


Report to the federal Parliament

Federal Agency for Occupational Risks – Preventing occupational accidents in companies



In an effort to significantly reduce the number of accidents at work, the Belgian federal government sought to increase the financial responsibility of employers for prevention. As a result, the Belgian Federal Agency for Occupational Risks (Fedris) was entrusted with two additional prevention tasks: setting up a premium differentiation system and creating the so-called system of ‘aggravated risk companies’. Under the premium differentiation system, the insurers determine the amount of the premium for work-related accident insurance on the basis of the injury statistics of their clients (employers). The first task has never been achieved. As for the second – the system of aggravated risk –, companies with a higher risk of work-related accidents are required to pay an extra prevention contribution. The Court observes that the potential impact remains very limited. For instance, only a small number of companies need to be selected and major risk sectors, such as temporary agency work or dock work, fall outside the scope of the system. Moreover, the insurers have not been able to collect prevention contributions sufficiently in recent years. The Court recommends that the competent ministers and administrations assess whether the aggravated risk system definitely leads to a decrease in the number of accidents at work. In the meantime, this system management should be improved.

The report *Federal Agency for Occupational Risks – Preventing occupational accidents in companies* is available (in either French or Dutch) on the Court’s website (www.courtofaudit.be).