

# **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

## **Accident Prevention Law**

Adopted by Decree No. 1514 of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on December 14, Juche 112 (2023)

### **Chapter 1: Basics of the Accident Prevention Law**

#### **Article 1 (Mission of the Accident Prevention Law)**

The Accident Prevention Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea aims to contribute to the protection of state and social cooperative property and the lives and property of the people by strictly establishing systems and order in accident prevention work to prevent accidents in advance.

#### **Article 2 (Definition and Classification of Accidents)**

In this law, an accident refers to unexpected human and material damage caused by violating state laws, regulations, and established order.

Accidents are classified into economic sector accidents and other accidents according to the sector in which they occur, and into major accidents and general accidents according to the target and scale of the damage.

#### **Article 3 (Principle of Preemptive Accident Prevention)**

The state shall ensure that all sectors and units prioritize accident prevention in their business organization and execution.

#### **Article 4 (Principle of Preemptive Legal Education)**

The state shall strengthen legal education to raise accident prevention awareness among all institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens, actively engaging them in accident prevention work.

#### **Article 5 (Scientific and Modern Accident Prevention Work)**

The state shall actively research and introduce modern accident prevention facilities, equipment, and means, and continuously raise the scientific and modern level of accident prevention work by adopting advanced scientific technology.

#### **Article 6 (Guidance on Accident Prevention Work)**

Guidance on accident prevention work shall be provided under the unified leadership of the Cabinet, including relevant ministries, central agencies, and provincial people's committees.

#### **Article 7 (Scope of Application)**

This law applies to all institutions, enterprises, organizations, citizens, representative

offices of international organizations, foreign-invested enterprises, and foreigners within the territory of our country.

### **Article 8 (Relation to Other Laws)**

Matters not regulated by this law in relation to accident prevention work shall be governed by relevant laws such as the Disaster Prevention and Relief Law and the Marine Accident Handling Law.

## **Chapter 2: Accident Prevention Organizations and Accident Prevention Work**

### **Section 1: Accident Prevention Measures Committee**

#### **Article 9 (Organization of the Accident Prevention Measures Committee)**

The Accident Prevention Measures Committee is a non-permanent body under the unified command of the Cabinet that implements the state's accident prevention policy.

To prevent various accidents, including labor accidents, the Central Accident Prevention Measures Committee is established under the Cabinet, and accident prevention measures committees are established and operated in committees, ministries, central agencies, provincial (directly governed cities), city (district), county people's committees, institutions, enterprises, and organizations.

Higher-level accident prevention measures committees guide and control the work of subordinate accident prevention measures committees, and subordinate accident prevention measures committees regularly report their work status to higher-level accident prevention measures committees.

#### **Article 10 (Composition of Accident Prevention Measures Committees at Each Level)**

Accident prevention measures committees at each level are composed of the following members:

1. The Central Accident Prevention Measures Committee is chaired by the Vice Premier of the Cabinet and includes responsible officials from central planning guidance agencies, central prosecution agencies, central social safety guidance agencies, state inspection agencies, central labor administration guidance agencies, central quality supervision guidance agencies, central railway transportation guidance agencies, and relevant committees, ministries, central agencies, and people's committees.
2. Committees, ministries, central agencies, and institution, enterprise, organization accident prevention measures committees are chaired by the administrative responsible officials of the unit and include necessary officials as members.

3. Provincial (directly governed city), city (district), county accident prevention measures committees are chaired by the respective regional people's committee chairpersons and include responsible officials from prosecution agencies, social safety agencies, agricultural guidance agencies, labor organizations, and relevant units.

#### **Article 11 (Duties of Accident Prevention Measures Committees)**

The duties of accident prevention measures committees are as follows:

1. Conduct substantial legal education in various forms and methods to prevent various accidents.
2. Establish measures to prevent various accidents such as labor accidents, equipment accidents, traffic accidents, fire accidents, explosion accidents, gas poisoning accidents, drowning accidents, etc.
3. When serious accidents occur, immediately mobilize personnel, equipment, funds, and materials to establish measures for damage recovery.
4. Accurately identify the causes of accidents and establish measures to prevent repeated accidents.
5. Assign accident prevention-related tasks to committee members every quarter and summarize their performance.
6. Organize and guide monthly accident prevention work and accident prevention day operations.

