



Occupational Health & Safety Authority

Media Release

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Should be Free

24.10.05

The Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) is concerned about an article published in a local newspaper a few days ago pertaining to a parliament sitting. The article quoted Hon Ms Marie Louise Coleiro as stating that 'while the government was boasting of having improved health and safety awareness, many workers on low pay still needed to buy their own safety clothing'.

The OHSA would like to comment on two main points emanating from this:

First of all, it is a proven fact that there is increased awareness about occupational health and safety in Malta. This is a result of the number of information and education campaigns that the OHSA has carried out during the few years since its inception. There are also currently a good number of companies and departments that organize their own activities on the matter. On its part, the OHSA has registered a substantial increase in the number of participants during its activities and training courses. There has also been a marked increase in the number of requests for information as well as for workplace inspections.

The second issue pertaining to PPE provided against payment is distinctly more serious. It is stipulated in the law that workers should not be made to pay for personal protective equipment and should there be instances where this happening, the legislation is being breached. Indeed, Legal Notice 121 of 2003, Article 10.1 states that: *'Personal protective equipment shall be provided free of charge by the employer.'*

The OHSA would like to appeal to those workers who for one reason or another are being asked to pay for their PPE to contact it immediately on tel. 21 247 677 / 8. Callers will have the option of remaining anonymous.