



Occupational Health and Safety

Week 5



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Occupational Diseases List

- Occupational Health and Safety Law No. 6331 defines occupational disease as follows: A disease that occurs as a result of exposure to occupational risks.
- Occupational diseases are diseases that arise from the factors that the person encounters during her/his work and therefore are more common in certain professions and working areas than in the general population.

Occupational Diseases List



- In order for the insured to enter into the official records that she/he has an occupational disease due to her/his work;
- a) The examination of the health board report and the supporting medical documents duly issued by the health service providers authorized by the Social Security Institution,
- b) When deemed necessary by the Institution, examining the audit reports and other necessary documents revealing the working conditions in the workplace and the related medical results, the results of which must be determined by the Social Security Institution's Health Board are necessary.
- Which diseases will be considered as occupational diseases have been announced in the Occupational Diseases List annexed to the Regulation on the Determination of the Working Power and Loss of Profitability in Profession.

Occupational Diseases List



- The Occupational Diseases List is arranged by the Social Security Institution's Higher Health Board which consists of expert faculty members and bureaucrats.
- Occupational Diseases List has 5 titles:
 - A- Diseases that originate from chemicals
 - B- Occupational dermatologic diseases
 - C- Occupational lung diseases
 - D- Diseases that originate from biological factors
 - E- Diseases that originate from physical factors
- Concepts such as diseases and their symptoms, the main jobs with a risk of illness, and the term of obligation are included in the list. The diagnoses to be made should not conflict with these issues.

Occupational Diseases List



- The assistance of Social Security Institution's on Occupational Diseases can be titled as:
 - Health benefit,
 - Daily allowance for temporary incapacity for work,
 - Monthly allowance for permanent incapacity to work,
 - Providing prosthesis, maintenance, repair, and renewal of the prosthesis,
 - Sending the worker abroad for medical treatment,
 - Defrayment of the funeral expenses,
 - Providing marriage portion aid,
 - Income to right-holders in case of death.

The Importance of Detecting Occupational Diseases



- There are problems in diagnosing occupational diseases in Turkey. As occupational diseases are not well known they are often overlooked, and even the curable ones are misdiagnosed for years. Thus, people with much more severe diseases can be encountered. This situation causes an increase in compensations and health expenses.
- Expenses for the treatment of diseases are covered by the sickness insurance instead of the accident insurance of the insurance institution or they are directly covered from the employees' own pockets.
- The fact that a patient has an occupational disease proves the existence of health risks in the workplace and ensures that measures are taken to protect workers working in that workplace.

The Importance of Detecting Occupational Diseases



- Unless occupational diseases are detected, the problems that make the employees sick will not be noticed and measures will not be taken for these problems, thus the current conditions will continue to make the employees sick.
- Workers cannot be compensated by insurance institutions for labor losses caused by their occupational disease.
- Due to misdiagnoses and incomplete investigations, Turkey lacks invaluable knowledge and a database on employee health and safety.
- According to the general acceptance in the world, 4-12 out of every thousand workers are likely to have an occupational disease.

Table 2 shows the number of insured people in Turkey.



	2009	2010	2011
Actively insured	15.096.728	16.196.304	17.374.361
Compulsorily insured	13.088.553	14.161.165	15.453.320
Apprentice	321.649	349.581	298.180
Overseas community	35.930	27.778	32.867
Farming 4/a (SSK)	178.541	152.802	124.911
Farming 4/b (BAĞ-KUR)	1.014.948	1.101.131	1.121.777
Neighborhood representative	15.200	14.348	12.559
Freelancers & Part-time workers	441.907	391.499	331.017

Number of insured people in Turkey in a period of three years (Table 2)

Distribution of occupational disease cases of active insured by age groups and gender (Table 3)



Age Groups	2010			2011		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
14	2	0	2	11	0	11
15-17	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-24	22	5	27	36	2	38
25-29	55	1	56	88	3	91
30-34	87	4	91	104	4	108
35-39	104	2	106	105	1	106
40-44	87	2	89	124	0	124

Table 3 from 14 to 44

Distribution of occupational disease cases of active insured by age groups and gender (Table 3)



Age Groups	2010			2011		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
45-49	78	4	82	83	0	83
50-54	27	1	28	45	0	45
55-59	20	0	20	15	0	15
60-64	12	0	12	19	0	19
65+	20	0	20	57	0	57
Total	514	19	533	687	10	697

Table 3 from 45 to 65+



Occupational Diseases Hospitals

- Occupational Diseases Hospitals
- Medical Faculties of State Universities, and
- State Training and Research Hospitals are authorized on diagnosing occupational diseases.
- These health institutions are authorized to issue health board reports, which will be taken as a basis in determining the insured's working power and loss of earning power in the profession.
- There are 3 Occupational Diseases Hospitals in Turkey.
- The first Occupational Diseases Hospital was established in Ankara and Istanbul in 1978, the Occupational Diseases Hospital in Zonguldak, which deals only with chest diseases, was established later. These hospitals, together with other hospitals of the Social Insurance Institution, were transferred to the Ministry of Health in 2005.



