

# POOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

### **CONTROL MEASURES**

Control measures are specific actions or procedures that are put in place to manage or mitigate identified risks. They are reactive measures that are implemented after risks have been identified and assessed as part of the risk management process. Control measures are designed to reduce the likelihood or impact of risks, and they can take many forms, including administrative controls, engineering controls, and personal protective equipment.

**Improve ventilation and air quality:** Implement proper ventilation systems to ensure adequate airflow and maintain good air quality. This may include installing air purifiers, maintaining effective heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC systems, and regularly cleaning air ducts and filters.

**Enhance lighting conditions:** Ensure appropriate lighting levels throughout the workplace to minimise eye strain and promote productivity. Use a combination of natural and artificial lighting, and consider individual lighting preferences and task requirements.

**Optimise temperature control:** Maintain comfortable temperature levels in the workplace through effective heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Consider individual comfort preferences and address any hot or cold spots.

**Provide ergonomic equipment and furniture:** Supply employees with ergonomic chairs, adjustable workstations, and tools that promote proper posture and reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries. Encourage regular breaks and stretching exercises.

Maintain clean and well-maintained facilities: Regularly clean and maintain restrooms, break rooms, and other facilities to ensure hygiene and a pleasant working environment. Address issues such as unpleasant odours, cleanliness, and functioning amenities.

**Implement effective noise control measures:** Take steps to minimize excessive noise levels in the workplace through soundproofing, implementing quiet zones, or providing noise-cancelling headphones. Consider noise reduction strategies in open office environments.

**Regular equipment maintenance:** Establish a maintenance schedule for equipment and machinery to ensure they are regularly inspected, serviced, and kept in proper working order. Promptly address any reported issues or malfunctioning equipment.

**Employee feedback and involvement:** Encourage employees to provide feedback on environmental conditions and involve them in identifying and implementing improvement measures. Create channels for reporting concerns and suggestions.



## PSYCHOSOCIAL HAZARDS FACT SHEET 10

#### DO

Regularly evaluate the environmental conditions in the workplace, including factors like temperature, noise levels, airborne chemicals, and dust, among others.

Conduct specific monitoring at the precise locations where workers are situated.

Implement appropriate control measures to safeguard workers, such as providing scheduled rest breaks, supplying personal protective equipment (PPE) like hearing protection, masks, or ventilated hoods, ensuring the availability of safety glasses, and utilising suitable materials for uniforms.

Conduct thorough risk assessments of tasks to ascertain the presence of adequate controls and take necessary actions to mitigate potential risks.

### **DO NOT**

Neglect the risk assessment process and the implementation of appropriate controls.

Disregard any feedback received from workers concerning the environmental conditions in the workplace.

Fail to provide sufficient or suitable personal protective equipment (PPE), considering it a futile expenditure with potential non-compliance from workers and ineffective protection.

Conduct monitoring in areas that would yield impractical or misleading results.