

OSH Authorities — Latvia

Description scheme for country overviews

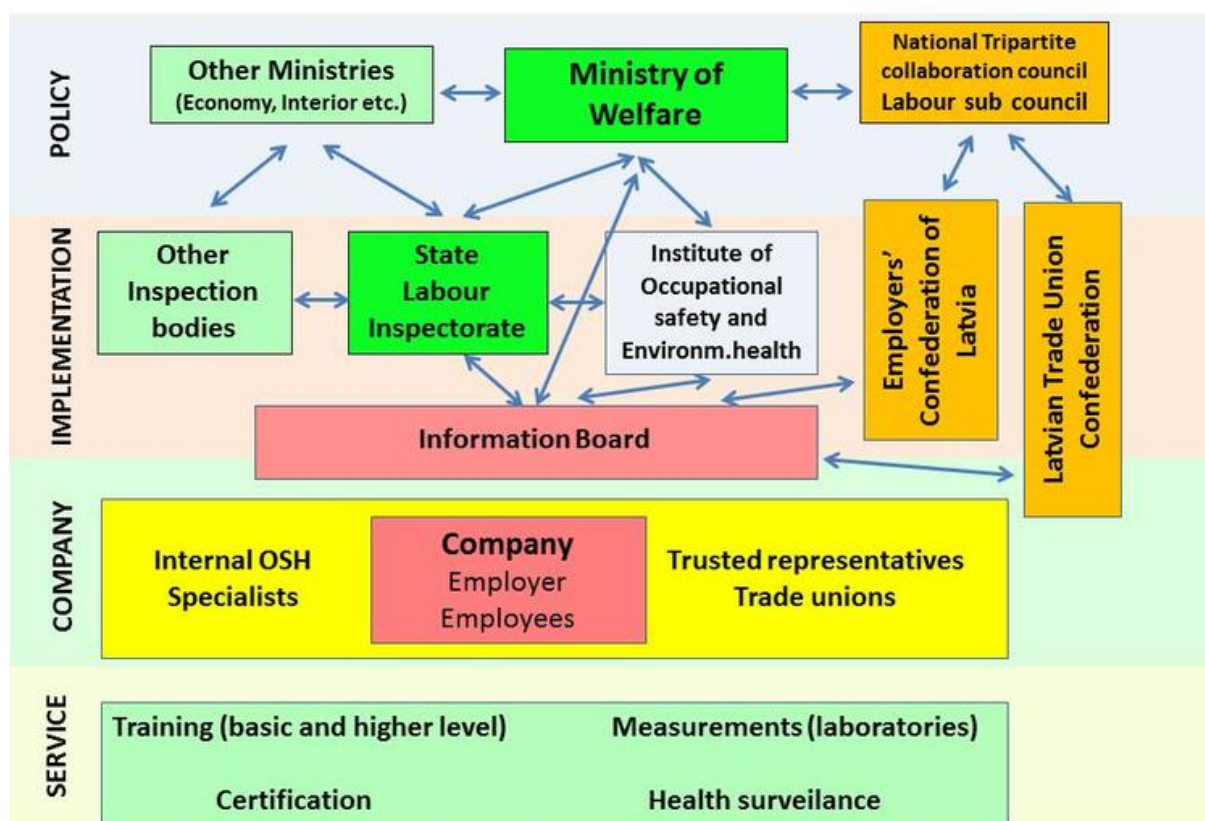
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Source: https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_systems_at_national_level_-_Latvia

OSH infrastructure

Scheme:

Institutional system of Occupational health and safety in Latvia



▪ **OSH authorities**

Name of authority	Ministry of Welfare
Link	http://www.lm.gov.lv/
Short abstract	<p>The main tasks of the Ministry of Welfare in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop the national policy of OSH and facilitate its implementation; to ensure the elaboration of national OSH legislation and its compliance with the European Union (EU) and international legal acts in this field; to promote the creation of a safe and harmless working environment, the protection of employees' right to OSH, and social guarantees; to facilitate the process of developing an OSH administration system; to promote and provide employers and employees with information on OSH issues. <p>To achieve these objectives, the Ministry of Welfare is actively working with several other institutions and social partners. The structure of the Ministry of Welfare is based on several departments, including the Department of Labour Relations and OSH Policy, which is responsible for the OSH field. Several other departments are also involved (such as the Social Insurance Department and the Department of Labour Market policy).</p> <p>The Ministry of Welfare mainly collaborates with all the institutions under its supervision and authority, including the main institution for the supervision and control of the OSH protection system — the State Labour Inspectorate. The ministry also collaborates with social partners, such as the Latvian Trade Union Confederation and the Employers' Confederation of Latvia. Collaboration is mostly achieved during the elaboration of new OSH legislative acts. Representatives of social partners are involved in this process from the initial stages of drafting legislation, which provides them with the opportunity to contribute to the coordination of joint activities. The Department of Labour Relations and OSH Policy, in collaboration with the State Labour Inspectorate, is also responsible for coordinating proposals for the annual preventive action plan, funded by the State Social Insurance Agency (<i>Valsts Sociālās apdrošināšanas agentūra</i>).</p>
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Name of authority	State Labour Inspectorate
Link	http://www.vdi.gov.lv/
Short abstract	<p>The State Labour Inspectorate is the principal control and supervisory institution in the field of OSH, operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Welfare (i.e. it is the direct management authority). The legal status, function, tasks and operational procedure of the State Labour Inspectorate is defined in the State Labour Inspectorate Law adopted on 19 June 2008. The State Labour Inspectorate is the only governmental institution that carries out the implementation of the policy in the field of labour laws and OSH legislation. The State Labour Inspectorate carries out various activities to ensure that the Latvian population are socially and legally protected, and are able to work in a safe working environment. The State Labour Inspectorate has set following mission: to monitor the implementation of labour laws and OSH legislation in Latvia to establish and maintain a safe, healthy working environment and proper labour laws, thereby reducing the number of victims of occupational accidents at work. The State Labour Inspectorate has the following main functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to supervise and monitor the requirements of the regulatory enactments regarding labour laws and OSH legislation; • to monitor how employers and employees mutually fulfil the obligations set by employment contracts and collective labour agreements; • to provide free consultations to employers and employees on labour laws and OSH legislation.
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▪ Compensation and insurance bodies

Name of body	State Social Insurance Agency
Link	http://www.vsaa.lv/
Short abstract	<p>There is only one insurance and compensation body in Latvia, as the social insurance system and accident insurance system is state owned. The system is provided by the State Social Insurance Agency working under the supervision of the Ministry of Welfare. The main functions of the State Social Insurance Agency include the administration of special social insurance budgets (including insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases) and public social services. The State Social Insurance Agency also provides funding for preventive activities in the field of OSH. The system for insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases is set by the Law on Compulsory Social Insurance in respect of Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases. The State Social Insurance Agency is handling the compensation system for occupational accidents and diseases. Generally, every employee that is legally employed is insured against occupational accidents and diseases, as a small part of social tax is paid into the special social insurance budget. If there is an occupational accident, it must be properly investigated and registered with the State Labour Inspectorate in accordance with the Cabinet Regulations 'Procedures for Investigation and Registration of Accidents at Work'. Occupational diseases are recognised and registered by the Centre of Occupational and Radiation Medicine (<i>Aroda un radiācijas medicīnas centrs</i>) in accordance with the Cabinet Regulations 'Procedures on Investigation and Registration of Occupational Diseases'.</p>
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▪ **Research institutes**

