

In-house control

The Health Protection Act (763/1994) obligates operators to identify risk factors that cause health hazards in their operations. In-house control may consist of topics illustrated by means of examples on the second page of this letter.

An operator is required to conduct regular in-house control and apply practices that control health risks. Risk identification and monitoring have a preventative effect on the creation of health hazards.

It is recommended that a written in-house control plan be drawn up so that everyone can read it and use it in maintaining and developing the operations. A written in-house control plan is an excellent tool for employee orientation, for example.

The health protection authority monitors the factors affecting the health conditions of operations with notification obligation. The authority evaluates the functionality of the in-house control and how the operator fulfils its duty of care. The operator may be required to show how risks in the operations are identified, how their severity is evaluated and which risk management methods have been adopted.

The notification obligation applies to the following operations

- Day-care centres, clubs, play parks and youth facilities
- Schools and educational institutions
- Social welfare units
- Reception centres
- Beauty parlours and other skin treatment providers
- Tattoo and piercing parlours
- Solariums
- Accommodation providers
- Sports facilities and gyms
- Public saunas
- Swimming halls and other public pool facilities
- Public beaches

1 Identify risks
in the operations

2 Monitor factors
that affect them

3 Prevent the creation
of health hazards

An example of in-house control topics

1. Operations

- Description of operations and facilities
 - Function/service provided in the facilities
 - Operating hours
 - Number of people
 - Number of toilet seats and water supply points
 - Cleaning and laundry operations
 - Equipment used in the operations
 - Sterilisation of tools
 - Disinfection of tools and surfaces
- Health conditions of facilities
 - Physical
 - Ventilation
 - Temperature conditions, noise and lighting
 - Chemical and biological
 - Chemical effects on the indoor air from structures and operations
 - Particulate impurities in the indoor air

2. Risk factors in the operations

- Location and environment
- Functions involving health risks
- Sensitive population groups and risk groups
- Changes in operations and facilities
- Need for repairs in the facilities
- Surfaces and facilities that are easy to clean
- Pests

3. Prevention of risk factors

- Operations and the sufficiency and suitability of the facilities
- Employee orientation and customer guidance
- Cooperation and communication between interest groups
- Facility maintenance
 - Cleanliness, order and hygiene of facilities
 - Cleaning plan and its monitoring
 - Maintenance plans for the real estate and technical equipment
 - Sweeping and cleaning of ventilation equipment
 - Facility repairs/functionality
 - Monitoring the functionality of equipment used in the operations
- Operating in case of indoor air problems and when should you suspect indoor air problems
- Preparedness for epidemics and other disturbance situations
- Prevention of pests