

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE GENEVA

REPORT FORM

FOR THE

MAXIMUM WEIGHT CONVENTION, 1967 (No. 127)

The present report form is for the use of countries which have ratified the Convention. It has been approved by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, in accordance with article 22 of the ILO Constitution, which reads as follows: "Each of the Members agrees to make an annual report to the International Labour Office on the measures which it has taken to give effect to the provisions of the Conventions to which it is a party. These reports shall be made in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Governing Body may request."

The Government may deem it useful to consult the appended text of the Maximum Weight Recommendation, 1967 (No. 128), the provisions of which supplement the present Convention and can contribute to a better understanding of its requirements and facilitate its application.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR DRAWING UP REPORTS

First reports

If this is your Government's first report following the entry into force of the Convention in your country, full information should be given on each of the provisions of the Convention and on each of the questions set out in the report form.

Subsequent reports

In subsequent reports, information need normally be given only:

- (a) on any new legislative or other measures affecting the application of the Convention;

- (b) in reply to the questions in the report form on the practical application of the Convention (for example, statistics, results of inspections, judicial or administrative decisions) and on the communication of copies of the report to the representative organizations of employers and workers and on any observations received from these organizations;

- (c) **in reply to comments by the supervisory bodies:** the report must contain replies to any comments regarding the application of the Convention in your country which have been made by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations or by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards.
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Article 22 of the Constitution of the ILO

Report for the period _____ to _____

made by the Government of _____

on the

MAXIMUM WEIGHT CONVENTION, 1967 (No. 127)

(ratification registered on _____)

- I. Please give a list of the legislation and administrative regulations, etc., which apply the provisions of the Convention. Where this has not already been done, please forward copies of the said legislation, etc., to the International Labour Office with this report.**

Please give any available information concerning the extent to which these laws and regulations have been enacted or modified to permit, or as a result of, ratification.

- II. Please indicate in detail for *each of the following Articles of the Convention* the provisions of the abovementioned legislation and administrative regulations, etc., or other measures, under which each Article is applied. In addition, please provide any indication specifically requested below under individual Articles.**

If in your country ratification of the Convention gives the force of national law to its terms, please indicate by virtue of what constitutional provisions the ratification has had this effect. Please also specify what action has been taken to make effective those provisions of the Convention which require a national authority to take certain specific steps for its implementation, such as measures to define the exact scope of the Convention and the extent to which advantage may be taken of permissive exceptions provided for in it, measures to draw the attention of the parties concerned to its provisions, and arrangements for adequate inspection and penalties.

If the Committee of Experts or the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards has requested additional information or has made an observation on the measures adopted to apply the Convention, please supply the information asked for or indicate the action taken by your Government to settle the points in question.

Article 1

For the purpose of this Convention:

- (a) the term “manual transport of loads” means any transport in which the weight of the load is wholly borne by one worker; it covers the lifting and putting down of loads;
- (b) the term “regular manual transport of loads” means any activity which is continuously or principally devoted to the manual transport of loads, or which normally includes, even though intermittently, the manual transport of loads;
- (c) the term “young worker” means a worker under 18 years of age.

1. Please indicate how the terms “manual transport of loads” and “regular manual transport of loads” are defined in national law and practice.

2. Please indicate how and by what measures the term “young worker” is defined for the purpose of this Convention.

Article 2

1. This Convention applies to regular manual transport of loads.
2. This Convention applies to all branches of economic activity in respect of which the Member concerned maintains a system of labour inspection.

Please specify the branches of economic activity: (a) where a system of labour inspection exists; and (b) to which the provisions of the Convention apply.

Article 3

No worker shall be required or permitted to engage in the manual transport of a load which, by reason of its weight, is likely to jeopardise his health or safety.

Please indicate how effect is given to this Article.

Article 4

In the application of the principle set forth in Article 3, Members shall take account of all the conditions in which the work is to be performed.

Please specify the conditions taken into account in the application of the principle set forth in Article 3 of the Convention (nature of the work, physiological characteristics, climatic conditions, etc.).