Occupational Diseases Hospitals

- Hospitals provide services on issues such as diagnosis, disability determination as a basis for compensation procedures, and making the decision to qualify for insurance procedures. In addition, they provide training services in the field of preventive health services, mobile health services, and occupational diseases.
- Occupational Diseases Hospitals include units such as toxicology laboratory, occupational hygiene laboratory and respiratory function evaluation laboratory, which are needed to diagnose occupational diseases.

Classification of Occupational Diseases



- The application of listing the occupational diseases (occupational diseases list), which is the basis for the diagnosis of occupational diseases in Turkey, is used in many countries around the world.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) published the first "ILO List of Occupational Diseases" consisting of three occupational diseases in the Occupational Diseases Convention No.18 in 1925.
- The ILO, which has been constantly updating its lists of occupational diseases over the years, published the Occupational Diseases List Recommendation No. 194 containing 70 occupational diseases in 2002.



Classification of Occupational Diseases

- The application of listing the occupational diseases (occupational diseases list), which is the basis for the diagnosis of occupational diseases in Turkey, is used in many countries around the world.
- The application of listing occupational diseases seems to be an application that will create an advantage for the employees by accelerating the diagnosis and, compensation processes when the list is constantly updated. But in cases where the update cannot be made this application puts physicians in a difficult situation.
- In countries where the application of listing the occupational diseases is used, the physician's conviction that the working person is ill due to the conditions in the workplace is not enough. It is not sufficient to diagnose the disease of the worker as an occupational disease.

Classification of Occupational Diseases



- For the physician to diagnose the disease as an occupational disease, one or more of the diseases in the list must have occurred in the employee under the conditions specified in the list. However, working life and workplace environments are highly dynamic.
- Modes of production, means of production and relations of production are constantly transformed over time.
- Any List that is not updated quickly enough, will lag behind this transformation and will be at a disadvantage for workers who have become ill.
- Classifying diseases in these undefined and ambiguous categories poses other challenges.

Occupational Diseases List



- Three different planes have been defined for the relationship between work and illness in the current literature led by the ILO. Classifying diseases in these undefined and ambiguous categories poses other challenges.
- These three different planes are:
- 1. Occupational Diseases are diseases that are usually caused by a single factor and diagnosed with a unique and strong professional relationship.
- 2. Work-Related Diseases are diseases with complex etiology, in which many factors are seen together, the work environment can play a role, and different risks are involved.

Occupational Diseases List



- The definition of work-related illness by the World Health Organization is as follows: "Work-related diseases" are multifactorial diseases in which the work environment plays a partial role in causation. They include chronic noncommunicable diseases affecting working populations.
- These are diseases in which the working environment and working style are important factors in the formation and development of the disease, among other reasons. The main factor in occupational diseases is outside the workplace. There may have been a disease that existed before the employment or was triggered while working.
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Occupational Diseases List



- The present disease in the worker may increase in severity due to the inability to perform the pre-employment examination or the lack of attention to the examination. Work-related diseases are; heart diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, musculoskeletal system diseases, etc. Working in certain professions is risky for these diseases.
- 3. Diseases Affecting Workers are diseases that are not associated with work, but whose occurrence is increased by harmful factors of the occupation.

Occupational Diseases List



- The defining criteria for inclusion of a disease in the ILO's list of occupational diseases are:
 - The strong and scientifically proven relationship between exposure and its influence,
 - Occurrence of the disease in certain jobs or working areas,
 - The strong correlation between the number of workers exposed to the disease and the severity of the risk,
 - Inclusion of the disease on the national occupational disease list of many countries.
- In order to update an Occupational Diseases List in the light of the criteria listed above, continuous scientific production is required.
- It is difficult to update the Occupational Diseases List in places like Turkey, where this production cannot be done sufficiently.

ILO List of Occupational Diseases



- The ILO List of Occupational Diseases is the most important document related to the development of occupational diseases policy of member countries, and occupational diseases are classified into three categories in this list:
 - 1. Occupational diseases caused by risk factors (physical, chemical, and biological),
 - 2. Occupational diseases of target organs and systems (respiratory, skin, muscle, and skeletal),
 - 3. Occupational cancers
- Occupational diseases can be further classified according to the causative factors:
- Occupational diseases caused by chemicals
 - 1.1. Heavy metals
 - 1.2. Solvents
 - 1.3. Gases

ILO List of Occupational Diseases



- 2. Occupational diseases of physical origin:
 - 2.1. Noise and vibration
 - 2.2. Working at high and low pressure
 - 2.3. Working in cold and heat
 - 2.4. Dust
 - 2.5. Radiation
- 3. Occupational diseases of biological origin:
 - 3.1. Diseases of bacterial origin
 - 3.2. Diseases caused by viruses
 - 3.3. Biotechnology related diseases
- 4. Occupational diseases of psychological origin
- 5. Occupational diseases caused by neglect of ergonomics