
**LFS 2013 ad-hoc module on
'accidents at work
and other work-related
health problems'**

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Key points of information about the module

- The aim of the module is to identify individuals who have had accidents and other related health problems as a result of **work**.
- The survey is interested in individuals who have had an accident or work related health problem in the **twelve months** prior to the interview.
- Definitions of work days lost
 - **Accidents**: Exclude the day of the accident
 - **Accidents**: If person has two relevant accidents use the most recent
 - **Accidents**: Include all calendar days until the resumption of work (normal working days or not. So include Saturdays, Sundays, bank holidays etc.)
 - **Health**: All days lost from the onset of the problem until the return to work. (If time off was not continuous include all the days the person was away from work).
 - **Health**: if the worker slowly returned to work e.g. part-time. Only include days that the person was off work completely
- In the event of more than one relevant accident use the most recent accident to answer the module
- In the event of more than one relevant health issue consider the most serious when answering the questions

Key Definitions

Work related accidents

An **accident at work** resulting in injuries is a discrete and unforeseen event or occurrence which leads to physical harm to the respondent and that occurred whilst engaged in an occupational activity or during the time spent at work.

Inclusions:

- An accident at work resulting in injuries which did not lead to a sick leave is also included.
- An accident at work resulting in injuries which did not need a medical treatment is also included.
- Any accident occurred during working time, even if it has not occurred during the usual work or in the usual workplace of the person, has to be taken into consideration.

More details of accidents to be included or excluded can be found in Appendix 1

Work related health problem

The illnesses or health problems during the 12 months reference period include all health problems for which the person considers himself/herself that this health problem is caused or made worse by work (past or current).

More Detailed information notes are provided at the end of this document in Appendix 1 and 2

TIMESTAMP START OF MODULE

OPENING FILTER if 15<=age, wave=1-5 Direct and Proxy

1. Permission question

QUESTION: I would like to ask you some questions relating to Accidents and Work related illness.

ANSWERS:

1. Continue
 2. Exit
-

2. MBERXA

Col 197

Filter: Everybody aged 15 or more and who is working or has worked during the past 12 months

QUESTION: In the twelve months previous to this interview have you experienced any accidents at work or in the course of your work?

NOTE: Accidents outside working hours and accidents during the journey from home to work or from work to home are excluded. However, accidents during a journey in the course of work are included.

ANSWERS:

1. Yes
 2. No
- Utilise don't know and refusal
-

3. MBERXB

Col 197

Filter: If MBERXA = 1

QUESTION: How many accidents resulting in injury did you have during those months?

ANSWERS:

1. One
2. Two or more
3. None

Utilise DK

4.AWROADX

Col 198

National filter: IF MBERXB in = 1, 2

NOTE: In the following questions please consider the most recent of these accidents.

QUESTION: May I just check, was this accident a..... ?

ANSWERS:

1. Road traffic accident
2. Accident other than a road traffic accident

Utilise DK

5.AWJOBXA

Col 199

National filter: IF MBERXB in = 1, 2

QUESTION: Which job were you working on when the work related accident (resulting in injury) occurred?

ANSWERS:

1. Main current job
2. Second current job
3. Last job (for persons not in employment)
4. Job one year ago
5. Some other job

Utilise DK

6.Natinj

National filter:

IF MBERXA in = 1, 2

QUESTION: Which of the following best describes your most recent injury at work?

ANSWERS:

1. Wound or superficial injury
 2. Bone fracture
 3. Dislocation, sprain or strain
 4. Amputation
 5. Concussion or internal injury
 6. Burn, scald or frostbite
 7. Poisoning or infection
 8. Suffocation (Asphyxiation)
 9. Other type of injury
 10. Not applicable
-

7. AWDOFFX

Col 200-201

National filter:

IF MBERXB in = 1, 2

QUESTION: How much time were you unable to work as a result of the work related accident?

NOTE: Do not count the actual day of the accident and do not include days beyond 12 months from the date of this interview.

