 120.

### ***Objective and scope of relevant paragraphs***

The above-mentioned paragraphs dealt with HCW as shown below

#### **Article No. 110, which stipulates:**

***On choosing and constructing work sites the terms stipulated in laws granting licenses No. 453. 1954 for industrial and commercial and other stores and No, 371/3956 in respect of the public stores and No. 372/1956 regarding places of entertainment to which are specified by a resolution of the Minister of State for housing after the approval of the ministers of State for Health and Labour force and Training and Interior shall be observed.***

#### **Article No. 115, which stipulates:**

The firm shall provide the professional health and safety measurements in the places of work in a manner as will guarantee protection against work dangers and damages the following in particular.

a) Mechanical dangers i.e. anything arising from collision or connection between the body of the worker and a solid body such as the dangers of building and construction and the dangers of equipment and machines and the dangers of the means of transport. and circulation including the dangers of collapse.

b) Physical dangers i.e. everything that affects the safety and health of the worker as a result of dangerous factors or damages of nature such as heat, humidity cold, electricity lighting, noise, dangerous radiations, vibration or decrease or increase in the pressure of the atmosphere where work is being performed including the danger of explosion.

( c) Chemical dangers i. e. those dangers arising from the effect of chemical materials used in or leaking to the work atmosphere as the gases, vapours or dust and the liquids existing in the atmosphere of the work including the danger of fire.

#### **Article 116, which stipulates:**

The firm shall carry preliminary medical inspection of the worker before joining his job to assert that he is safe and medically fit according to the type of work he shall be entrusted with.

Such an inspection shall be carried by the General Authority for Health Insurance against a due to be charged and specified in a resolution issued by the Minister of State for Labour Force and Training in agreement with the social. Insurance Minister and with a maximum of LE. 2 for each worker to be borne by the firm.

The concerned Minister shall issue a resolution detailing the standards of fitness and health safety on; basis of which the preliminary medical inspection shall be carried.

**Article No. 117, which stipulates:**

The Firm shall, before appointing a worker inform him of the danger of not abiding with the protection measures stated for his job and provide all personal protection methods while training him how to use them.

**Article No. 118, which stipulates:**

The Worker shall make use of the protection methods and undertake to take care of those articles in his custody to this-effect and shall more over carry out the instruction set forth to keep healthy and protect him against labour accidents and he shall not commit any act or make any change intended to refrain from the execution of such instructions, misuse, damage or hurt the precaution measures set forth to safeguard and protect his fellow-workers.

Without prejudice to the implementation of sanctions by force of other laws a worker shall on violation of such obligations as above shall be subject to the penal responsibility.

**Article No. 120, which stipulates:**

The competent administrative authority shall, in case the firm shall fail to carryout the requirements stipulated by the preceding provisions and the regulative decisions there to on the dates specified by that Authority or in case of a sudden danger to the health or safety of the workers, order the firm to be totally or partially closed or one or more machines to be stopped till such time when the danger causes are removed.

***Year/date of implementation***

The Law was issued in the 6th of August 1981, and published in the Official Gazette at the 13th of August 1981. It was enforced on the 14th of August 1981

Law No. 137 aimed at securing the work environment. Accordingly the law

provided for selecting a work location that suits the institutions activity. The Law also provided for making the vocational health and safety means available at work places to ensure protection against work hazards. The category of workers includes those working in Health Care Institutions. The institutions should ensure the safety and health of the employee through performing a medical inspection for them before their employment. The worker should be informed beforehand about the risks or not adhering to the protection means set for his profession. The Law obligates the worker to use means of protection. The concerned administrative authority in case of prompt significant hazard to the health or safety of employees, could totally or partially close down the institution. The closing or activity stoppage decision would be enforced through administrative way. The concerned administrative authority could remove reasons of the risk directly at the institutions expense.

*Responsible authorities for implementation, enforcement and monitoring The Authority responsible for implementation, enforcement and monitoring of this Law is mainly the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, assisted by the Ministries of Social Affairs and Health.*

#### ***Relation and dependency of other regulation***

Law No. 137 for the year 1981 integrates with other laws dealing with HCWM for it charges the authorities responsible for implementing all the other concerned laws in the responsibility of inspecting the suitability of the institutions site to its activity and to inspect its degree of compliance to the standards and terms of vocational health and safety.

#### **Thirdly: law NO. 79/1975 concerning social insurance.**

Law No. 79 concerning social insurance published in the official gazNo.35rep.On August 28<sup>th</sup> 1975 and came into force on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1975. The objective of law is the insurance of caducity, disability, death, work injuries, illness, unemployment and the insurance of social care for the retired employees.

***The scope of law is the civilian employees in the state administrative agency, public bodies, public foundation, and economic units subordinate to public business sector and the employees who are***

*subject to the law of labour and the workers of domestic service.*

*The relation and dependency of law No.79/ 1975 to other regulations*

*LawNo.79/1975 has integrated relation with the decrees of its implementation.*

***Law of labour No.173/1981.***

Law No.47/1978

Forth: The minister of manpower and training decree No.116/1991 concernin2 the definition of the establishments. Safety equipment. Vocational health and trainin2 departments.

