

קו לעובד
Worker's Hotline
سنةوان العامل



WORKING SAFELY IN AGRICULTURE

Get home safe and sound!
Stay safe working in agriculture

RISKS IN AGRICULTURE WORK

Workers in agriculture are exposed to many risks that can also cause life-long disabilities or death

COMMON WORK ACCIDENTS IN ISRAELI AGRICULTURE



- Tractors turnovers
- Falls from ladders and trees
- Accidents involving work tools and machineries
- Snakes' bites

COMMON PROFESSIONAL ILLNESSES IN ISRAELI AGRICULTURE



- Sun exposure and contact with hazardous materials such as pesticides and chemicals can cause skin diseases and skin cancer
- Working in contact with poultry, cattle, and pigs can lead to diseases transmitted from animals to humans (zoonosis)
- Exposure to pesticides can cause nervous system damage
- Exposure to dust can cause troubles in breathing
- Wrong posture and heavy weight lifting can affect the muscles and the skeleton

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN AGRICULTURAL WORKER

Israel has adopted laws and regulations intended to protect the safety of agricultural workers. It is illegal for your employer to disobey them.

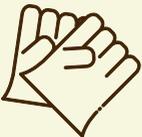
It is your employer's duty to:

INSTRUCT AND TRAIN YOU



- You should be trained on how to perform your job safely.
- Your employer must train you when you start your job, at least once a year, after an accident, when new equipment is being introduced, and when there is a change in the way you are asked to perform a job.
- In some cases the law requires training by a certified instructor, for example when working at height.

PROVIDE YOU WITH PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



- Your employer must provide you with equipment approved for the specific dangers you face when performing a task. For example, with a sufficiently high ladder in good conditions, not broken.
- Periodic checks of all equipment must be performed, and flawed equipment must be replaced. For example, if your working shoes are torn apart, they must be replaced.

ORGANISE REGULAR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH TESTS



- Regular medical tests are mandatory for workers who are exposed to potentially dangerous hazards on their job. For example, if you work in a noisy environment or if you work with pesticides, you must undergo a yearly test.
- Tests need to be taken when you start a job and then as frequently as required by law for the specific task you perform.

ENSURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR WORKERS



- Ensure a safe and secure workplace for workers
- Provide workers with information on risks related to their jobs. This information needs to be communicated in a language workers can understand and ideally posted on the wall of your workplace.
- Perform periodic environmental tests, checking the risks of hazardous substances found in the workplace.

WHEN TO SAY NO

- > Do not perform a job for which you have not been properly trained.
- > Don't work if your employer has not provided you with health insurance (Kupat Holim).
- > Don't work if your employer is not paying National Insurance (Bituach Leumi) for you.
- > Do not agree to work if you feel that you cannot perform your job safely. It is illegal to require workers to perform unsafe jobs.
- > If you resign over a safety issue, Israeli law allows you to retain all your rights. In case your rights are violated you can approach Kav Laoved for help.

PROTECTING YOURSELF

EXPOSURE TO THE SUN



You must always be fully clothed, all your body must be covered. Wear a wide brim hat, long sleeves, long trousers, closed shoes and sunglasses. Apply protective cream on any exposed skin area such as your face and hands.

ANIMALS AND INSECTS



To avoid being bitten by animals such as snakes and insects always wear closed high shoes. Ask your employer for insect repellents if there is a dangerous insect in your area, such as the sand fly found in the Jordan Valley.

WORK ON HEIGHT

(Any job in which there is a falling risk of 2 meters or more)



You must undergo activity specific training by a certified instructor every two years if you work on palm trees, on greenhouses or in other height jobs. You must receive the safety gear (rope, harness, helmet, and shock absorbing lanyards) specific to the task you perform. To hold you from falling it is advised to work only on fenced working surfaces with approved railings.



TRACTORS

Ensure that a safety frame is installed on your tractor, it will protect you in case of accident. Only drive if you have an Israeli driver's license for tractors. If the driver's cabin is not closed, use anti-noise equipment: earplugs and ear muffs. Sit only on a manufacturer's standard seat.