ANSWERS:

1	Still off work because has not yet, but expects to resume work later
2	Expects never to work again
3	Less than one day or no time off
4	At least one day but less than four days
5	At least four days but less than two weeks
6	At least two weeks but less than one month
7	At least one month but less than three months
8	At least three months but less than six months
9	At least six months but less than nine months
10	Between nine and twelve months

8. MBRXA

Col 202

National Filter: Everybody aged 15 or more and who is working or has worked

QUESTION: In the 12 months prior to this interview and excluding any accidents you might have highlighted already, have you suffered from any physical or mental health problems?

ANSWERS:

1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Cannot say
-

9. MBRXB

Col 202

National filter : If MBRXA = 1

QUESTION: How many of these health problems are caused or made worse by work you are doing or have done in the past?

NOTE: Only include problems in the last twelve months (prior to this interview)

ANSWERS:

1. One
2. Two or more
3. None

Utilise refusal and don't know

10.YPEPX

COL203-204

National filter: IF MBRXB = 1,2

QUESTION: From the list provided please describe the nature of the most serious health problem ?

ANSWERS:

1	Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects neck, shoulders, arms or hands
2	Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects hips, knees, legs or feet
3	Bone, joint or muscle problem which mainly affects back
4	Breathing or lung problem
5	Skin problem
6	Hearing problem
7	Stress, depression or anxiety
8	Headache and/or eyestrain
9	Heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system
10	Infectious disease (virus, bacteria or other type of infection)
11	Stomach, liver, kidney or digestive problem
12	Other types of health problem

11.LIMABX

COL205

National filter: IF MBRXB = 1,2

NOTE: In the following questions please consider the most serious of these health problems

QUESTION: Does this condition limit your ability to carry out day to day activities at work or outside of work?

ANSWERS:

1. No
 2. Yes, to some extent
 3. Yes, considerably
- Utilise refusal don't know
-

12. WHPJOBX

COL206

National filter: IF MBRXB = 1,2

QUESTION: Which job are/were you working on that causes or makes worse the condition?

ANSWERS:

1. Main current job
 2. Second current job
 3. Last job (for persons not in employment only)
 4. Job one year ago
 5. Some other job
- Utilise refusal or don't know
-

13.WHPDOFFX

COL207-208

National filter: IF MBRXB = 1,2

QUESTION: How much time were you unable to work as a result of the health problem?

NOTE: Do not include days beyond 12 months from the date of this interview.

ANSWERS:

1. Still off work because has not yet recovered from the health problem, but expects to resume work later
 2. Expects never to work again because of this health problem
 3. Less than one day or no time off
 4. At least one day but less than four days
 5. At least four days but less than two weeks
 6. At least two weeks but less than one month
 7. At least one month but less than three months
 8. At least three months but less than six months
 9. At least six months but less than nine months
 10. Between nine and twelve months
-

14. SRISKX

COL209

National Filter: Everybody aged 15 or more and who is working

QUESTION: Which of the following activities do you consider yourself to be most at risk of being exposed to?

ANSWERS:

1. Difficult work postures or work movements
 2. Handling of heavy loads
 3. Noise or strong vibration
 4. Chemicals, dust, fumes, smoke or gases
 5. Activities involving strong visual concentration
 6. Risk of general accidents
 7. Activities involving strong visual concentration
 8. None of the list above
-

15. TRISKX

COL2010

National Filter: Everybody aged 15 or more and who is working

QUESTION: Which of the following environments do you consider yourself to be most at risk of being exposed to?

ANSWERS:

1. Severe time pressure or overload of work
2. Violence or threat of violence
3. Harassment or bullying
4. None of the above

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions

Press 1 to continue (TIMES STAMP END OF MODULE TIME)

END of MODULE

Appendix 1: Work related accidents

Definition of accident

An accident at work resulting in injuries is a discrete and unforeseen event or occurrence which leads to physical harm to the respondent and that occurred whilst engaged in an occupational activity or during the time spent at work.