#### **Article 12 (Authority of Accident Prevention Measures Committees)**

The authority of accident prevention measures committees is as follows:

1. Assign tasks related to accident prevention to relevant institutions, enterprises, organizations, and officials, and summarize their execution status.
2. Propose to relevant institutions to commend officials and citizens of institutions, enterprises, and organizations that have demonstrated exemplary accident prevention work.
3. Transfer materials to the Socialist Legal Life Guidance Committee or relevant legal agencies to punish those who violated state laws and regulations or caused accidents according to the severity of their actions.

4. Decide to consider awards and commendations or various mass movement evaluations for institutions, enterprises, organizations, officials, and citizens who caused accidents or disrupted legal order.

#### **Article 13 (Operation of Accident Prevention Measures Committees)**

Accident prevention measures committees shall operate once per quarter as a basic principle, but may operate at any time when urgent measures for accident prevention are needed, when serious accidents occur, during accident prevention measures months, or as necessary.

The operation of accident prevention measures committees shall be conducted with the participation of committee members, and relevant officials from institutions, enterprises, and organizations may be invited to attend as observers depending on the discussion content.

The procedures and methods for operating accident prevention measures committees shall be determined by the Cabinet.

#### **Article 14 (Administrative Work for Operating Accident Prevention Measures Committees)**

The administrative support work for the Central Accident Prevention Measures Committee shall be provided by the central labor administration guidance agency, and the administrative work for other accident prevention measures committees shall be provided by the comprehensive administrative department or staff department of the relevant institution.

### **Section 2: Accident Prevention Work**

#### **Article 15 (Labor Safety Education for Accident Prevention)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall institutionalize conducting education work in various forms and methods to prevent various accidents before organizing work.

#### **Article 16 (Compliance with Equipment Management Order)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall strictly establish equipment management systems and order, and conduct timely inspections, maintenance, and repairs of equipment.

#### **Article 17 (Improvement of Labor Safety Environment)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall improve and maintain the labor safety environment at a high level.

#### **Article 18 (Compliance with Labor Safety Regulations)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall prioritize labor safety instructions, comply

with standard operating procedures, safety operating procedures, and confirm labor safety conditions, strictly adhering to labor safety regulations.

#### **Article 19 (Elimination of Accident Risk Areas)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall thoroughly identify and eliminate elements that can cause accidents in a timely manner.

Citizens shall immediately eliminate accident risk areas and elements or notify social safety agencies or relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations upon discovery.

#### **Article 20 (Provision of Conditions for Preventing Accidents)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall meticulously establish and accurately execute economic, technical, and material measures to prevent various accidents.

#### **Article 21 (Informationization of Accident Prevention Work)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall informationize accident prevention work according to the demands of the developing reality, and continuously research and introduce modern accident prevention facilities, equipment, means, and methods.

#### **Article 22 (Accident Prevention Work in Villages, Towns, Workers' Districts, and Neighborhoods)**

Accident prevention work in villages (towns, workers' districts, neighborhoods) shall be conducted by offices under the guidance of the respective city and county people's committees.

Offices shall strengthen education and control to prevent various accidents in people's units, organize patrols to prevent accidents such as gas poisoning, fire accidents, drowning accidents, and establish necessary accident prevention measures such as installing danger signs and safety fences in risk areas.

#### **Article 23 (Strengthening the Accident Prevention Workforce)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall organize the accident prevention workforce, including labor safety officers, part-time fire personnel, and mass self-defense fire personnel, with responsible individuals and enhance their roles.

#### **Article 24 (Selection of Personnel Handling Accident Risk Materials)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall select personnel handling accident risk materials such as explosives, toxic substances, and pressure equipment from individuals with specialized knowledge in the relevant field and high responsibility, and enhance their responsibility and role in storage and handling.

#### **Article 25 (Operation of Accident Prevention Measures Months)**

May and November are accident prevention measures months.

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall conduct concentrated education work to

prevent various accidents among officials, employees, and residents during accident prevention measures months, and thoroughly identify and establish necessary measures for accident elements.

#### **Article 26 (Operation of Accident Prevention Measures Days)**

Accident prevention measures days are the last Thursday of each month.

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall operate accident prevention measures days as follows:

1. Explain and disseminate state decisions and instructions on accident prevention.
2. Organize and conduct accident prevention work according to the characteristics of their units to prevent various accidents that arise seasonally and periodically.
3. Notify and summarize issues raised in monthly accident prevention work.

### **Chapter 3: Establishment of Accident Notification System and Rescue**

#### **Article 27 (Establishment of Accident Notification System)**

The Cabinet shall establish a systematic accident notification system for various accidents occurring regionally and sectorally nationwide, grasp the situation in a timely manner, and establish appropriate measures.

Institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens shall immediately notify the date, time, place, type of accident, and damage status to minimize the damage when an accident occurs.

#### **Article 28 (Accident Notification by Central Social Safety Guidance Agency)**

The Central Social Safety Guidance Agency shall establish a systematic notification system to grasp various accidents occurring in relevant regions and units in a timely manner and take appropriate measures immediately when an accident occurs.

#### **Article 29 (Accident Notification by Committees, Ministries, and Central Agencies)**

Committees, ministries, and central agencies shall establish a systematic notification system to grasp accidents occurring in their sectors in a timely manner and notify the Cabinet and the Central Social Safety Agency immediately when an accident occurs.

#### **Article 30 (Accident Notification by People's Committees at All Levels)**

People's committees at all levels shall establish a systematic notification system to grasp all accidents occurring in their regions in a timely manner and notify higher-level agencies and regional social safety agencies immediately when an accident occurs.

**Article 31 (Accident Notification by Institutions, Enterprises, and Organizations)**

Institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall notify higher-level agencies and regional social safety agencies immediately when an accident occurs in their units.

**Article 32 (Accident Notification by Citizens)**

Citizens shall notify unit responsible officials and regional social safety agencies immediately when an accident occurs in their regions or units.

**Article 33 (Organization of Rescue Command Headquarters)**

Accident prevention measures committees at all levels shall organize a rescue command headquarters, including the regional people's committee chairperson as the responsible person and necessary members from social safety agencies, health agencies, and others, when a major accident with significant damage occurs.

All institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens in the accident area shall comply with the commands of the rescue command headquarters related to rescue operations.

**Article 34 (Organization and Command of Rescue Operations)**

Rescue operations shall be organized and commanded according to the following principles:

1. Measures shall be established to immediately eliminate damage that poses a risk to national safety or causes political losses.
2. Rescue operations to save human lives shall be prioritized, and emergency resuscitation and recovery treatment for victims shall be organized and carried out swiftly.
3. Damage to the property of the state, social cooperative organizations, and citizens shall be minimized.
4. All personnel, equipment, and facilities necessary for rescue operations shall be accurately identified and promptly provided.
5. Measures shall be established to promptly address issues arising in transportation, facilities, and infrastructure safety, as well as fuel, gas, electricity, and water supply in the accident area.
6. The rescue situation and status shall be promptly reported to higher-level agencies.

**Chapter 4: Supervision and Control of Accident Prevention Work****Article 35 (Supervision and Control Agencies for Accident Prevention Work)**

Supervision and control of accident prevention work for institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens shall be conducted by relevant sectoral supervision and control

agencies, as well as prosecution, social safety, state inspection, and agricultural special inspection agencies.

Prosecution, social safety, state inspection, and agricultural special inspection agencies shall regularly supervise and control the work of identifying and addressing all accident risk elements in relevant units.

#### **Article 36 (Supervision and Investigation by Sectoral Supervision and Control Agencies)**

Relevant sectoral supervision and control agencies shall supervise accident prevention work in their sectors and investigate accidents that occur.

#### **Article 37 (Investigation of Accidents by Prosecution Agencies)**

Prosecution agencies shall investigate accidents in the economic sector such as quality accidents, environmental pollution, accidents due to faulty design and construction, and accidents involving the corruption and deterioration of purchased grains, as well as accidents occurring during medical activities. They shall also monitor the legality of accident prevention supervision by sectoral supervision and control agencies.

#### **Article 38 (Investigation of Accidents by Social Safety Agencies)**

Social safety agencies shall investigate various accidents that threaten social safety, such as road traffic accidents, railway traffic accidents, fire accidents, explosion accidents, accidents involving explosives, accidents involving pressure equipment, accidents involving toxic substances, and accidents involving radioactive materials.

#### **Article 39 (Investigation of Accidents by State Inspection Agencies)**

State inspection agencies shall identify the causes of major accidents in the economic sector according to national measures, investigate responsible individuals, and supervise and control the accident notification and accident review status of accident prevention measures committees at all levels.

#### **Article 40 (Investigation of Accidents by Agricultural Special Inspection Agencies)**

Agricultural special inspection agencies shall investigate accidents occurring during agricultural operations such as seed storage and sowing, and the application of fertilizers and pesticides.