Article 5

Each Member shall take appropriate steps to ensure that any worker assigned to manual transport of loads other than light loads receives, prior to such assignment, adequate training or instruction in working techniques, with a view to safeguarding health and preventing accidents.

Please indicate how workers are trained or instructed in working techniques before being assigned to manual transport of loads other than light loads.

Article 6

In order to limit or to facilitate the manual transport of loads, suitable technical devices shall be used as much as possible.

Please supply information on the measures taken to apply this Article.

Article 7

1. The assignment of women and young workers to manual transport of loads other than light loads shall be limited.

2. Where women and young workers are engaged in the manual transport of loads, the maximum weight of such loads shall be substantially less than that permitted for adult male workers.

1. Please specify the measures taken, in accordance with paragraph 1, regarding: (a) women; and (b) young workers.

2. Please indicate the maximum weight of loads permitted to be transported by: (a) women; and (b) young workers, in comparison with that permitted to adult males.

Article 8

Each Member shall, by laws or regulations or any other method consistent with national practice and conditions and in consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, take such steps as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Convention.

Please supply information on the consultations with organizations of employers and workers concerned with a view to taking the necessary steps to give effect to the provisions of the Convention. (See also question 1 above.)

- III. Please state to what authority or authorities the application of the laws or regulations or other measures implementing the Convention is entrusted and by what methods their application is supervised and enforced. In particular, please supply information on the organization and working of the inspection system.**
- IV. Please state whether courts of law or other tribunals have given decisions involving questions of principle relating to the application of the Convention. If so, please supply the text of these decisions.**
- V. Please add a general appreciation of the manner in which the Convention is applied in your country, giving, for example, extracts from reports of the inspection services and, so far as such statistics are available, information concerning the number and nature of contraventions reported and the action taken on them, etc.**

Please state whether you have received from the organizations of employers or workers concerned any observations, either of a general kind or in connection with the present or the previous report, regarding the practical fulfilment of the conditions prescribed by the Convention or the application of the national law implementing the Convention. The information available for the Conference would be usefully supplemented by your communicating a summary of these observations, to which you might add any comments that you consider useful.
- VI. Please indicate the representative organizations of employers and workers to which the reports on the application of the Convention submitted to the Director-General in conformity with article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization have been communicated, in accordance with article 23 of the Constitution.**

APPENDIX

MAXIMUM WEIGHT RECOMMENDATION, 1967 (No. 128)

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 Fifty-first Session on 7 June 1967, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to maximum permissible weight to be carried by one worker, which is the sixth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of a Recommendation supplementing the Maximum Weight Convention, 1967,

adopts this twenty-eighth day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven the following Recommendation, which may be cited as the Maximum Weight Recommendation, 1967:

I. DEFINITION AND SCOPE

1. For the purpose of this Recommendation:

- (a) the term “manual transport of loads” means any transport in which the weight of the load is wholly borne by one worker; it covers the lifting and putting down of loads;
- (b) the term “regular manual transport of loads” means any activity which is continuously or principally devoted to the manual transport of loads, or which normally includes, even though intermittently, the manual transport of loads;
- (c) the term “young worker” means a worker under 18 years of age.

2. Except as otherwise provided herein, this Recommendation applies both to regular and to occasional manual transport of loads other than light loads.

3. This Recommendation applies to all branches of economic activity.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLE

4. No worker should be required or permitted to engage in the manual transport of a load which by reason of its weight is likely to jeopardise his health or safety.

III. TRAINING AND INSTRUCTIONS

5. (1) Any worker assigned to regular manual transport of loads should, prior to such assignment, receive adequate training or instruction in working techniques, with a view to safeguarding health and preventing accidents.

(2) Such training or instruction should include methods of lifting, carrying, putting down, unloading and stacking of different types of loads, and should be given by suitably qualified persons or institutions.

(3) Such training or instruction should, wherever practicable, be followed up by supervision on the job to ensure that the correct methods are used.

6. Any worker occasionally assigned to manual transport of loads should be given appropriate instructions on the manner in which such operations may be safely carried out.

IV. MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

7. A medical examination for fitness for employment should, as far as practicable and appropriate, be required before assignment to regular manual transport of loads.