Details and instructions

Inclusions:

- An accident at work resulting in injuries which did not lead to a sick leave is also included.
- An accident at work resulting in injuries which did not need a medical treatment is also included.
- Any accident occurred during working time, even if it has not occurred during the usual work or in the usual workplace of the person, has to be taken into consideration.
- From this follows that, during work, all types of accidents in a public place or means of transport, either if it is the usual workplace or during a journey in the course of work, should be considered as an accident at work. So, the following types of accidents are included: road traffic accidents in the course of work; slips, falls, aggressions, etc., in public places (pavement, staircases, etc.) or in the arrival and starting points (station, port, airport, etc.) of any means of transport occurred in the course of work; accidents on board of any means of transport used in the course of work (underground railway, tram, train, boat, plane, etc.), accidents occurring during a mission done for work (even if the person leaves for a mission directly from home) and accidents occurred in the course of work within the premises of another company than the one which employs the victim.
- Accidents at lunch time, or any other break, inside the premises of the enterprise should also be included.
- The concept of an accident includes also cases of acute poisoning and wilful acts by other persons.

Exclusions:

from the above definitions the following types of accidents are excluded:

- accidents occurred in the course of travelling between home and the workplace (commuting accidents);
- accidents occurred in the course of travelling between the workplace and the place of meals, whether it is at home or in a restaurant outside the premises of the enterprise;
- accidents in which the respondent was an observer or was involved without having a personal injury; for example a truck driver involved in an accident at the road but without physical harm for himself;
- home and leisure accidents;
- road traffic or transport accidents in the course of private activities;
- occupational diseases and other health problems which develop over a long time. In some rare cases it may be difficult to make a difference. For example if a health care worker has a needle stick injury and develops an infectious disease as a consequence, the onset is accidental and the needle stick injury should be considered as an accident. If a construction worker injures his back as a consequence of a sudden movement, it should be considered as an accident. While if a back pain develops over one day when he was carrying heavy loads, it should be seen as a non-accidental work-related health problem.
- deliberate self-inflicted injuries.

An accident resulting in multiple injuries is counted once.

The 12 months reference period includes the reference week (for example: accidents between the 15 April N-1 and the 14 April N for a reference week ending on 14 April N).

Type of accident

Objective

The aim is to know whether the most recent accident at work resulting in injuries was due to a road traffic accident or to some other type of accident. This separation is needed when the ad hoc module results are compared with administrative accident statistics, which have national differences in the way of dealing with accidents happening in road traffic during work.

Definition

Road traffic accidents are all accidents in public roads or public or private car parks provided that the accident happens in the course of work. The victim may be either on board of a means of transport (driver or passenger) or a pedestrian.

Details and instructions

Only those accidents as defined above are considered. If the respondent had more than one of such accidents, the most recent one is asked for.¹

Road traffic accidents include both accidents in which the victim's main professional activity is related to the transport (e.g. lorry or bus drivers) and accidents in which the victim was occasionally in road traffic in the course of work (e.g. a manager going on his/her way to a business meeting outside of the enterprise).

All other accidents at work should be coded by Code 2. This applies also to accidents that are related to machines which are used outside of the public roads (e.g. forklift trucks, bulldozers, tractors in farming fields, forestry-related machines in forests, etc.). If such a machine was on a public road at the time of the accident, it should, however, be coded with Code 1. Accidents that happen inside the premises of the company on non-public roads within the factory area are also coded with code 2 (they are not considered as road traffic accidents).

Job of accident

This variable provides the link to the job that caused the most recent accident at work.

Period off work from accident

Definition

The number of calendar days the person was unfit to work consists of all calendar days for which the person was unable to work because of the injury caused by the most recent accident. The day of the accident is excluded. In case of several absences from work due to this injury all have to be accumulated.

Time reference: days off because of the accident in the 12 months before the reference week, including this week.

¹ The focus is on the most recent accident - as it was done in the 2007 module - and not on the most serious. This choice has the advantage of getting a better spread of accidents in terms of severity. An additional advantage is the better recall for the days lost which is also of importance when comparing to the ESAW data.

Details and instructions

This variable defines the number of days lost due to the accident for those cases where the victim either has started work or has already recovered from the accidental injury. All calendar days when the person was unfit for work from the day after the accident until the resumption of work have to be taken into consideration (normal working days or not, including Saturdays, Sundays, bank holidays, etc.).

Appendix 2: Work related health problems

Detailed instructions

What is a health problem?

Any health problem suffered by the person during the 12 months reference period has to be included if the person considers himself/herself that this health problem is caused or made worse by work (past or current). This means that the work-related problems asked for should not be restricted to cases reported or recognised by the authorities, but all cases even those without time off work should be included provided the above criteria are satisfied.

