

THE ACCIDENTS OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS IN ITALY

Gli infortuni dei lavoratori migranti in Italia

Rosa Maria Lacquaniti

Department of Actuarial Science, University of Rome "Sapienza"

Rosamaria.lacquaniti@uniroma1.it

Silvia D'Amario

INAIL Division of actuarial and statistical research

S.Damario@inail.it

1. Introduction

According to the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), the foreign population in Italy amounts to 2.9 million (2.938.922) in January 2007, representing 5 percent of the total number of residents.

The number of foreign workers rises to 1.348 thousand in 2006, which reflects on the work accidents. An increase of 3.7% is recorded in 2006 compared to the previous year. This is an average out of 4% increase in the Industry and Services and a decrease of 2% in Agriculture. 141 mortal accidents are reported to INAIL in 2006, compared to 150 of the previous year; 2006 figures are however provisional and final data should show no substantial variations between the two years.

Work accidents of migrant workers are concentrated among those activities with more risks; in particular four areas: constructions, metal industry, transports and catering register 39% of total recorded cases and 55% of all mortal accident. Some of the causes which bring an increase in the number of accidents among migrant workers are the lack of training, the lack of experience and the precarious work force.

2. The data

Italian welfare organizations membership and insurance records show a preliminary overview of this scenario. The data is however difficult to compare and very often contradictory which do not actually describes foreign worker's participation in the work force, which is one of the most important aspects of migration.

On the basis of statistical data from D.N.A. and referred only to I.N.A.L. insured workers, foreign workers in 2006 were over 2 million, with an increase of 3.5% compared to the previous year. ISTAT statistics also show a considerable increase in the foreign workforce in 2006.

3. The risks of accidents for migrant workers

A comparison of the number of accidents with the number of migrant workers recorded by ISTAT will provide the best analysis of the actual trend.

The index given by comparison of the number of accident with the number of foreign workers provided by ISTAT however is only an indication of the momentary trend. The data shows only how a certain event affects a given community .

The accident risk frequency is given by the ratio indemnified accidents VS workers / year from INAIL database (yearly work units computed from salaries declared by the companies); such values express more precisely the risk frequency against the exposure to the risk.

A summary of these indicators is shown in the paper with a comparison with Italian and European workers.

4. Conclusion

The research clearly indicates that the risk differential, to which foreign workers are exposed, is more than doubled compared to Italian work force.

Prevention and protection are therefore urgent. Every accident, no matter how random, is a great ranager to those who operate to the welfare of the community: total avoidance is impossible, but containment is essential as the matter has grown to an unacceptable level.