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# The 'Health and Safety Catalogue' (Arbo catalogues): an instrument for improving the working conditions of employees

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## What is it?

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- a form of the decentralized responsibility of sectors, of trade unions and employers' associations, for health and safety policy (improving working conditions)
- the standards stipulated in the Dutch Working Conditions Act gives the general framework for sectors
- in other words.....:in the private domain, employers and employees will determine procedures for meeting the target requirements
- to develop practical means and methodes in different sectors, to be used in firms for organizing a sound and safe working place
- the catalogue contains practical means and methods to be effective in firms tackling the priority risks identified in a sector
- the customisation is an individual responsibility of the entrepreneur at company level
- the catalogue gains official status if has passed the Labour Inspectorate's assessment.



## What is the form and content of the Catalogue?

- every sector can choose its own form and content
- in general the content of a catalogue contains the following elements:
  - a. an indication of the wished health and safety level in a sector('the norm'/'standard'): the work must be organised so that it does not have negative impact on health and safety of employees
  - b. an indication of specific measures at stake in the company (to address the priority risks)
  - c. a further explanation to the measures (with the aim to be as much as being effective)
  - d. checklist for actions in the daily work (for worker and employer)



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## Responsibility of the employers' organizations:

- take initiatives to develop sectoral catalogues
- organize practical input with some of your members for the form and content of the sectoral catalogue
- communicate with your members if an assessed catalogue is available (leaflets, websites, weekly)
- organize sectoral advising to individual companies to take the measures needed
- organize an update after some years, in identifying priority risks and developing current effective means and methods



## Example of glasshouse horticulture

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Risks:

- in using plant protections methods|pesticides
- in the field of safety (working with electricity, fork-lift trucks)
- in physical load
- in organization of work (working with young people, tasks rotation systems)
- See the website: [www.agroarbo.nl](http://www.agroarbo.nl)

