



PATHOLOGY DIVISION

FUNCTIONS

1. To perform autopsy examinations for the determination of compensable lung diseases

- The Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act (Act 78 of 1973) makes provision for the autopsy examination of specimens taken from the cardio-respiratory organs of deceased persons who are or were employed at controlled mines or works, regardless of the clinical cause of death.
- The Pathology Division undertakes these examinations on behalf of the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases and the findings are considered by the Certification Committee for Occupational Diseases. About 2,500 autopsies are performed annually, resulting in benefit payments totaling millions of rands.

2. To generate data for disease surveillance and research purposes

- The autopsy examinations generate a unique database regarding workers' health which is utilised to monitor the prevalence and trends of diseases.
- The Pathology Division conducts its own research projects, undertakes research with the mining industry and academic centers in South Africa, and is involved in collaborative projects with international scientists.

3. To serve as a national center of expertise for lung pathology

- The highly specialised skills which have been developed in the Pathology Division are resourced by health care workers throughout South Africa.

4. To provide an electron microscopy service for occupational diseases and environmental monitoring

- The Pathology Division has specialised equipment and scientific expertise to analyse tissue, dust and fumes samples.

Autopsy Examinations at NIOH

The Medical Practitioner who last attended a deceased miner, ex-miner or worker from a controlled works (such as Iscor) is legally obliged to remove the cardio respiratory organs from the body and send a medical specimen to the NIOH for examination (unless the relatives refuse permission).

The NIOH provides the facility for transportation of the specimens from mortuaries, mines and hospitals. However, full autopsy examinations are performed at the NIOH mortuary on miners and ex-miners who die in and around Johannesburg.

The findings of the pathological examinations are reported to the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases where the certifying committee interprets these findings together with the occupational history, and determines whether compensation should be paid to dependents of the deceased.

Compensation may be awarded for diseases such as:

- Pneumoconiosis e.g. silicosis, asbestosis
- Emphysema
- Malignant mesothelioma
- Tuberculosis
- Lung Cancer



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P.O. Box 4788
JOHANNESBURG
2000
Fax: (011) 712 6450

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
25 Hospital Street,
Constitutional Hill
Johannesburg
Enquiries:
+27 (0) 11 712 6444
+27 (0) 11 712 6434
+27 (0) 11 712 6519

CONSENT FOR A POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

I _____

The *spouse/major child/ parent/ guardian/ major brother/ major sister
(* Delete whichever is not applicable)

Of the late _____

I D Number _____

Age _____ Sex _____

hereby consent to a post-mortem examination and the removal of such tissues as
may be considered necessary for the purpose of the Requirements of the
Occupational Diseases in the Mines and Works Act (No.78 of 1973) and for
diagnostic, medical education, research and scientific purposes

Signature _____

Witness 1 _____

Witness 2 _____

Place _____

Date _____

Medical specimens submitted to the NIOH for benefit examination are transported in red containers

**Red containers are supplied by the NIOH
to mortuaries, hospitals and mines**



PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING RED CONTAINERS FROM NIOH

Mortuaries, hospitals and mines can obtain specimen containers by contacting the Pathology Division (see page 8 for contact details).

A fax/letter will be required with the following information:

- Name of company requiring containers
- Contact person
- Physical address
- Telephone and fax number
- Number of boxes required

The containers will be sent by courier.

The red containers are numbered, and contain the following:

- White plastic bucket containing a plastic bag with formalin
- P form - to be completed by the sender.

PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING MEDICAL SPECIMENS FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE NIOH FOR EXAMINATION

- Remove the white plastic bucket, P form and metal tag from the red box
- Write the name and ID number of the deceased on the metal tag. Attach the tag to the specimen using the metal wire provided
- Remove the plastic bag with formalin from the white bucket and place the specimen inside bag
- Tie the open end of the bag securely with the string
- Place the plastic bag with the specimen back inside the white bucket
- Replace the lid **securely**
- Complete the P form
- Place the white bucket on the cotton wool inside the red container
- Place the completed P form and any other documents on the white bucket
- Close the red container securely
- Place the sticker provided across the seal of the bucket

PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF LUNG CONTAINERS FROM SENDERS

Contact the NIOH to organise collection of lung containers by courier

- Phone (011) 712 6444
- State your name or a contact person
- State your physical address & telephone number
- State the number of boxes to be collected

The same specimen containers will be returned to the sender with fresh formalin, P form and metal tag

NB: Cases sent from neighbouring countries will require a permit.
Contact the NIOH to arrange for a permit.

An example of the P-form which has to be completed and sent, together with the medical specimens in the red container, to the NIOH

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P-Form Please complete. Information essential for compensation claims!

**MEDICAL BUREAU FOR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
BENEFIT EXAMINATION ON DECEASED WORKER**

Particulars of deceased:

Surname _____

Name _____

Sex: Male/ Female

Bureau No:

Industry No:

Company No:

Identity No:

Passport No:

Pension Fund No:

Date of Birth

Age _____

Date of Death _____

Date of last risk work _____

Date of last risk/benefit examination _____

Mine/works where last employed: _____

District & Country of origin _____

Place of death _____

Name and address of next of kin _____

Occupational Disease History

Was the deceased previously compensated? Yes/No If yes, state Bureau no.

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If yes, state the disease compensated for:

Date of compensation

Day	Month	Year

Smoker Yes / No

Ex-Smoker: Yes / No

Previous TB: Yes / No Did the deceased have TB when he died? Yes / No

Date of diagnosis of last episode of TB

Day	Month	Year

Chest X-rays submitted:

Yes	No
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Evidence of pneumoconiosis at death:

Yes	No	Unknown
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If yes, specify _____

Lung function tests: FEV₁ _____ Height of patient _____
FVC _____

Date of Lung Function Test

Day	Month	Year

Clinical cause/causes of death

Name of sender: _____

Address of sender: _____

Telephone No of sender: _____

Fax No: _____

SUMMARY OF COMPLETE LABOUR HISTORY:

NOTE: This summary should contain full details of the worker's service at all mines works and of other risk work both within the Republic and elsewhere, and where possible, exact dates should be stated.

Name and type of mine/works	Occupation	Date on which work started	Date on which work stopped	Service - Number of months

Number of years in mining _____

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge

Medical Officer/Examiner

Sign Name

Print Name

Date: _____

NIOH CONTACT DETAILS

Switchboard: (011) 712 6400

Fax no: (011) 712 6450

**Request for specimen
containers and collection of
specimen containers**

Tel: (011) 712 6434/6444

**For general enquiries,
Pathology Division**

Tel: 011 712 6519

Postal Address

**P.O. Box 4788
Johannesburg
2000**

Physical Address

**25 Hospital Street
Constitution Hill
Johannesburg**

Dr N Vorajee (Acting Head Pathology)

Email: naseema.vorajee@nhls.ac.za

Mr D Afrika - Mortuary Services

Email: daniel.afrika@nioh.nhls.ac.za

Ms Juliet Buthelezi - Clerical Services

Email: juliet.buthelezi@nioh.nhls.ac.za

Office Hours 8.00 am – 4.00 pm