Name of institute	Institute of Occupational Safety and Environmental Health of the Riga Stradiņš University
Link	http://www.rsu.lv/ddvvi
Short abstract	The Institute of Occupational Safety and Environmental Health is the leading research institution in the field of OSH in Latvia, in terms of experience, projects and publications. The institute is part of the Riga Stradiņš University, which is not only a research institute but also an academic, scientific and training institution. The Institute for Occupational Safety and Environmental Health has several functions including providing training for undergraduate and postgraduate students on topics concerning OSH, occupational medicine and environmental health, carrying out research and providing expert services. In the field of OSH research, its current activities are mostly targeted at research on the effects of well-established OSH risks, such as welding fumes, noise and vibration and on new and emerging factors, such as ultra-fine particles, and psychosocial and organisational risks.
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Name of institute	Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Latvia (<i>Latvijas universitātes Ķīmijas fakultāte</i>)
Link	http://www.lu.lv/fakultates/kf/
Short abstract	Some research activities are also carried out by the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Latvia. Its recent research includes studies on not only chemical risks but also ergonomic and organisational factors of workplaces.
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Name of authority	Institute of Occupational Safety and Civil Defence under the Faculty of Engineering, Economics and Management of the Riga Technical University (<i>Rīgas Tehniskās universitātes Inženierekonomikas fakultātes Darba un civilās aizsardzības institūts</i>)
Link	http://www.rtu.lv/en/content/view/885/1112/lang,en/
Short abstract	This institute is carrying out some research in the field of OSH, focusing mostly on civil protection and fire safety.
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■ Prevention services

Name of service	n/a
Short abstract	<p>There are no official prevention institutions, in the traditional sense of the word, in the field of OSH. Currently, the only institution that has government funding and functions is the Institute for Occupational Safety and Environmental Health (<i>Darba drošības un vides veselības institūts</i>) of the Riga Stradiņš University, which is an academic, scientific and training institution. The Institute for Occupational Safety and Environmental Health has several functions including providing training for undergraduate and postgraduate students on topics concerning OSH, occupational medicine and environmental health, carrying out research and providing expert services.</p> <p>According to the 'Law on Compulsory Social Insurance in respect of Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases', every year 0.5% of the special insurance budget is spent on preventive activities in the field of OSH. The annual plan is approved by the Information Board of the Latvian focal point for the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), which consists of competent representatives from the Ministry of Welfare, the State Labour Inspectorate, the Latvian Free Trade Union Federation, the Latvian Employers' Confederation, and the Institute of Occupational Safety and Environmental Health.</p>
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■ Other OSH services

Name of association	Association of Latvian Occupational Physicians (<i>Latvijas arodslimību ārstu biedrība</i>)
Link	http://www.ardslimibas.lv/
Short abstract	This association brings together more than 400 occupational health professionals and physicians, and is responsible for updating training for its members as well as certificating and recertificating occupational health professionals and physicians.
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Name of association	Latvian Association of Occupational Health and Safety Experts (<i>Latvijas darba aizsardzības speciālistu asociācija</i>)
Link	http://www.ldasa.lv/
Short abstract	This association brings together both basic level and higher level OSH experts working across various industries. The association is responsible for providing information to its members and for preparing test materials for the recertification of higher level OSH specialists who are working as so-called competent specialists in accordance with the Cabinet Regulations 'Regulations Regarding the Requirements for Competent Authorities and Competent Specialists in Labour Protection Issues and the Procedures for Evaluating Competence'.
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Name of association	Latvian Association of Competent Institutions in OSH (<i>Darba aizsardzības kompetento institūciju biedrība</i>)
Link	http://dakib.lv/
Short abstract	This association brings together several companies offering external services in OSH. The main tasks of the association are to promote the business environment in OSH and fire safety, organise awareness-raising

	events for employers in OSH and fire safety, and explain legal requirements for members.
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▪ Standardisation bodies

Name of authority	Latvian Standard (<i>Standartizācijas birojs</i>)
Link	http://www.lvs.lv/
Short abstract	<p>The Latvian Standard is one of three independent agencies operating as part of the limited liability company the Standardisation, Accreditation and Metrology Centre (<i>Standartizācijas, akreditācijas un metroloģijas centrs</i>). The Latvian Standard works in accordance with the Standardisation Law. Its specific functions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to organise the development of the Latvian national standards through standardisation technical committees; • to adapt all the standards published by European standardisation bodies and international standards that are essential for the national economy; • to ensure a stock formation of standards and related documents, the stock maintenance and amendment of standardisation, and the dissemination of information in the field of standardisation; • to participate in the work of international and regional standardisation bodies.
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