OTHER AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

To prevent accidents, all machines must be fenced. Make sure that all moving parts are covered and there is no danger of being hurt or grabbed by a moving part.



PESTICIDES AND CHEMICALS

You must be trained to safely work with pesticides, either by the supplier or by your employer, in a language you can understand. When working with pesticides always wear protective equipment: gloves, glasses, overalls, boots and carbon filter mask. Do not eat, drink or smoke while working with pesticides. Eat and drink only in appropriate resting places away from the area exposed to the pesticides. After using pesticides wash your hands and face with soap and warm water and use clean towels. Change immediately your clothes and wash them separately. If you work more than 30 hours a month with pesticides your employer is legally required to have you undergo regular occupational medical tests.

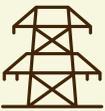
PROTECTING YOURSELF



EXPLOSIVE AND TOXIC MATERIALS

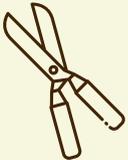
Demand a translation of the label placed on the material's package, particularly of the safety measures part.

Explosive and toxic substances must be stored in suitable warehouses.



ELECTRICITY

Never manipulate or install electric wires unless you are a licensed electrician certified in Israel.



PRUNING AND PICKING

Always use protective goggles and thick gloves.

If there is a risk of injury to the head, wear a protective helmet.

If you are handling a noisy instrument, use hearing protection equipment.



LIFTING WEIGHTS

It is advisable not to lift over 25 kg alone. In case of need ask for help from others or for a lifting machine.



NOISE

Where there is harmful noise, earplugs and ear muffs must be used for the sake of your hearing!

WORKING WITH ANIMALS



You must wash your hands after every contact with farm animals or their discharges.

All work surfaces and utensils must be cleaned, indoors and outdoors. You must receive compulsory vaccinations. Your employer must ensure regular veterinary controls.

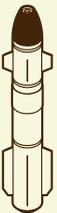
IN CASE OF ROCKETS



If you are in a building when the alarm goes off, go to a shelter, a staircase or an internal room. Close all doors and windows. If you are outdoors in a built-up area, enter a building or a shelter close by.

If you are in an open area, lie on the ground and protect your head with your hands.

IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE



In case of earthquake, the safest place is an open place, away from buildings, bridges and electricity poles.

If you are indoors go out to an open area if possible.

If it is not possible, take refuge in a shelter room leaving its door open or take cover under a heavy furniture or sit on the floor next to an inner wall.

If you are in a car, stop on the side, turn the engine off, and stay in the car. Do not stop near bridges or interchanges.

If possible, disconnect all power and gas switches.

IN CASE OF NEED

AT YOUR FARM

All work accidents and occupational illnesses must be reported to your employer or his foreman. In a kibbutz report to the business or community manager.

It is your employer's duty to hang a sign listing who is responsible for safety protection in the farm, including names and their address and telephone, in languages that can be understood by all workers. The sign should include the name and contact details of the government's work inspector for your area, whom you can contact directly.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In case of emergency you must immediately inform your employer.

If this is not possible call:

Firemen - 102

Ambulance - 101

Police - 100 (also if you see a snake or in case of explosion)

**TO CHECK ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS OR FILE A COMPLAINT CONTACT
KAV LAOVED (see back cover)**

TO CHECK ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS OR FILE A COMPLAINT

KAV LAOVED

Kav LaOved assists Israeli, Palestinian and migrant vulnerable workers in Israel. Kav LaOved can advise you and support you in seeking the full respect of your rights.

Nahalat Binyamin 75, Tel Aviv, www.kavlaoved.org.il.

Email@Kavlaoved.org.il



WORKING SAFELY IN AGRICULTURE

This booklet was produced by Kav LaOved in the framework of the project "Improving safety for migrant workers in the agriculture sector" supported by Bituach Leumi's Manof Foundation. Safety consultant: Afikey Betichut.

This booklet is of informational nature only. It is not a manual about safety in agriculture and does not claim to exhaust the subject.

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קרנות
הביטוח הלאומי
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