

GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

DECISION

on the minimum safety and health requirements regarding the use of the equipment with display screen

On the basis of Article 108 in the Romanian Constitution, republished,

The Government of Romania has adopted this decision:

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art.1 - This decision lays down minimum safety and health requirements concerning the use of the equipment with display as defined in Article 4.

Art.2 - The provisions of the Safety and Health at Work Law no.319/2006 are fully applicable to the field referred to in Article 1, without prejudice to more stringent and/or specific provisions contained in the present decision.

Art.3 - This decision shall not apply to:

- a) driver's cab or control cab in case of vehicles and machinery;
- b) computer systems on board a means of transport;
- c) computer systems mainly intended for public use;
- d) portable systems not in prolonged use at the workstation;
- e) calculators, cash registers and any equipment having a small data or measurement display required for direct use of the equipment;
- f) typewriters of traditional design, of type known as "typewriter with window".

Art.4 - For the purpose of this decision, the terms and expressions bellow are defined as follows:

- a) *display screen equipment* – an alphanumeric or graphic display screen, regardless of the display process employed;
- b) *workstation* – an assembly comprising display screen equipment, which may be provided with a keyboard or input device and/or software determining the operator/machine interface, optional accessories, peripherals including the diskette drive, telephone, modem, printer, document holder, work chair and work desk or work surface, and the immediate work environment;
- c) *worker* – any employed person, as defined in Article 5 letter a) of the Law no.319/2006, who habitually uses display screen equipment as a significant part of his normal work.

CHAPTER II Employers' obligations

Art.5 - Employers have the obligation to perform an analysis of workstations in order to evaluate the safety and health conditions to which they give rise for their workers, particularly as regards possible risks to eyesight, physical problems and problems of mental stress.

Art.6 - Employers shall take appropriate measures to remedy the risks found, on the basis of the evaluation referred to in paragraph 1, taking account of the additional and/or combined effects of the risks so found.

Art.7 - Employers must take the appropriate steps to ensure that workstations meet the minimum requirements laid down in the Annex which is integrant in this decision.

Art. 8 - The employer must plan the worker's activities in such a way that work daily work on a display screen is periodically interrupted by breaks or changes of activity reducing the workload at the display screen.

CHAPTER III

Information, training, consultation and participation of workers

Art.9 – (1) In respect of provisions of Articles 16 and 17 of the Law no.319/2006, workers shall receive information on all aspects of safety and health relating to their workstation, in particular on such measures applicable to workstations as are implemented under Articles 5, 6, 8 and 12-16.

(2) Workers or their representatives shall be informed of any health and safety measures taken in compliance with this decision.

Art.10 - Without prejudice to Articles 20 and 21 of the Law no.319/2006, every worker shall receive training in use of the workstation before commencing this type of work and whenever the organization of the workstation is substantially modified.

Art.11 - Consultation and participation of workers and/or their representatives shall take place in accordance with Articles 18 and 19 of the Law no.319/2006 on the matters covered by this decision.

CHAPTER IV

Protection of workers' eyes and eyesight

Art.12 - Workers shall be entitled to an appropriate eye and eyesight test carried out by a person with the necessary capabilities:

- a) before commencing display screen work, through a medical examination on recruitment;
- b) at regular intervals thereafter;
- c) whenever they experience visual difficulties which may be due to display screen work.

Art.13 - Workers are entitled to an ophthalmological examination if the results of the test referred to in Article 12 show that this is necessary.

Art.14 - If the results of the test referred to in Article 12 or of the examination referred to in Article 13 show that it is necessary and if normal corrective appliances cannot be used, workers must be provided with special corrective appliances appropriate for the work concerned.

Art.15 - Measures taken pursuant to Articles 12-14 may in no circumstances involve workers in additional financial cost.

Art.16 - Protection of workers' eyes and eyesight may be provided as part of the national health system, according to the law in force.

CHAPTER V Sanctions

Art.17 – The infringement of provisions of this decision entail the burden as minor offence, either civil or penal, as the case stands.

CHAPTER VI Final provisions

Art.18 - This decision comes into force on 1st October 2006.

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This decision transposes the Directive 1990/270/EEC on the minimum safety and health requirements for work with display screen equipment, published in the Official Journal of European Communities (JOCE) no.L156/1990.

