



# **POOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

## **EXAMPLES OF POOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

There can be many examples of what poor environmental conditions might look like in the workplace, which can vary depending on the type of work, industry and location of the workplace. Some examples include:

### **Performing hazardous tasks:**

- Handling toxic chemicals without proper protective measures.
- Operating heavy machinery or equipment with potential risks of injury.
- Working in confined spaces with limited ventilation.

### **Working in hazardous conditions:**

- Exposure to high levels of noise and dust (i.e., construction workers)
- environments with smoke, flames, and potential structural collapse (i.e., firefighters)
- Exposure to hazardous substances or fume (i.e., chemical factories, swimming pool operations)
- Operating in temperatures that are too hot or too cold.

### **Performing demanding work while wearing uncomfortable PPE or other equipment:**

- Performing physically demanding tasks while wearing ill-fitting or heavy protective gear (i.e., construction workers).
- Working long shifts while wearing tight-fitting or uncomfortable equipment (i.e., healthcare professionals)
- Using heavy machinery with restrictive safety harnesses or gloves (i.e., factory workers)

### **Workplace conditions that affect concentration or ability to complete tasks:**

- Open office environments with excessive noise from conversations, phone calls, or equipment.
- Insufficient lighting in a workspace, causing eye strain and difficulty in reading documents or operating equipment.
- Overcrowded workstations with limited space for movement and concentration.

### **Unpleasant workplace conditions:**

- Poorly maintained restrooms with broken fixtures or unclean facilities.
- Work areas with unpleasant odours from chemicals, garbage, or unsanitary conditions.
- Playing loud music in common areas without considering employees' preferences or need for concentration.

### **Working with poorly maintained equipment:**

- Using malfunctioning power tools or machinery that poses a risk of injury or malfunction.
- Operating vehicles with worn-out brakes or inadequate safety features.
- Working with outdated computer systems or software that impairs productivity and efficiency.



## PSYCHOSOCIAL HAZARDS FACT SHEET 10

### **Work-related accommodation, facilities, and amenities that cause or contribute to worker fatigue:**

Inadequate rest areas with uncomfortable seating or no designated spaces for breaks.

Long work shifts without sufficient rest periods or opportunities for recovery.

Lack of proper lighting or temperature control in employee restrooms or break rooms, leading to discomfort and fatigue.

### **Indicators include situations where:**

- when physical work health and safety procedures, including audits and regular risk assessments, are not done
- workers aren't given the equipment and resources they need to do their work safely
- the work environment isn't monitored to test for decibel levels, air quality, and so on
- workers do not receive information, instruction and training on how to perform hazardous tasks or how risks can be eliminated or appropriately controlled.