The work related health problems are clearly distinct from the injuries caused by an accident at work. Health problems are more of a chronic or permanent nature whilst an injury is more a punctual physical harm.

In infectious diseases, like a common cold or flu, it is difficult for the person to identify where and when exactly (work, home, elsewhere) occurred the transmission of the causative infectious agent (virus, bacteria etc.). In such diseases the advice to the person interviewed is to think whether the nature of his/her work is such that it would have caused the disease (i.e. that in this work it would be more probable to have such a disease in comparison to the everyday life environment or other types of work).

Any work at any time, even years back in time, has to be taken into consideration. In the latter case, the onset of the health problem could have been more than a year before the interview, but if the victim still suffered from this problem during the 12 months reference period, it should be taken into consideration. But, if the victim has not suffered from the work-related health problem during the 12 months reference period the case should not be included.

In cases where the person suffered from more than one illness, disability or other physical or mental health problem during the past 12 months, that were caused or made worse by work, apart from accidental injuries, the code 2 "Two or more" has to be used (cumulating health problems caused and health problems made worse by work, without distinction).

Persons who had no work in the 12 months before the reference week can still suffer from a problem caused by a job more than 12 months ago. For this reason they have to be included in the questioning to have a more complete view on the prevalence of work related health problems in a period of 12 months.

The 12 months reference period includes the reference week (ex: health problems suffered at any moment between the 15 April N-1 and the 14 April N for a reference week ending on 14 April N).

Type of health problems

Objective

To know the type of the health problem caused or made worse by the work, or in case of several such health problems, the type of the most serious one.

Definition

The types of health problems are listed by the variable categories. The most serious health problem is the one that the respondent assesses as having the biggest impact on his/her activities.

Details and instructions

In cases where the person suffered from more than one work-related health problem during the 12 months reference period, only the most serious of these is considered for this and the following variables. In this assessment there should be no distinction between health problems caused by work

and those made worse by work, only seriousness of the health problem should be assessed. There is of course a subjective element in such an assessment of the “most serious” of the health problems related to work. Nevertheless, it should be the most severe health problem from a medical point of view, in general the health problem which had the biggest impact on his/her activities.

As there is no specific code for cancers, they should be coded, if possible, according to the anatomical location (for example: lung cancer into "03 Breathing or lung problems" and skin cancer into "04 Skin problems"). If this is not possible, then the code "11 other types of health problems" should be used.

Does the health problem limit the work of the person

Objective

The aim is to have a subjective measurement of the seriousness of the health problem by the respondent. A simple categorisation in 3 classes – "no", "to some extent" and "considerably" - permits a first understanding and complements the information of severity expressed by the variable "days of absence".

Definition

The variable defines to what extent the most serious health problem caused or made worse by work limits the person's ability to carry out day to day activities either at work or outside work.

Details and instructions

The health problem refers to the most serious health problem caused or made worse by work, while the limitation in day to day activities covers also day to day activities outside work. E.g. if a skin problem caused or made worse by work considerably limits the person's day to day activities at home, it should be coded as "2- Yes, considerably".

Period off work

Objective

To know the number of calendar days in the 12 months before the reference week which the victim was unfit to work due to the most serious health problem related to work. This gives a very important indication of the socio-economic loss and the severity.

Definition

The number of calendar days the person was unfit to work consists of all calendar days for which the person was unable to work because of the most serious health problem. In case of several absences from work due to this health problem all have to be accumulated.

Time reference: Days off because of the most serious problem in the 12 months before the reference week, including this week.

Details and instructions

All days between the onset of the health problem and the resumption of work have to be taken into consideration (normal working days or not, including Saturdays, Sundays, bank holidays, etc.).

The variable only covers the days lost strictly related to the health problem. In particular, if there is more than one health problem, only the days lost due to the most serious one are taken into consideration.

In the same way, all the other absences from work during the 12 months reference period, in particular due to any illness not related to work, or to an accident at work, or to any other type of accidents (home and leisure accidents or road traffic accidents), have to be excluded.

Only the absence during the 12 months period prior to the reference week is considered. If the person had time off work before this period, even if this absence was in a continuous connection with the absence occurred during the 12 months reference period, only the days off work during these 12 months have to be counted as days lost.

