

No. 792

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Convention (No. 81) concerning labour inspection in industry and commerce. Adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its thirtieth session, Geneva, 11 July 1947

Official texts : English and French.

Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 8 May 1950.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

Convention (N° 81) concernant l'inspection du travail dans l'industrie et le commerce. Adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa trentième session, Genève, 11 juillet 1947

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrée par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 8 mai 1950.

No. 792. CONVENTION (No. 81)¹ CONCERNING LABOUR INSPECTION IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION, GENEVA, 11 JULY 1947

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation, Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Thirtieth Session on 19 June 1947, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the organisation of labour inspection in industry and commerce, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention,

adopts this eleventh day of July of the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven the following Convention, which may be cited as the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 :

PART I. LABOUR INSPECTION IN INDUSTRY

Article 1

Each Member of the International Labour Organisation for which this Convention is in force shall maintain a system of labour inspection in industrial workplaces.

Article 2

1. The system of labour inspection in industrial workplaces shall apply to all workplaces in respect of which legal provisions relating to conditions of work and the protection of workers while engaged in their work are enforceable by labour inspectors.

2. National laws or regulations may exempt mining and transport undertakings or parts of such undertakings from the application of this Convention.

¹ In accordance with article 33 the Convention came into force on 7 April 1950. See list of ratifications on page 30.

Article 3

1. The functions of the system of labour inspection shall be :

- (a) to secure the enforcement of the legal provisions relating to conditions of work and the protection of workers while engaged in their work, such as provisions relating to hours, wages, safety, health and welfare, the employment of children and young persons, and other connected matters, in so far as such provisions are enforceable by labour inspectors;
- (b) to supply technical information and advice to employers and workers concerning the most effective means of complying with the legal provisions;
- (c) to bring to the notice of the competent authority defects or abuses not specifically covered by existing legal provisions.

2. Any further duties which may be entrusted to labour inspectors shall not be such as to interfere with the effective discharge of their primary duties or to prejudice in any way the authority and impartiality which are necessary to inspectors in their relations with employers and workers.

Article 4

1. So far as is compatible with the administrative practice of the Member, labour inspection shall be placed under the supervision and control of a central authority.

2. In the case of a federal State, the term "central authority" may mean either a federal authority or a central authority of a federated unit.

Article 5

The competent authority shall make appropriate arrangements to promote :

- (a) effective co-operation between the inspection services and other Government services and public or private institutions engaged in similar activities; and
- (b) collaboration between officials of the labour inspectorate and employers and workers or their organisations.

Article 6

The inspection staff shall be composed of public officials whose status and conditions of service are such that they are assured of stability of employment and are independent of changes of government and of improper external influences.

Article 7

1. Subject to any conditions for recruitment to the public service which may be prescribed by national laws or regulations, labour inspectors shall be recruited with sole regard to their qualifications for the performance of their duties.

2. The means of ascertaining such qualifications shall be determined by the competent authority.

3. Labour inspectors shall be adequately trained for the performance of their duties.

Article 8

Both men and women shall be eligible for appointment to the inspection staff; where necessary, special duties may be assigned to men and women inspectors.

Article 9

Each Member shall take the necessary measures to ensure that duly qualified technical experts and specialists, including specialists in medicine, engineering, electricity and chemistry, are associated in the work of inspection, in such manner as may be deemed most appropriate under national conditions, for the purpose of securing the enforcement of the legal provisions relating to the protection of the health and safety of workers while engaged in their work and of investigating the effects of processes, materials and methods of work on the health and safety of workers.

Article 10

The number of labour inspectors shall be sufficient to secure the effective discharge of the duties of the inspectorate and shall be determined with due regard for :

(a) the importance of the duties which inspectors have to perform, in particular —

(i) the number, nature, size and situation of the workplaces liable to inspection;

- (ii) the number and classes of workers employed in such workplaces; and
 - (iii) the number and complexity of the legal provisions to be enforced;
- (b) the material means placed at the disposal of the inspectors; and
- (c) the practical conditions under which visits of inspection must be carried out in order to be effective.

Article 11

1. The competent authority shall make the necessary arrangements to furnish labour inspectors with —

- (a) local offices, suitably equipped in accordance with the requirements of the service, and accessible to all persons concerned;
- (b) the transport facilities necessary for the performance of their duties in cases where suitable public facilities do not exist.

2. The competent authority shall make the necessary arrangements to reimburse to labour inspectors any travelling and incidental expenses which may be necessary for the performance of their duties.

Article 12

1. Labour inspectors provided with proper credentials shall be empowered :

- (a) to enter freely and without previous notice at any hour of the day or night any workplace liable to inspection;
- (b) to enter by day any premises which they may have reasonable cause to believe to be liable to inspection; and
- (c) to carry out any examination, test or enquiry which they may consider necessary in order to satisfy themselves that the legal provisions are being strictly observed, and in particular —
 - (i) to interrogate, alone or in the presence of witnesses, the employer or the staff of the undertaking on any matters concerning the application of the legal provisions;
 - (ii) to require the production of any books, registers or other documents the keeping of which is prescribed by national laws or regulations relating to conditions of work, in order to see that they are in conformity with the legal provisions, and to copy such documents or make extracts from them;
- (iii) to enforce the posting of notices required by the legal provisions;