

**“ The City of Heritage ”**



# **ULUNDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

## 1. Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide officials with the following relevant guidelines regarding occupational health and safety:

- a. To implement an Occupational Health and Safety Program.
- b. To be aware of all risks and changes in risk factors in areas regarded as high risk.
- c. To stay abreast of legislative requirements and to meet them as far as is reasonably practicable.
- d. To train everyone in the municipality on matters pertaining to their work and the associated risks involved.
- e. To ensure the knowledge and information available is adequate to achieve these objectives.
- f. To continually evaluate health and safety programmes, adapting them as and when problems are identified.
- g. To partake actively in the accident/incident prevention program.

## 2. Policy Scope

The policy applies to all municipal employees.

## 3. Policy definition

For the purpose of this policy unless the context otherwise indicates:

**“hazard”** means a source of or exposure to danger.

**“health and safety committee”** means a committee established under section 19 of Occupational Health and Safety Act, No 85 of 1993.

**“healthy”** means free from illness or injury attributable to occupational causes.

**“incident”** means an incident as contemplated in section 24 of Occupational Health and Safety Act.

**“machinery”** means any article or combination of articles assembled, arranged or connected and which is used or intended to be used for converting any form of energy to performing work, or which is used or intended to be used, whether incidental thereto or not, for developing, receiving, storing, containing, confining, transforming, transmitting, transferring or controlling any form of energy.

**“medical surveillance”** means a planned program of periodic examination (which may include clinical examinations, biological monitoring or medical tests) of employees by an occupational health practitioner, or in prescribed cases, by an occupational medicine practitioner.

**“occupational health”** means including occupational hygiene, occupational medicine and biological monitoring.

**“occupational health practitioner”** means an occupational medicine practitioner or a person who holds a qualification in occupational health recognised as such by the South African Medical and Dental Council as referred to in the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act, 1974 (Act No.56 of 1974) or South African Nursing Council as referred to in the Nursing Act, 1978 (Act No.50 of 1978).

**“occupational hygiene”** means the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of conditions arising in or from the workplace, which may cause illness or adverse health effects to persons.

**“risk”** means the probability that injury or damage will occur.

**“safe”** means free from any hazard.

#### 4. **Legislative Framework**

This document is established within the framework of the following legislation and policies:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 [Act 85 of 1993]
- Regulations promulgated in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 [Act 85 of 1993]
- Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993 [Act 130 of 1993]
- National Health Act, 2003 [Act 61 of 2003]
- Regulations promulgated in terms of the National Health Act, 2003 [Act 61 of 2003]

(Please ensure that latest legal prescripts are consulted when implementing and reviewing the policy as the municipality remains responsible and accountable for legal compliance.)

#### 5. **General Policy Provisions**

The municipality and its staff believe that the prevention of injuries and exposure to disease of all the employees is of paramount importance to the organisation in its quest to be a leader in health and safety. Furthermore, management acknowledges its responsibility and moral obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

We will strive to be pro-active in the recognition of risks with the objective of reducing exposure to injury and disease.

Involvement will be at all levels and the responsibility will be shared by everyone, in order to reach the objectives.

##### 5.1 **Medical Surveillance Program**

*A Medical Surveillance Program is used to identify and record the presence of any occupational disease and the degree of exposure. The information is used to ensure that the health of the employee will not be compromised by placement in a particular job, also applicable on Health Workers (Environmental Regulation 2 OHS Act) and Shift Workers.*

*Employees who have a condition which will or could be compromised will not be placed in high risk areas. General information not required for the job is used to identify health needs and the health care that the individual would require.*

##### 5.2 **Pre-employment Examination (PEM)**

Certain employees will undergo a pre-employment medical examination prior to being appointed to a position. The position being filled will determine whether an examination is needed. The selection criteria will be the risks involved, determined by the job and results kept confidential. The inherent medical requirements will be used to ensure non-discrimination results.

A declaration will be signed by the prospective employee accepting the conditions of the Medical Surveillance Program and any resulting testing required.

The Manager will be notified of the suitability of the prospective employee.