**PRIME-MINISTER
CĂLIN POPESCU-TĂRICEANU**

Countersigning:

Minister of Labour, Social Solidarity and
Family,

Gheorghe Barbu

for Minister of Economy and Commerce,

Eugen Țapu-Nazare,

Secretary of State

Minister of Public Health,

Gheorghe Eugen Nicolăescu

Minister of European Integration,

Anca Daniela Boagiu

for Minister of Public Finance,

Doina-Elena Dascălu,

Secretary of State

Bucharest, 9th August 2006.

No. 1.028.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**PRELIMINARY REMARK**

The obligations laid down in this Annex shall apply in order to achieve the objectives of this Directive and to the extent that, firstly, the components concerned are present at the workstation, and secondly, the inherent requirements or characteristics of the task do not preclude it.

1. Equipment

a) General comment

The use as such of the equipment must not be a source of risk for workers.

b) Display screen

The characters on the screen shall be well-defined and clearly formed, of adequate size and with adequate spacing between the characters and lines.

The image on the screen should be stable, with no flickering or other forms of instability.

The brightness and/or the contrast between the characters and the background shall be easily adjustable by the operator, and also be easily adjustable to ambient conditions.

The screen must swivel and tilt easily and freely to suit the needs of the operator.

It shall be possible to use a separate base for the screen or an adjustable table.

The screen shall be free of reflective glare and reflections liable to cause discomfort to the user.

c) Keyboard

The keyboard shall be tiltable and separate from the screen so as to allow the worker to find a comfortable working position avoiding fatigue in the arms or hands.

The space in front of the keyboard shall be sufficient to provide support for the hands and arms of the operator.

The keyboard shall have a matt surface to avoid reflective glare.

The arrangement of the keyboard and the characteristics of the keys shall be such as to facilitate the use of the keyboard.

The symbols on the keys shall be adequately contrasted and legible from the design working position.

d) Work desk or work surface

The work desk or work surface shall have a sufficiently large, low-reflectance surface and allow a flexible arrangement of the screen, keyboard, documents and related equipment.

The document holder shall be stable and adjustable and shall be positioned so as to minimize the need for uncomfortable head and eye movements.

There shall be adequate space for workers to find a comfortable position.

e) Work chair

The work chair shall be stable and allow the operator easy freedom of movement and a comfortable position.

The seat shall be adjustable in height.

The seat back shall be adjustable in both height and tilt.

A footrest shall be made available to any one who wishes for one.

2. Environment

a) Space requirements

The workstation shall be dimensioned and designed so as to provide sufficient space for the user to change position and vary movements.

b) Lighting

Room lighting and/or spot lighting (work lamps) shall ensure satisfactory lighting conditions and an appropriate contrast between the screen and the background environment, taking into account the type of work and the user's vision requirements.

Possible disturbing glare and reflections on the screen or other equipment shall be prevented by coordinating workplace and workstation layout with the positioning and technical characteristics of the artificial light sources.

c) Reflections and glare

Workstations shall be so designed that sources of light, such as windows and other openings, transparent or translucent walls, and brightly coloured fixtures or walls cause no direct glare and, as far as possible, no reflections on the screen.

Windows shall be fitted with a suitable system of adjustable covering to attenuate the daylight that falls on the workstation.

d) Noise

Noise emitted by equipment belonging to workstation(s) shall be taken into account when a workstation is being equipped, in particular so as not to distract attention or disturb speech.

e) Heat

Equipment belonging to workstation(s) shall not produce excess heat which could cause discomfort to workers.

f) Radiation

All radiation with the exception of the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum shall be reduced to negligible levels from the point of view of the protection of workers' safety and health.

g) Humidity

An adequate level of humidity shall be established and maintained.

3. Operator/computer interface

In designing, selecting, commissioning and modifying software, and in designing tasks using display screen equipment, the employer shall take into account the following principles:

a) software must be suitable for the task;

b) software must be easy to use and, where appropriate, adaptable to the operator's level of knowledge or experience; no quantitative or qualitative checking facility may be used without the knowledge of the workers;

c) systems must provide feedback to workers on their performance;

d) systems must display information in a format and at a pace which are adapted to operators;

e) the principles of software ergonomics must be applied, in particular to human data processing.