8. Further medical examinations should be made from time to time as necessary.

9. Regulations concerning the examinations provided for in Paragraphs 7 and 8 of this Recommendation should be made by the competent authority.

10. The examination provided for in Paragraph 7 of this Recommendation should be certified. The certificate should refer only to fitness for employment and should not contain medical data.

V. TECHNICAL DEVICES AND PACKAGING

11. In order to limit or to facilitate the manual transport of loads, suitable technical devices should be used as much as possible.

12. The packaging of loads which may be transported manually should be compact and of suitable material and should, as far as possible and appropriate, be equipped with devices for holding and so designed as not to create risk of injury; for example, it should not have sharp edges, projections or rough surfaces.

VI. MAXIMUM WEIGHT

13. In the application of this Part of this Recommendation, Members should take account of:

- (a) physiological characteristics, environmental conditions and the nature of the work to be done;
- (b) any other conditions which may influence the health and safety of the worker.

A. Adult Male Workers

14. Where the maximum permissible weight which may be transported manually by one adult male worker is more than 55 kg, measures should be taken as speedily as possible to reduce it to that level.

B. Women Workers

15. Where adult women workers are engaged in the manual transport of loads, the maximum weight of such loads should be substantially less than that permitted for adult male workers.

16. As far as possible, adult women workers should not be assigned to regular manual transport of loads.

17. Where adult women workers are assigned to regular manual transport of loads, provision should be made:

- (a) as appropriate, to reduce the time spent on actual lifting, carrying and putting down of loads by such workers;
- (b) to prohibit the assignment of such workers to certain specified jobs, comprised in manual transport of loads, which are especially arduous.

18. No woman should be assigned to manual transport of loads during a pregnancy which has been medically determined or during the ten weeks following confinement if in the opinion of a qualified physician such work is likely to impair her health or that of her child.

C. Young Workers

19. Where young workers are engaged in the manual transport of loads, the maximum weight of such loads should be substantially less than that permitted for adult workers of the same sex.

20. As far as possible, young workers should not be assigned to regular manual transport of loads.

21. Where the minimum age for assignment to manual transport of loads is less than 16 years, measures should be taken as speedily as possible to raise it to that level.

22. The minimum age for assignment to regular manual transport of loads should be raised, with a view to attaining a minimum age of 18 years.

23. Where young workers are assigned to regular manual transport of loads, provision should be made:

- (a) as appropriate, to reduce the time spent on actual lifting, carrying and putting down of loads by such workers;
- (b) to prohibit the assignment of such workers to certain specified jobs, comprised in manual transport of loads, which are especially arduous.

VII. OTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY

24. On the basis of medical opinion and taking account of all the relevant conditions of the work, the competent authority should endeavour to ensure that the exertion required in a working day or shift of workers assigned to manual transport of loads is not likely to jeopardise the health or safety of such workers.

25. Such appropriate devices and equipment as may be necessary to safeguard the health and safety of workers engaged in manual transport of loads should be provided or made available to such workers and should be used by them.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

26. The training or instruction and the medical examinations provided for in this Recommendation should not involve the worker in any expense.

27. The competent authority should actively promote scientific research, including ergonomic studies, concerning the manual transport of loads, with the object, *inter alia*, of:

- (a) determining the relationship, if any, between occupational diseases and disorders and manual transport of loads; and
- (b) minimising the hazards to health and safety of workers engaged in the manual transport of loads.

28. Where methods of transportation of goods by pulling and pushing are prevalent which impose physical strain analogous to that involved in the manual transport of loads, the competent authority may give consideration to the application to such work of such provisions of this Recommendation as may be appropriate.

29. Each Member should, by laws or regulations or any other method consistent with national practice and conditions and in consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, take such steps as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Recommendation.

30. Members may permit exceptions to the application of particular provisions of this Recommendation, after consultation with the national inspection service and with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, where the circumstances of the work or the nature of the loads require such exceptions; for every exception or category of exceptions the limits of the derogation should be specified.

31. Each Member should, in accordance with national practice, specify the person or persons on whom the obligation of compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation rests as well as the authority responsible for the supervision of the application of these provisions.