

# Healthy Workers and Safe Workplaces

The National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) provides Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) services across the public and private sectors of the economy including the informal economy. This is primarily to improve and promote workers' health and safety but very importantly to be a consistent catalyst for a mind-set change towards greater prevention in OEHS.

The institute achieves this through:

## KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND INNOVATION

As a centre of excellence and a referral institute, NIOH engages in activities that generate and improve local, regional and international knowledge through research in the fields of OEHS. The research is in line with the priorities of the Republic of South Africa and the African region. NIOH collaborates with local and international institutions of higher learning to redress the legacy OEHS issues in South Africa and the African region in particular.



## TEACHING AND TRAINING

The NIOH works closely with several academic institutions and provides teaching and training in many OEHS disciplines to produce the next generation of OEHS professionals and practitioners.



## SPECIALISED SERVICES

The NIOH provides specialised OEHS services to national and provincial government departments, employer organisations, trade unions and enterprise level OEHS services. These include discipline-specific advisory services on OEHS, policy development, medical surveillance, HIV and TB workplace programmes, biological monitoring, prevention and hazard control, research protocol development, microbial air sampling, allergy diagnostics, nanoparticles and in vitro risk assessments among other areas. The advisory services are particularly useful for small and medium enterprises, but are available to large enterprises and government agencies as well.

The NIOH conducts autopsies for deceased current and former mineworkers in terms of the Occupational Disease in Mines and Works Act (ODMWA), which provides compensation for occupational lung diseases.

The NIOH houses the national occupational health library and provides information on request.



## NURTURING A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABLE PREVENTION

The NIOH has a national footprint in South Africa and is a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre (CC) for Occupational Health and a Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) Centre of Excellence. The Institute also works closely with the International Labor Organization (ILO) to further align with international best practice.

This multidisciplinary institute has SANAS accredited specialised laboratories and highly qualified occupational health and occupational hygiene specialists who are committed to working with as many business and government role-players as possible towards the achievement of a shared vision for healthier, safer and more sustainable workplaces. It is necessary to nurture a culture of sustainable prevention amongst those working in the field in order to assist with the reduction of the current heavy burden of work-related diseases and deaths.

The NIOH supports and strives to impact the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by contributing in particular to goals 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality) and 8 (decent work and economic growth). These goals should further encourage all workplace stakeholders to greater compliance with OEHS legislation through effective and efficient preventive interventions at workplaces.

Promoting decent  
work through  
cutting-edge research,  
specialised services,  
information, teaching  
and training



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

Healthy, Safe  
Happy and  
Sustainable  
Workplaces



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