### **5.3 Periodic Screenings (PS)**

Employees working in specific areas or shifts will undergo screening at various intervals, depending on the health risk profile to risk; e.g. drivers will be examined annually. A certificate of fitness will be issued.

### **5.4 Transfer Screenings (TS)**

Employees are only screened for the job they are initially placed in. This means that they will not necessarily be suitable to work in another area, except if they are required to be multi-skilled and work in all areas. Thus any employee requiring or applying for transfer would first undergo an assessment to ensure suitability.

### **5.5 Legislative Compliance**

The Council will follow all aspects of the Occupational Health and Safety Act no. 85 of 1993 and its Regulations, including any other mentioned documents (i.e. SABS codes). Where specific compliance or risk exists, company rules and procedures will apply.

Any training done with respect to the legislation or company health and safety program, policies and procedures will be noted and kept on file. Any person who does not adhere to this legislation will be guilty of an offence and thus be disciplined according to the disciplinary code.

### **5.6 Injury Reporting**

In terms of the Occupational Health & Safety Act no. 83 of 1993, all injuries and incidents must be reported immediately or as soon as practically possible, for assessment, recording; or possibly investigation.

### **5.7 Wearing of Personal Protective Clothing (PPC)**

Various occupations will be identified in the job specification as requiring PPC to be worn by the employees.

Employees will be required to sign for the PPC, to follow the procedure and undergo training required for correct usage.

All employees (outside workers) have to wear closed shoes.

Where Safety clothing or equipment has been issued, it will be seen as an offence if these are not worn at all times, and thus disciplinary action, according to the disciplinary code, will be taken on noncompliance.

### **5.8 Hazardous Chemical Substance in Daily Use**

Material Safety Data Sheets will be available regarding the safe use, storage etc., of all chemical substances in use on site. Each department will have the relevant information in an accessible file and ensure the necessary training, according to Section 13 of the Occupational Health & Safety Act & Regulations, is given to all.

### **5.9 Workplace Safety Rules**

Your safety is the constant concern of this municipality. Every precaution has been taken to provide a safe workplace. Occupational Health and Safety Officer makes regular inspections and holds regular safety meetings. He or she also meets with management to plan and implement further improvements in our safety program. Common sense and personal interest in safety are still the greatest guarantees of your safety at work, on the road, and at home. We take your safety seriously

and any wilful or habitual violation of safety rules will be considered cause for disciplinary actions. The municipality is sincerely concerned for the health and well-being of each member employee.

The cooperation of every employee is necessary to make the municipality a safe place in which to work. Help yourself and others by reporting unsafe conditions or hazards immediately to your supervisor or to a member of the safety committee. Give earnest consideration to the rules of safety presented to you by poster signs, discussions with your supervisor, posted department rules, and regulations published in the safety booklet. Begin right by always thinking of safety as you perform your job, or as you learn a new one.

### **5.10 Accident Reporting**

Any injury at work — no matter how small — must be reported immediately to your supervisor and receive first aid attention. Serious conditions often arise from small injuries if they are not cared for at once.

### **5.11 Specific Safety Rules and Guidelines**

To ensure your safety, and that of your co-workers, please observe and obey the following rules and guidelines:

- Observe and practise the safety procedures established for the job.
- In case of sickness or injury, no matter how slight, report at once to your supervisor. In no case should an employee treat his own or someone else's injuries or attempt to remove foreign particles from the eye.
- In case of injury resulting in possible fracture to legs, back, or neck, or any accident resulting in an unconscious condition, or a severe head injury, the employee is not to be moved until medical attention has been given by authorised personnel.
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewellery around machinery. It may catch on moving equipment and cause a serious injury.
- Never distract the attention of another employee, as you might cause him or her to be injured. If necessary to get the attention of another employee, wait until it can be done safely.
- Where required, you must wear protective equipment, such as goggles, safety glasses, masks, gloves, hair nets, etc.
- Safety equipment such as restraints, pull backs, and two-hand devices are designed for your protection. Be sure such equipment is adjusted for you.
- Pile materials, skids, bins, boxes, or other equipment so as not to block aisles, exits, firefighting equipment, electric lighting or power panels, valves, etc. **FIRE DOORS AND AISLES MUST BE KEPT CLEAR.**
- Keep your work area clean.
- Use compressed air only for the job for which it is intended. Do not clean your clothes with it and do not fool around with it.
- Observe smoking regulations.
- Shut down your machine before cleaning, repairing, or leaving.

