

MEMO TO CABINET BY THE  
HON. MINISTER OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT & WELFARE

The Committee of Experts of the International Labour Organisation has drawn the attention of the Government of Malta to certain deficiencies in the Seventh Schedule of the National Insurance Act vis-a-vis the Schedule of Occupational Diseases appended to Convention No.42 concerning Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases which Malta has ratified.

The Committee of Experts have therefore requested Government to adopt the necessary measures to bring the schedule in the national legislation into full harmony with the Convention.

The matter has been thoroughly gone into by this Ministry in consultation with the Senior Occupational Health Officer, and it is proposed to revise the Seventh Schedule to the National Insurance Act to include the points raised by the I.L.O. experts. The opportunity is being taken at the same time to remedy certain omissions in our list, namely -

- (a) Poisoning by chloro-derivatives of benzene and its homologues;
- (b) poisoning by nitrochlorobenzene;
- (c) poisoning by substituted dinitrophenols.

The following new items have also been added -

- (a) Poisoning by cadmium;
- (b) infection by leptospira canicola;
- (c) brucellosis;
- (d) dystrophy of the cornea;
- (e) cataract due to electro-magnetic radiations;
- (f) diffuse mesothelioma of the pleura or of the peritoneum;
- (g) farmer's lung;
- (h) byssinosis.

Apart from the above, description of disease and nature of occupation have in many cases been recast.

Three items in the existing schedule, namely -

- (a) telegraphist's cramp;
- (b) writer's cramp; and
- (c) twister's cramp

have been omitted as these seem hardly necessary.

The proposed new schedule is almost identical to the U.K. list. It confers more comprehensive coverage and may involve some additional but limited expenditure, but it is felt that financial consideration should not militate against the inclusion of the new items in the schedule. All workers exposed to risk of contracting any of the scheduled diseases should be covered by insurance.

... A copy of the new schedule to replace the Seventh Schedule to the National Insurance Act is attached herewith.

Honourable members are invited to agree to the proposed new Schedule.

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APPENDIX

SEVENTH SCHEDULE  
INDUSTRIAL DISEASES OR INJURIES

<u>Description of disease or injury</u>	<u>Nature of Occupation</u>
Poisoning by:	Any occupation involving:
1. Lead or a compound of lead	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes, dust or vapour of, lead or a compound of lead, or a substance containing lead.
2. Manganese or a compound of manganese	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes, dust or vapour of, manganese or a compound of manganese, or a substance containing manganese.
3. Phosphorus or phosphine or poisoning due to the anti-cholinesterase action of organic phosphorus compounds	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes, dust or vapour of, phosphorus or a compound of phosphorus, or a substance containing phosphorus.
4. Arsenic or a compound of arsenic	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes, dust or vapour of, arsenic or a compound of arsenic, or a substance containing arsenic.
5. Mercury or a compound of mercury	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes, dust or vapour of, mercury or a compound of mercury, or a substance containing mercury.
6. Carbon bisulphide	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes or vapour of, carbon bisulphide or a compound of carbon bisulphide, or a substance containing carbon bisulphide.
7. Benzene or a homologue	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or vapour containing benzene or any of its homologues.
8. A nitro- or amino- or chloro-derivative of benzene or of a homologue of benzene, or poisoning by nitrochlorbenzene	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or vapour containing, a nitro- or amino- or chloro-derivative of benzene or of a homologue of benzene or nitrochlorbenzene.
9. Dinitrophenol or a homologue or by substituted dinitrophenols or by the salts of such substances	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or vapour containing, dinitrophenol or a homologue or substituted dinitrophenols or the salts of such substances.
10. A halogen derivative of a hydrocarbon of the aliphatic series	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or vapour containing, a halogen derivative of a hydrocarbon of the aliphatic series.

<u>Description of disease or injury</u>	<u>Nature of occupation</u>
11. Tri-cresyl phosphate	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or vapour containing, tri-cresyl phosphate.
12. Tri-phenyl phosphate	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or vapour containing, tri-phenyl phosphate.
13. Diethylene dioxide (dioxan)	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or vapour containing, diethylene dioxide (dioxan).
14. Chlorinated naphthalene	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes of, or dust or vapour containing, chlorinated naphthalene.
15. Nickel carbonyl	Exposure to nickel carbonyl gas.
16. Nitrous fumes	The use or handling of nitric acid or exposure to nitrous fumes.
17. Beryllium or a compound of beryllium	The use or handling of, or exposure to the fumes, dust or vapour of, beryllium or a compound of beryllium, or a substance containing beryllium.
18. Cadmium	Exposure to cadmium fumes.
19. Gonioma kamassi (African boxwood)	The manipulation of gonioma kamassi or any process in or incidental to the manufacture of articles therefrom.
20. Anthrax	The handling of wool, hair, bristles, hides or skins or other animal products or residues, or contact with animals infected with anthrax, or the loading, unloading or transport of merchandise.
21. Glanders	Contact with equine animals or their carcasses.
22. (a) Infection by <i>Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae</i>	Work in places which are, or are liable to be, infested by rats.
(b) Infection by <i>Leptospira canicola</i>	Work at dog kennels or the care or handling of dogs.
23. Tuberculosis	Close and frequent contact with a source or sources of tuberculous infection by reason of employment - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) in the medical treatment or nursing of a person or persons suffering from tuberculosis, or in a service ancillary to such treatment or nursing;</li> <li>(b) in attendance upon a person or persons suffering from tuberculosis, where the need for such attendance arises by reason of physical or mental infirmity;</li> </ul>

