For a healthy worker in a safe work environment
DIRECTORATE OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH SERVICES (DOSHS)

The Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services (DOSHS) is one of departments within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, whose primary objective is to ensure safety, health and welfare of all workers in all workplaces. Unsafe and unhealthy work environment causes accidents, diseases, disasters and environmental pollution that occasion huge economic and social burdens to individuals and enterprises thereby stifling economic and social growth.

Mandate

The Directorate enforces Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2007 (OSHA, 2007) with its subsidiary legislation which aims at prevention of accidents and diseases at work. It also administers the Work Injury Benefits Act, 2007 (WIBA, 2007) which provides for compensation of workers who have been injured or have suffered a disease out of and in the course of employment.

Mission

To develop and implement effective systems for the prevention of workplace diseases, ill health and accidents in order to reduce damage to property and work injury compensation claims for improved productivity.

Our Core functions

In order to fulfil its mandate, the Directorate performs the following functions;

1. Systematic inspection and auditing of workplaces to promote best practices and ensure compliance with safety and health standards as set out in OSHA, 2007 and its subsidiary legislations.
2. Examination and testing of steam boilers, air and steam receivers, gas cylinders, refrigeration plants, passenger lifts, hoists, cranes, chains and other lifting equipment to ensure their safe use.
3. Identification, evaluation and control of biological, chemical, physical, psychosocial, ergonomic and other factors in the work environment which may affect the safety and health of employed persons and the general environment.
4. Medical surveillance, including medical examination to monitor and check on the health status of the workers and advise on intervention measures.
5. Training and awareness creation on occupational safety and health in order to promote safety and health culture in the country.
6. Ensuring compensation to employees for work related injuries and diseases contracted in the course of their employment in accordance with the provisions of WIBA, 2007.
7. Investigation of occupational accidents, dangerous occurrences and cases of Occupational diseases with a view to preventing recurrence.
8. Approving architectural plans of buildings intended for use as workplaces.
How to report accidents?

Every employer should report an occupational accident to the Director of Occupational Health and Safety Services on the prescribed form (DOSH 1) within seven days after having received notice of an accident or having learnt that an employee has been injured in an accident.

In case of fatal accidents, the accident should be reported within twenty four hours after occurrence by fastest means possible and thereafter through DOSH 1 within seven days.