Enterprises causing employees' occupational injuries to be fined

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The "Tentative Provisions for the Supervision and Administration of Occupational Health at Working Locations" issued by the State Administration of Work Safety, which will be implemented from September 1 2009, is applicable to the workplaces of all manufacturing, mining and commercial and trade enterprises, with the exception of coal mining enterprises.

Under the Provisions, "occupational injuries" are defined as various physical injuries suffered by employees when they are working as a result of exposure to harmful substances such as dust and toxic materials.

The Provisions clearly prescribe that safety supervision departments take responsibility for carrying out occupational health supervision and law enforcement, and enterprises take responsibility for preventing and controlling occupational hazards.

Safety supervision departments should order enterprises that have caused severe injuries to their employees' lives and health to stop occupational hazard operations, or apply to the relevant people's governmental department to shut them down according to provisions prescribed by the State Council and impose a fine of between 100,000 yuan and 300,000 yuan.

Enterprises should send the documents about construction facilities' "design, construction and acceptance" for preventing occupational hazards to the local safety supervision administration for record.

Meanwhile, they should also report the results of periodic occupational hazard investigation and assessment to the local safety supervision administration. Occupational hazard factor investigation should be carried out at least once a year, and occupational hazard assessment should be carried out at least once every three years.

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