SAFETY UNDER PRESSURE of PRODUCTION

afroteq
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Important facts

- Operational and financial targets which impact production deadlines are often committed to in isolation.
- This places staff under pressure and a rush on output compromises health and safety.
- Safety protocols may be bypassed if Occupational Health and Safety officers are excluded from the decision-making process.
- Regulations must be reviewed and implemented in line with new production targets.

Legal Requirements

South Africa's Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 (OHSA) - employers must ensure that production pressures and output targets do not create unsafe working conditions or put workers' health at risk.
Ergonomics Regulations (2019) - employers must adapt work processes to fit the physical and mental needs of workers, avoiding exhaustion, strain and other ergonomic risks.





What to look out for

- Fatigue and distraction which can lead to a decline in quality and critical mistakes.
- Increased activity and faster movement around heavy machinery.
- Higher incident rate with more production errors.
- Stress, declining performance and increased staff turnover.

What are your responsibilities?



- Ensure regular inspections and review of safety requirements.
- Adhere to maintenance checks and servicing schedules.
- Encourage employees to report unsafe conditions to their line manager and safety representatives.
- Ensure collaboration between Management, Operations and the Health and Safety team, before committing to increased production targets.
- Monitor total number of hours worked by employees and the frequency of extended shifts, to identify and preempt risks.
- Link Supervisors' and Line Managers' key performance indicators (KPIs) to production targets, safety compliance and reduced incident rates.

WHEN TARGETS RISE, DON'T LET PEOPLE FALL