The decree No.116/1991 issued on August 20th1991 published in Al Wakae El Masria No. 196rep on September 1 st 1991 and came into force on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1991.

**The objective** of the decree No. 116/1991 is the definition of the establishment, the standard of safety equipment and vocational health. The decree regulates the training for safety and vocational health.

**The scope of** the decree 116/1961 is the industrial and unindustrialized establishments which employee 50 workers or more in one site. The decree lays down a table determines the establishment, which subject to its provisions including the establishments of service sector such as cleanliness, medical establishment, utilities and public bodies and sanitary drainage.

The Ministerial decrees No.116 of 1991(MOMI) of determines the establishments, Occupational Health and Safety organizations and the authorities responsible for training in the field of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). This includes training programs at the Industrial Safety Institute (ISI) by MOMI and National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOHS) for all industrial facilities. Safety instructions are given to all relevant workers; safety posters are rendered at appropriate intervals through the monthly meeting of safety committee, information provided by management to workers and the information, which is passed between colleagues.

The provisions of extension facilities by OHS general department and inspectors, by ministries of MOMI and MOHP seems to increase awareness, however most of the extension services do not include enough information relating to the

chemical hazards and most of the workers are not well aware of the fact that they use chemicals, or that these chemicals are potentially harmful. Courses have been organized for training between OHS department and EEAA for selected target groups.

### **The articles in the decree No.116/1991**

#### ***Article 2***

The establishment which is mentioned in the previous article should set up special department for safety and vocational health adequate to its responsibility, the kind of activity and the number of the employees.

#### ***Article 3***

The establishment shall be held to fulfill adequate measuring equipment for the dangers, which the employees face as a result of the activity of the establishment

#### ***Article 4***

The responsibility of the department of safety and vocational health of the establishment is as the following:

A- the department of safety and vocational health should participate with the Specialists in designing and carrying out the construction or the expanding of the establishments taking into the conditions the safety and vocational health of the site as well as the discharging of the industrial waste and this according to laws and its implementation decrees.

It should be taken into consideration all the neighbours of such establishment.

B- laying down annual plan for the programs of safety and vocational health of the establishment to raise its standard.

The following should be taken into consideration:

1-periodical inspection for all work places

-Laying down means of precautions from work dangers and harms

-Doing required measuring by using the adequate equipment to determine such dangers and register it in special registers to be a reference to be followed up according to the system of work.

2- The establishment should notify its department of safety and vocational health before doing any activity cause any danger to the employees or work environment to

insure this activity and give a permission for it on a form prepared by the department of the safety and vocational health in the establishment

In all cases the department of safety and vocational health should inform the owner of the work or the responsible manager or the competent bodies as soon as finding out any danger to avoid it immediately.

- The Environmental Law No. 4/1994 and its Executive Regulation have some articles which: -
- Provide information to workers to protect their health and safety from the risks of chemicals
- Provide information to the public concerning the risks to the environment, health and safety from chemicals, and actions which should be taken in order to protect themselves from chronic or acute exposure to hazardous chemicals, and ...
- Raise awareness and educate the public for effective participation in national environmental management initiatives as stated in Agenda 21.

Article 5: in the Environmental Law No. 4/1994 about EEAA responsibilities states:

- Prepare programmes for the environmental education of the public and assist in their implementation.
- Participate with the Ministry of Education in the preparation of training programmes for the protection of the environment within the scope of the various curricula in the basic education stage.

**Article 31: in the Executive Regulations of Law No. 4/1994 states:**

- Those in charge of the production or displacement of hazardous substances, whether in their gaseous, liquid or solid states, shall take all due precautions to ensure the non occurrence of any environmental damage, and shall be held in particular to observe the following:
  1. Those workers handling such substances are informed of the dangers involved and of the necessary precautions to be taken when handling them,

that they are fully aware of all this information and that they have received adequate training in this regard.

2. That the inhabitants of the regions surrounding the sites where hazardous substances are produced or handled are informed of the possible dangers of these substances and the method of facing such dangers, and that they are familiar with the alarm systems to be used in case of an accident and with the procedures to be followed on its occurrence.

### **11.2 Related Activities to Provide Information to Workers and the Public**

The Ministry of State for the Environment and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) has been working very hard since it was established, to raise the public awareness concerning various environmental aspects.

For this sake, Central Department for Information and Environmental Awareness was specially established, through which different activities were conducted. Not only several Seminars and Workshops were held to raise the public awareness for all the society sectors; but also a number of scientists and journalists were dedicated to come up with creative and interesting TV and Radio programs to serve the purpose of maintaining and leading an environmentally sound life. Competitions on environment were held to increase the country children environmental laws awareness, and attractive awards were made for this purpose. Also, quite a good part in a number of daily newspapers was assigned to serve the idea of environmental orientation through newsletters that provide information and continuous updates on different environmental activities and events.

EEAA endeavored also, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, to include the environmental and chemical awareness in their curricula education.