Description of disease  
or injury

Nature of occupation

- (c) as a research worker engaged in research in connection with tuberculosis;
- (d) as a laboratory worker, pathologist or person taking part in or assisting at post-mortem examinations of human remains where the occupation involves working with material which is a source of tuberculous infection.
24. Brucellosis
- Close and frequent contact with a source or sources of Brucella infection by reason of employment -
- (a) as research worker engaged in research in connection with brucellosis;
- (b) as a laboratory worker where the occupation involves working with material which is a source of Brucella infection.
25. Heat cataract
- Frequent or prolonged exposure to rays from molten or red-hot material.
26. Decompression sickness
- Subjection to compressed or rarefied air.
27. Subcutaneous cellulitis of the hand (Beet hand)
- Manual labour causing severe or prolonged friction or pressure on the hand.
28. Bursitis or subcutaneous cellulitis arising at or about the knee due to severe or prolonged external friction or pressure at or about the knee (Beet knee)
- Manual labour causing severe or prolonged external friction or pressure at or about the knee.
29. Bursitis or subcutaneous cellulitis arising at or about the elbow due to severe or prolonged external friction or pressure at or about the elbow (Beet elbow)
- Manual labour causing severe or prolonged external friction or pressure at or about the elbow.
30. Traumatic inflammation of the tendons of the hand or forearm, or of the associated tendon sheaths
- Manual labour, or frequent or repeated movements of the hand or wrist.
31. Inflammation or ulceration of the mucous membrane of the upper respiratory passages or mouth produced by dust, liquid or vapour
- Exposure to dust, liquid or vapour.

Description of disease  
or injury

Nature of occupation

32. Non-infective dermatitis of external origin (including chrome ulceration of the skin but excluding dermatitis due to ionising particles or electromagnetic radiations other than radiant heat)
33. (a) Dystrophy of the cornea (including ulceration of the corneal surface) of the eye,  
(b) localised new growth of the skin, papillomatous or keratotic,  
(c) squamous-celled carcinomas of the skin,  
due in any case to arsenic, tar, pitch, bitumen, mineral oil (including paraffin), soot or any compound, product (including quinone or hydroquinone), or residue of any of these substances
34. Inflammation, ulceration or malignant disease of the skin or subcutaneous tissues or of the bones, or blood dyscrasia, or cataract, due to electromagnetic radiations (other than radiant heat), or to ionising particles
35. (a) Carcinoma of the mucous membrane of the nose or associated air sinuses,  
(b) Primary carcinoma of a bronchus or of a lung
36. Primary neoplasm of the epithelial lining of the urinary bladder (Papilloma of the bladder), or of the epithelial lining of the renal pelvis or of the epithelial lining of the ureter
- Exposure to dust, liquid, or vapour or any other external agent capable of irritating the skin (including friction or heat but excluding ionising particles or electromagnetic radiations other than radiant heat).
- The use or handling of, or exposure to, arsenic, tar, pitch, bitumen, mineral oil (including paraffin), soot or any compound, product (including quinone or hydroquinone), or residue of any of these substances.
- Exposure to electro-magnetic radiations other than radiant heat, or to ionising particles.
- Work in a factory where nickel is produced by decomposition of a gaseous nickel compound which necessitates working in or about a building or buildings where that process or any other industrial process ancillary or incidental thereto is carried on.
- (a) Work in a building in which any of the following substances is produced for commercial purposes:-  
(i) alpha-naphthylamine or beta-naphthylamine;  
(ii) diphenyl substituted by at least one nitro or primary amino group or by at least one nitro and primary amino group;  
(iii) any of the substances mentioned in sub-paragraph (ii) above if further ring substituted by halogeno, methyl or methoxy groups, but not by other groups;

Description of disease  
or injury

Nature of occupation

- (iv) the salts of any of the substances mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) to (iii) above;
- (v) auramine or magenta;
- (b) the use or handling of any of the substances mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) to (iv) of paragraph (a), or work in a process in which any such substance is used or handled or is liberated;
- (c) the maintenance or cleaning of any plant or machinery used in any such process as is mentioned in paragraph (b), or the cleaning of clothing used in any such building as is mentioned in paragraph (a) if such clothing is cleaned within the works of which the building forms a part or in a laundry maintained and used solely in connection with such works.
37. Primary malignant neoplasm of the mesothelium (diffuse mesothelioma) of the pleura or of the peritoneum
- (a) The working or handling of asbestos or any admixture of asbestos;
- (b) the manufacture or repair of asbestos textiles or other articles containing or composed of asbestos;
- (c) the cleaning of any machinery or plant used in any of the foregoing operations and of any chambers, fixtures and appliances for the collection of asbestos dust;
- (d) substantial exposure to the dust arising from any of the foregoing operations.
38. Pulmonary disease due to the inhalation of the dust of mouldy hay or of other mouldy vegetable produce, and characterised by symptoms and signs attributable to a reaction in the peripheral part of the broncho-pulmonary system, and giving rise to a defect in gas exchange (Farmer's lung)
- Exposure to the dust of mouldy hay or other mouldy vegetable produce by reason of employment:-
- (a) in agriculture or horticulture; or
- (b) in loading or unloading or handling in storage such hay or other vegetable produce; or
- (c) in handling bagasse.
39. Byssinosis
- Work in any room where any process up to and including the carding process is performed in factories in which the spinning or manipulation of raw or waste cotton or of flax is carried on.

Description of disease  
or injury

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40. Fibrosis of the lungs due to silica dust, asbestos dust or other fibrogenic dust, including the condition of the lungs known as dust reticulation (Pneumoconiosis)      Exposure to fibrogenic dust.

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