- Tow motors and lift trucks will be operated only by authorised personnel. Walk-type lift trucks will not be ridden and no one but the operator is permitted to ride the tow motors. Do not exceed a speed that is safe for existing conditions.
- Running and horseplay are strictly forbidden.
- Do not block access to fire extinguishers.
- Do not tamper with electric controls or switches.
- Do not operate machines or equipment until you have been properly instructed and authorised to do so by your supervisor.
- Do not engage in such other practices as may be inconsistent with ordinary and reasonable common sense safety rules.
- Report any UNSAFE condition or acts to your supervisor.

### **5.12 Help to Prevent Accidents**

The following actions will contribute towards the prevention of accidents happening:

- Use designated passages when moving from one place to another; never take hazardous shortcuts.
- Lift properly — use your legs, not your back. For heavier loads, ask for assistance.
- Do not adjust, clean, or oil moving machinery.
- Keep machine guards in their intended place.
- Do not throw objects.
- Clean up spilled liquid, oil, or grease immediately.
- Wear hard sole shoes and appropriate clothing. Shorts or mini dresses are not permitted.
- Place trash and paper in proper containers and not in cans provided for cigarette butts.

### **5.13 Safety Checklist**

It's every employee's responsibility to be on the lookout for possible hazards. If you spot one of the conditions on the following list — or any other possible hazardous situation — report it to your supervisor immediately.

- Slippery floors and walkways.
- Tripping hazards, such as hose links, piping, etc.
- Missing (or inoperative) entrance and exit signs and lighting.
- Poorly lighted stairs.
- Loose handrails or guard rails.
- Loose or broken windows.
- Dangerously piled supplies or equipment.
- Open or broken windows.
- Unlocked doors and gates.
- Electrical equipment left operating.

- Open doors on electrical panels.
- Leaks of steam, water, oil, etc.
- Blocked aisles.
- Blocked fire extinguishers, hose sprinkler heads.
- Blocked fire doors.
- Evidence of any equipment running hot or overheating.
- Oily rags.
- Evidence of smoking in non-smoking areas.
- Roof leaks.
- Directional or warning signs not in place.
- Safety devices not operating properly.
- Machine, power transmission, or drive guards missing, damaged, loose, or improperly placed.

#### **5.14 Safety Equipment**

Your supervisor will see that you receive the protective clothing and equipment required for your job. Use them as instructed and take care of them. You will be charged for loss or destruction of these articles only when it occurs through negligence.

#### **5.15 Safety Shoes**

Municipality will designate which jobs and work areas require safety shoes. Under no circumstances will an employee be permitted to work in sandals or open-toe shoes.

A reliable safety shoe vendor will visit the company periodically. Notices will be posted prior to the visits.

#### **5.16 Safety Glasses**

The wearing of safety glasses by all shop employees is mandatory. Strict adherence to this policy can significantly reduce the risk of eye injuries.

#### **5.17 Seatbelts**

All employees must use seatbelts and shoulder restraints (if available) whenever they operate a vehicle on municipality business. The driver is responsible for seeing that all passengers in front and rear seats are buckled up.

#### **5.18 Good Housekeeping**

Your work location should be kept clean and orderly. Keep machines and other objects (merchandise, boxes, shopping carts, etc.) out of the centre of aisles. Clean up spills, drips, and leaks immediately to avoid slips and falls.

Place trash in the proper receptacles. Stock shelves carefully so merchandise will not fall over upon customer contact.

### **5.19 Record Keeping and Reporting**

In alignment with the assurance and wellness management of Human Capital, the data related to health and safety issues must be recorded, collated and analyse to determine trends within the municipality and to compare with external benchmarks to identify continuous improvements.