- Related Activities of EEAA:

Objectives of the Central Department of Information and Environmental Awareness: -

- Increase the environmental awareness among the public;
- Provide environmental education;
- Improve education in the environmental field;
- Provide training and improve capabilities of the employees working in the environmental field; and

- Develop the vital role of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as the national associations who are working in the environmental field.
- Objectives of the Training and Human Resources Development

Department:

- Supervise the different training sessions given by the different projects (e.g. EPAP, OSP) for the employees in the different departments;
  - Prepare training sessions for the Egyptian Labor Union and for Women and Childhood Affairs;
  - Prepare training sessions for the governmental agencies and authorities in different fields including the safe management of hazardous wastes;
  - Prepare training sessions for the Liberians in the field of environmental awareness as well as in increasing their awareness with the environmental laws;
  - Prepare training sessions for the employees in EEAA and its branches on the way of handling the hazardous chemicals as well as managing the hazardous wastes; and
  - Prepare training sessions for the young media representatives
- Objectives of the Public Awareness Department:
  - Support the environmental papers in the different magazines and papers (in 26 magazine and paper);
  - Issuing a set of newsletters in order to increase the public awareness with the local environmental problems;
  - Issuing a special newsletter for the Egyptian Environmental Affair Agency (EEAA);
  - Organizing a monthly youth competition about the environmental awareness;
  - Preparing and organizing environmental competition programs in the radio and television channels among which is a weekly environmental episode in Good Morning Egypt on the Main Channel;
  - Producing cartoon movies among the educational programs to increase environmental awareness;
  - Preparing on field programs and activities for the schools and faculties;

- Producing video films, documentary movies and CDs dealing with different environmental problems such as the solid wastes, pollution of the River Nile and food pollution; and
  - Preparing programs for environmental awareness for the different agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- **Objectives of the Student awareness and Media Department:**
  - Preparing seminars and competitions for increasing the environmental education and awareness among the university and school students; and
  - Preparing training sessions for environmental awareness for the environmental committees and the community specialists.
- **Objectives of the Environmental Educational Department:**
  - Preparing a plan to establish the green corner in every Governorate in Egypt;
  - Organizing several fairs for Green Corner in the different Governorates;
  - Preparing several competitions dealing with environmental awareness for the children and youth; and
  - Participating in the environment friends festival.

- **Related Activities of different projects at EEAA:**

**Awareness programs for EHSIMS includes:**

- Awareness Posters and brochures for hazardous substances (HS) like
  - Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for HS
  - Emergency Response Sheet (ERS)
  - Posters about classification of hazardous substances
- Production of CDs about EHSIMS
  - These CDs are used as awareness raising tools for different partners; also the CDs were distilled to Arab League for dissemination to Arab Countries to promote the project (EHSIMS) among them.
- Field visits to: -
  - Federation of Egyptian Industries
  - National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH)
  - Numerous Egyptian companies from public and private sectors
- For the purpose of increasing the awareness of workers about HS. and the importance of Risk Management and Risk Assessment.
  - Issuing guidelines like:
    - Handling and Storage guidelines for safe storage of H.S.
  - Holding workshops with:-
    - ILO (regarding hazardous substances handling, labeling and storage.
    - Donors (Danida, Finida, UNEP)
    - Civil Defense: for the Arab Civil Defense Officers.
    - Arab League.
    - Industrial facilities.
- The focus of these workshops is to increase awareness among all people of the community to hazardous that may exist during the handling of HS. In addition, one of the workshop objectives is to support industrial facilities in developing their on-

site emergency response plans. Also the workshops aim to help the Civil Defense Authority to be better prepared for emergencies resulting from industrial accidents that threaten to an extend beyond the fence- line of industrial facilities.

**Awareness programs for Egyptian Pollution Abatement Project (EPAP):**

- The main goal of the project is to assist industry in complying with environmental laws.
- The project has awareness component for increasing awareness on industrial pollution and Abatement which includes:
  - Media seminars for environmental staff and training courses for media staff of special fields and Local media.
  - Field visits for all media staff.
  - Publications, posters, video films, TV programs, etc
  - Supporting 4 NGOs activities.
  - Training different target groups through NGOs, industry, bank staff, Gos, religious leaders, etc....
  - Increasing public awareness through well-trained university graduates in Environmental evenings.
  - Cooperation with Finnish NGOs.

**Awareness Programs for Integrated Industrial Solid Waste Management Project (IISWM): -**

- Holding workshops for the awareness of works in 6th of October City about the importance of the project for them.

**Awareness Programs for Environmental Sector Program for Egypt (ESP): -**

- Training in communication of EEAA and Environmental Management Units in governments.
- Supporting decision-makers in environmental information and messages for environmental management.
- Funding strategy for environmental communication program in EEAA and Environmental Management Units in governments.

- Support of the other SPS components, EEAA departments, and governments in environmental information.
- Establishing a window for funding of activities of Non Governmental Organizations. The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) has prepared a reference guide for the media representatives about the basic environmental issues so as to be of assistance when dealing with any environmental issue as well as to help them in practicing their vital role in raising the environmental awareness.