

Information sheet:

Joint German Occupational Safety and Health Strategy (GDA) Guideline “Risk assessment and documentation”

The risk assessment assumes a key role in occupational safety and health activities. Many legal sources for occupational safety and health contain the conceptual approach for the performance of risk assessments and the derivation of appropriate action.

To this extent, a common basic understanding and a jointly defined procedure on how the state occupational safety and health authorities and the public accident insurance institutions carry out inspections and consultancy are particularly important in this field.

A "Guideline - Risk assessment and documentation" was already published in 2008. At that time, the Joint German Occupational Safety and Health Strategy (GDA) had agreed to evaluate this guideline after a two-year trial phase. In the meantime, an updated version passed by the National Occupational Safety and Health Conference (NAK) in December 2011 is now available.

The key elements of the GDA Guideline “Risk assessment and documentation” are a description of the procedure of the supervisory staff of the federal states and public accident insurance institutions for consultancy and the supervision of the risk assessment as well as the stipulation of three evaluation criteria – risk assessments performed appropriately, not performed appropriately and not performed at all. Furthermore, the guideline also contains a list of the risk factors to be taken into account in the risk assessment and an overview of terms and definitions and legal sources.

In addition to the guideline on risk assessment and documentation, the GDA bodies also agreed on quality principles for the preparation of guidance documents for a risk assessment in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

GDA Guideline "Risk assessment and documentation" (German version) <http://www.gda-portal.de/de/pdf/Leitlinie-Gefaehrdungsbeurteilung.pdf>

GDA Quality principles for the preparation of guidance documents for risk assessments <http://www.gda-portal.de/de/pdf/Qualitaetsgrundsaeetze.pdf>