



## **Media Release**

### **New Legislation Regarding the Safe Use of Work Equipment**

19 September 2016

The Occupational Health and Safety Authority would like to draw the attention of all concerned persons about a new set of regulations dealing with the safe use of work equipment. These regulations update and collate together a series of regulations and hence are more comprehensive and easier to follow.

Previously, apart from a general regulation concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at the workplace (L.N. 282 of 2004), there were various others issued along the years, dating as far back as 1949, that one had to refer to so as to ensure conformity. This was always felt as too cumbersome for the employers to follow as one had to go through a number of regulations to establish the legal requirements of a company, especially if some of the regulations or provisions were no longer applicable following the publication of L.N. 282 / 2004.

“Throughout this process, OHSA endeavoured to remove from the regulations unnecessary bureaucratic burdens on employers and repeal old regulations that are no longer applicable and relevant. It also ventured to have the minimum number of regulations concerning work equipment while consolidating occupational health and safety regulations dealing with work equipment. These new regulations will be easier to follow and understand and we augur that this will lead to higher standards of occupational health and safety,” said Dr Mark Gauci, the Chief Executive Officer of the OHSA.

To this end, the new Work Equipment Regulations (L.N. 293 of 2016) now incorporate all the relevant regulations from the legal notices that are still applicable and which were not included in LN282/2004. It should be noted that all the provisions of LN282 / 2004, which were transposed from the European Directive, were kept entirely and none have been amended. All other relevant provisions taken from the other legal notices were added to the new proposed version of the work equipment regulation. Also any unnecessary burdens on the employers, such as the sending to the Authority copies of certificates of inspection of certain types of work equipment, have been reviewed and amended or removed as required.

The full text of the new regulations is available from the OHSA website: [www.ohsa.org.mt](http://www.ohsa.org.mt)

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