Additionally, if there were several absences from work due to the most serious health problem during those 12 months, they have to be cumulated. For example, the reference week ends on 14 April N, and the person was off work because of the health problem from the 1st April N-1 to the 30 April N-1, from the 1 to the 20 September N-1 and from the 10 April N to the end of the reference week, with a work stop prescribed until the 20 April N, the number of days taken into consideration is: 16 (only from the 15 to the 30 April N-1) + 20 (in September N-1) + 5 (from the 10 to the 14 April N only) = 41 days lost = code '06' = "at least one month but less than three months".

If the person is off work at the time of the interview and because of the most serious health problem caused or made worse by work (but expects to resume work later), then the absence should be counted until the date of the interview (within the time limit of the 12 months reference period).

If the person didn't work for a certain period of time and then started to be integrated back to work gradually, for example working part-time, only the days when he/she was not working at all are counted.

Finally, when the person expects, at the date of the interview, never to work again due to the most serious health problem, this variable has to be coded '01'="Expects never to work again due to this illness", whatever the actual number of days off work due to the health problem during the 12 months reference period..

Exposure to health risks

Objective

The aim is to know whether the respondent considers that he/she is exposed at work to any of the mentioned factors that can adversely affect his/her physical health.

Definition

Exposure is defined by the concrete variable categories: it can mean executing body movements or sensory functions, coming into contact with materials or environmental factors or being aware and threatened by the risk of accidents but always in a degree of frequency and intensity that this is perceived as a risk or has lead to physical health problems.

At work refers to the usual environment where a person carries out his/her work activities. In most cases it is the local unit or establishment, but for certain workers that work outside the local unit (e.g. builders, firemen, etc) it is the general environment where the work is usually carried out.

Details and instructions

The approach is to consider the exposure and the physical health from the point of view of the worker him/herself.

Answers should be related to an exposure which is clearly more frequent, repetitive or more intensive than what people experience in general day to day life.

The question concerns exposure only to the mentioned factors and in case there is a particular exposure to several of these the respondent should indicate which of these factors he/she considers as the main factor from the point of view of adverse effects on his/her physical health.

Exposure to mental well-being risk factors

Objective

The aim is to know whether the respondent considers that he/she is exposed at work to any of the mentioned factors that can affect his/her mental well-being.

Definition

Severe time pressure and overload or work refer to demands concerning either the time during which or by when the work needs to be executed or demands concerning the amount of work to be executed and these demands going beyond the abilities and resources of the person and as such leading to a decrease in mental well-being.

Violence and threat of violence refers to physical force used by another person or group that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm, all three leading to a decrease in mental well-being. Both real experiences of such actions and a feeling of the threat of such actions are covered.

Harassment and bullying refer to intentional use of power used by another person or group that can result in harm to physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development leading to a decrease in mental well-being. (the term psychological violence is also sometimes used and is included in this category).

At work refers to the usual environment where a person carries out his/her work activities. In most case it is the local unit or establishment, but for certain workers that work outside the local unit (e.g. builders, firemen, etc) it is the general environment where the work is usually carried out.

Details and instructions

The approach is to consider exposure at work or at the workplace and the mental well-being from the point of view of the worker him/herself.

The border line between "threat of violence" and "harassment or bullying" is not always obvious. Threat of violence refers to the use of physical force and is more often expressed by persons in the environment (for example: threatening behaviour by criminals towards a police man or aggressive behaviour by school pupils towards teachers). Harassment and bullying refers to a wider range of behaviour, mainly verbal, and is used by other persons of the working circle of the victim.

Discrimination is a very broad concept and is not included in harassment or bullying. Discrimination can be considered as a more general attitude or opinion which might be the underlying cause for all 3 mental risk factors (or even physical risk factors) "time pressure or overload of work", "violence or threat of violence" and "harassment or bullying". If a respondent thinks that he/she is discriminated but can not specify this as one of those 3 risk factors then the answer code should be "none of the list below".

The question concerns exposure only to the mentioned factors and in case there is an exposure to several of these factors the respondent should indicate which of these factors he/she considers as the main factor from the point of view of adverse effects on his/her mental well-being.