



SCC-VAZ DOCUMENT 009

HAZARDOUS WORK AND ACTIVITIES IN PARTICULARLY
HAZARDOUS WORK AREAS

EXPLANATIONS TO QUESTION 3.4 OF DOCUMENT 003 AND DOCUMENT 023

Please note:

The programme names SCC-VAZ 2021 and SGU Personnel VAZ 2021 are described below as SCC and SGU Personnel for ease of reading.



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Chapter 1 Introduction

The SCC and SCP checklist formulate in the respective compulsory question 3.4, among other things, the requirement that employees must have special knowledge and training certificates for particularly hazardous work and for activities in particularly hazardous work areas.

Chapter 2 Hazardous work

The term "hazardous work" and variations of it are used in numerous occupational health and safety regulations. Examples of this are:

- Arbeitsschutzgesetz (Occupational Safety and Health Act), § 9 "Special Hazards",
- Baustellenverordnung – BaustellV (Ordinance on Safety and Health Protection on Construction Sites), § 2 i.V.m. Annex II "Particularly Hazardous Work",
- ArbMedVV (Ordinance on Occupational Medical Precautions) with annex Occupational Medical Mandatory and Offered Precautions
- Accident Prevention Regulation "Principles of Prevention" (DGUV (German statutory accident insurance) Regulation 1), § 8 "Hazardous Work",
- Health and safety regulation "Principles of Prevention" (DGUV regulation 100-001), section 2.7 "Hazardous Work"

The classification of an activity into the category "hazardous work" with the resulting consequences for the protective measures shall be made by the entrepreneur on the basis of the concrete risk assessment of the activities on site. The following two examples provide guidance on classification.

2.1 Annex II of the BaustellV

Annex II of the BaustellV provides guidance for deciding which work is to be classified as particularly hazardous. Listed there are:

1. Work where employees are exposed to the risk of sinking, of being buried in excavations or trenches with a depth of more than 5 m or of falling from a height of more than 7 m
2. Work where employees are exposed to
 - a) biological agents of risk groups 3 or 4 within the meaning of the Biostoffverordnung (Ordinance on Biological Substances) or
 - b) substances or mixtures within the meaning of the Gefahrstoffverordnung (Ordinance on Hazardous Substances) that are classified as
 - ba) acutely toxic category 1 or 2,
 - bb) carcinogenic, germ cell mutagenic or toxic for reproduction category 1A or 1B respectively,
 - bc) flammable liquid category 1 or 2,
 - bd) explosive or
 - be) product with explosive material

3. Work with ionising radiation requiring the establishment of controlled or monitored areas within the meaning of the Strahlenschutzgesetz (Radiation Protection Act) and the legal ordinances issued on the basis of this act
4. Working at a distance of less than 5 m from high-voltage power lines
5. Work where there is an immediate risk of drowning
6. Well sinking, underground earthworks and tunnelling
7. Working with diving equipment
8. Working in compressed air
9. Work involving the use of explosives or detonating cords
10. Erection or dismantling of solid construction elements with more than 10 t individual weight

2.2 ArbMedVV (Ordinance on Preventive Occupational Health Care) with annex Mandatory and Optional Occupational Health Care

Annex II of the BaustellV provides guidance for deciding which work is to be classified as particularly hazardous. Among other things, activities that require mandatory precautions are listed there in detail, e.g. activities involving hazardous substances, activities involving biological agents and activities involving physical agents and other activities are listed. The latter include in particular:

1. Activities with extreme heat exposure that can lead to a particular hazard;
2. Activities with extreme cold exposure (-25° Celsius and colder);
3. Activities involving exposure to noise if the upper exposure action values of noise exposure level, 8 h = 85 dB(A) or LpC, peak = 137 dB(C) are reached or exceeded. When applying the exposure action values according to sentence 1, the attenuating effect of personal hearing protection worn by the employees shall not be taken into account;
4. Activities involving exposure to vibrations where the exposure limit values are
 - a) $A(8) = 5 \text{ m/s}^2$ for activities with hand-arm vibrations or
 - b) $A(8) = 1.15 \text{ m/s}^2$ in the X or Y direction or $A(8) = 0.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ in the Z direction are reached or exceeded for activities involving whole-body vibration;
5. Activities under water in which the employee is supplied with breathing gas via a diving apparatus (diving work);
6. Activities involving exposure to incoherent artificial optical radiation if the exposure limit values in accordance with § 6 of the Arbeitsschutzgesetz on artificial optical radiation of 19 July 2010 (German Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) I p. 960), in the respectively applicable version, are exceeded
7. Activities requiring the wearing of group 2 and 3 respirators;
8. Activities in the tropics, subtropics and other stays abroad with special climatic stresses and risks of infection. Notwithstanding § 3 para. 2 sentence 1 in conjunction with § 7, doctors who are entitled to hold the additional title of tropical medicine may also be commissioned.

2.3 Health and safety regulation "Principles of Prevention" (DGUV regulation 100-001), section 2.7 "Hazardous Work"

DGUV regulation 100-001 provides further assistance in identifying hazardous work. Accordingly, "hazardous work" is work in which there is an increased risk from the work process, the type of activity, the substances used or from the environment because no adequate protective measures can be implemented.

Hazardous work can be, for example:

- work with a risk of falling,
- work in silos, containers or confined spaces,
- welding in confined spaces,
- fire work in areas at risk of fire or explosion or on closed hollow bodies,
- gas pressure tests and leak tests on containers,
- testing of large-scale technical plants, such as boiler plants,
- blasting work,
- felling trees,
- work around tracks during railway operations,
- fire brigade operation,
- tunnelling work in tunnel construction,
- work on open feed openings of balers fed by continuous conveyors and their unsecured feed points,
- work in gas hazardous areas,
- lifting operations when the crane operator does not have a view of the load,
- handling particularly hazardous substances, e.g. in chemical, physical or medical laboratories.

Chapter 3 Training

Under certain conditions (technical and organizational protective measures first), the entrepreneur may only assign hazardous work or activities in hazardous work areas to persons,

- who are aware of the hazards associated with this work,
- who are familiar with the protective measures to be implemented,
- who are specially trained for this work and
- who are medically suitable.

In addition to the many training courses offered by the private sector, in Germany it is a good idea to take advantage of the courses offered by the employers' liability insurance associations. To do this, a company can contact the employers' liability insurance association of which it is a member.