#### **Article 41 (Submission of Accident Reviews)**

Relevant sectoral supervision and control agencies, institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall submit investigation materials related to labor accidents to accident prevention measures committees.

Accident review submission documents shall specify the date, time, place, type, motive and cause of the accident, the accident prevention status of the unit that caused the



accident, human and property losses due to the accident, consequences, and responsibility relationships.

#### **Article 42 (Jurisdiction of Accident Reviews)**

Accident reviews shall be classified according to the severity of the accident into reviews by the Central Accident Prevention Measures Committee, reviews by committees, ministries, central agencies, and provincial (directly governed city), city (district), county accident prevention measures committees, and reviews by institution, enterprise, organization accident prevention measures committees.

Higher-level accident prevention measures committees may directly review subjects under the jurisdiction of lower-level accident prevention measures committees as necessary. The jurisdiction of accident prevention measures committees shall be determined by the Cabinet.

#### **Article 43 (Contents of Accident Reviews)**

The issues to be discussed in accident reviews are as follows:

1. Date, time, place, and type of the accident
2. Motive and cause of the accident
3. Accident prevention work status of the unit that caused the accident
4. Human and property losses due to the accident
5. Responsibility relationships and handling issues
6. Living security issues for victims and their families
7. Measures to prevent accidents
8. Other issues raised

#### **Article 44 (Notification of Accident Review Status)**

Accident prevention measures committees shall make relevant decisions after accident reviews and notify relevant agencies of the status.

#### **Article 45 (Execution of Accident Review Decisions)**

Relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations shall strictly establish measures to execute the decisions of accident prevention measures committees and notify the committees of the execution status.

### **Chapter 5: Legal Responsibility**

**Article 46 (Suspension Penalty)**

Suspension penalties shall be applied to relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations in the following cases:

1. When a risk area that can cause a major accident is identified
2. When the relevant supervision and control agency's request to eliminate the risk area is not executed
3. When the risk of accident occurrence is recognized as high due to non-compliance with labor safety regulations

**Article 47 (Fine Penalty)**

Fines of 100,000 to 1,500,000 won for institutions, enterprises, and organizations, and 10,000 to 100,000 won for individual citizens shall be imposed in the following cases:

1. When safety education according to the accident prevention plan is not properly conducted
2. When safety facilities are not properly equipped or safety regulations are not followed
3. When accident prevention measures months and accident prevention measures days are conducted formally
4. When accident notifications are not made in a timely manner
5. When accident risk materials are handled by individuals without specialized knowledge
6. When rescue obligations are not performed in a timely manner

**Article 48 (Warning and Severe Warning Penalty)**

Warning penalties shall be given to responsible individuals in the following cases:

1. When accident prevention work and legal education are not properly conducted
2. When accident prevention measures committees are operated formally or work status is not reported in a timely manner
3. When measures to prevent various accidents such as labor accidents and equipment accidents are not established
4. When accident prevention measures committee tasks are not executed

5. When accident prevention measures months and accident prevention measures days are not conducted at all
6. When rescue situations and status are not reported to relevant agencies in a timely manner

Severe warning penalties shall be given if the actions in the previous paragraph are severe.

#### **Article 49 (Unpaid Labor and Labor Education Penalty)**

Unpaid labor and labor education penalties of up to three months shall be given to responsible individuals in the following cases:

1. When actions specified in Articles 47 and 48 are repeated three or more times
2. When accidents occur due to non-establishment of labor protection measures
3. When supervision and control agency requests are not responded to without justifiable reasons
4. When equipment inspections and maintenance are not conducted in a timely manner
5. When accidents occur due to non-compliance with labor safety regulations
6. When accident risk areas and elements are not reported in a timely manner or accidents occur due to non-elimination after notification
7. When accidents are reported inaccurately or exaggerated
8. When rescue operations are hindered due to non-compliance with rescue command

Unpaid labor and labor education penalties of more than three months shall be given if the actions in the previous paragraph are repeated, cause minor injuries to multiple individuals, result in property losses of more than 20,000 won, or if accidents are intentionally not reported.

#### **Article 50 (Demotion, Dismissal, and Removal Penalty)**

Demotion, dismissal, and removal penalties shall be given to responsible individuals if serious consequences occur due to violation of accident prevention order.

#### **Article 51 (Criminal Responsibility)**

If actions violating this law constitute a crime, responsible individuals shall be subject to criminal responsibility according to relevant provisions of the Criminal Law.

**Article 52 (Effective Date)**

This law shall be effective from January 1, Juche 113 (2024).