

ITALIAN REGULATIONS REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY IN NATURAL STONE PLACING



Legislative Decree Law 81/08

The first reference in Italy with regard to safety legislation is Legislative Decree Law 81/08, better known as Dlgs 81/08, sometimes simply referred to as "Decree 81" and for all job descriptors often known as the "Testo Unico sulla Sicurezza".

Legislative Decree Law (9th April 2008), no. 81, later coordinated with Legislative Decree no. 106, replaces the old D.Lgs. 626/94, now representing the main regulatory reference in Italy on safety in the workplace. At the moment, the latest available version of the decree is the revision published on 27th May 2014, consisting of 306 articles and 51 attachments, aimed at making it clearer.

The "Testo Unico sulla Sicurezza" represents "the work safety" in Italy. The current law on work safety has summarized and ordered the previous laws, which were sometimes split up into different sections depending on their history and chronology. This decree is the ordered and completed collection of articles, paragraphs, attachments, in which the legislator indicates to companies, employers and workers what is essential and compulsory with regard to the prevention, the protection of physical and mental health in every work environment, to the risk assessment and health surveillance, to first aid and fire prevention. As already quoted, the decree refers to employers and workers, and at the same time and consequently to all the professional figures who have to recruit workers and whose particular duties and responsibilities take into account habitual habits and safety practices. These figures are RSPP (Person Responsible for Prevention and Protection), RLS (Representative of Employee safety), safety coordinators, prevention and protection worker, foremen and managers, first aid service, firefighter service and finally occupational doctor. The Decree provides for each of these figures an adequate training and periodic updates.

The scope of the decree, as can be seen, is very wide, because it includes companies (whether self-employed workers or family-run business companies), all workers (including those with project contracts) and any type of risk. The structure of the Testo Unico is divided into 13 titles: General regulations (Title I), Workplaces (Title II), Use of work equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (Title III), Temporary or mobile sites (Title IV), Safety signs (Title V), Manual handling of loads (Titolo VI), Visual Display Units (VII) Physical Agents (Title VIII), Dangerous Substances (Title IX), Biological Agents (Title X), Explosive Atmospheres (Title XI), Penalties (Title XII) and Final regulations (Title XIII).

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