



The Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

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The Ten Commandments for Agriculture Workers

Safety Instructions



Information Service



The Israel Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health



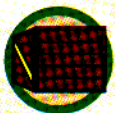
Agricultural Center



1. Tractors and motorized equipment

Tractors and other motorized equipment are tools that hold a great risk of injury, when operated by an unqualified operator.

- A. Driving and operating any motorized equipment without a valid license issued by the state of Israel is prohibited by law.
- B. Prior to the first time of operation, you should see to it that the equipment owner will provide you with comprehensive guidance on the equipment, including detailed safety instructions.
- C. It is absolutely prohibited to start or to silence the tractor or any other motorized equipment, from a place other than the driver's cabin or the position of the vehicle's operation.
- D. Make sure that any attached equipment is protected, and does not enable any access to all the places where parts of any kind might move. It is forbidden to remove guards.
- E. Continuous exposure to vibration as well as a hard operator's seat without springs may cause back problems as well as damage to the entire body.
- F. You must use personal protection equipment against noise (corks or ear-cushions) if the driver's cabin is not closed.



2. Load lifting

- A. Many back injuries are caused by bad lifting or an overly effort during the lifting operation.

- B. Therefore, it is prohibited to lift & carry alone a load over 25 Kg.
- C. A load above this weight requires the assistance of other workers or suitable lifting equipment.



3. Pesticides

Pesticides penetrate into the human body in three ways through the skin, by breathing and by swallowing. For preventing these penetrations, see to it that the employer will translate the labels on the packages and especially the section concerning precautions and follow strictly the following instructions:

- A. Wear working cloths and use personal protection equipment, gloves and masks during the treatment or use of materials, as specified separately on the labels of each material.
- B. Eating, drinking and smoking are prohibited during the exposure to pesticides. These operations will be done as far as possible from the area where pesticides are scattered, and only after washing hands and face with soap and warm water.
- C. At the end of the working day, you must wash the cloths separately and wash carefully the entire body with soap and warm water.



4. Health damage to the breathing system

During agricultural work, the worker might inhale materials of organic sources. When breathing, these materials are

inhaled into the lungs and into the body. In order to prevent such penetration, it is necessary to use suitable breath-protection equipment, which must be provided by the employer. This should prevent damage caused by the following materials:

1. In henhouses and sheepfolds - Ammonia (NH_4OH), Carbon-Oxide (CO), and Sulfide Hydrogen (H_2S).
2. In wheat or cotton fields, in buildings and silos - exposure to organic dust may cause damage to the breathing system.
3. In different storage tanks of grain, silage, etc., as there is lack of oxygen for breathing.



5. Zoonoses (illnesses transmitted to people by animals)

Some illnesses are common to man and animal. People suffer from these illnesses. In order to prevent contagiousness of workers with animal illnesses, it is necessary to maintain a tight survey of the animals' health.

- A. Do not drink milk, unless it was boiled or pasteurized earlier, and do not eat meat, unless it is carefully cooked.
- B. You must maintain a high level of personal hygiene conditions (often washing your hands with warm water and soap, and washing the body at least once a day with warm water and soap).
- C. You must notify your employer immediately of any case of illness detection or any uncharacteristic behavior of the animal.



6. Exposure to the sun

Exposure to sunrays causes damage to the skin, burns and even skin cancer.

- A. In order to prevent such injuries, you should be fully clothed when working in the sun, and cover the entire body, including: wide hats, long-sleeve shirts, long trousers, shoes and sunglasses.
- B. It is necessary to use protection creams, which are suitable for use on the face and other exposed skin, for protection against the sunrays returned by the environment.



7. Electricity

Electrocution during agriculture work may cause immediate death, and therefore it is required to keep several basic rules:

- A. Electricity will be provided only according to the state laws.
- B. It is prohibited to perform any electricity-related job without an authorized electrician certificate issued by the State of Israel.
- C. In any case where an electrical switch, or performing electrical work like repairing electrical tools, damaged electrical cables or any other equipment fed by electricity is required, it is necessary to call an authorized electrician.
- D. Hand-used electrical tools will be used via a residual current device with a sensitivity of 0.03A only.



8. Working in high places

Most severe workplace accidents happen as a result of falling from high places, and therefore, when working in high places it is necessary to be especially careful.

- A. For working in a high place, it is necessary to use a stable device, static or mobilized, with a fenced working platform in the correct height and with a safe and convenient access.
- B. If mobile devices are used, it is necessary to verify with the employer that the specific device is approved from the safety aspect, and got all the necessary certifications by an authorized tester and the licensing authority.
- C. A ladder may be used for access rather than for working purposes. The ladder should be posted in a safe and stable form.



9. Fire

Fire, despite its necessity and indispensability, causes damage to property and people, and therefore it is necessary to absolutely control it.

- A. Fire will not be started in other than specifically approved places.
- B. Fire-extinguishing means should be prepared before any case of starting a fire.
- C. If you think that the fire is beyond your control, it is necessary to call the fire extinguishers on the phone: 102.
- D. In accommodation buildings an emergency exit must be prepared for any case of fire.



10. General Safety

- A. Demand from your employer a detailed explanation and training concerning any task you are about to perform
- B. The employer is responsible for proper safety and hygiene conditions in the workplace
- C. The employer is responsible for providing the worker with all the suitable equipment and clothing, so that the worker will not be injured by any workplace accidents or catch any profession-related illness. The employee is responsible for using the equipment and clothing provided to him.
- D. In order to prevent any injury by reptiles, it is necessary to wear high working shoes, long trousers, and long-sleeve shirts in any job.
- E. In places where insect-oriented illnesses exist (like the Jericho fly) it is necessary to use insect-repellent materials.