

The assessment of the fire risk: the D.M 10 March 1998 is close to its abrogation and replacement

The new legislation defining the general criteria of safety and prevention in the field of fire and evacuation in the workplace is close to its enactment and entered into force.

The Ministerial Decree of 10 March 1998 has therefore reached the final acts and is awaiting its abrogation and replacement by the new legislative provision.

MTM Consulting can follow your company in managing this specific issue and the transition to the new fire risk assessment model.

The Ministerial Decree of 10 March 1998 "General criteria for fire safety and emergency management in the workplace" is a staple in the management of these important aspects for the past 20 years.

The approval of the new text by the Scientific and Technical Committee for Fire Prevention, a committee established during the reorganization of the provisions relating to the functions and tasks of the National Fire Brigade, is now a recent text, which can now take the path of approval. at the other deputy seats of the state.

The assessment of fire risk is the tool of the employer to certify that the measures implemented to protect the safety of workers and other people present in the workplace are consistent with the level of risk present, measures that they concern both the technical and constructive equipment of the workplace, the risk prevention system and the information and training provided to their workers and teams.

According to the indications of Legislative Decree 81/2008 in the risk assessment document, the employer must quantify the fire risk for each room and certify the measures taken to:

- reduce the likelihood of a fire;
- guarantee suitable evacuation routes and emergency exits;
- implement the measures for rapid fire signaling in order to guarantee the activation of the intervention procedures by means of suitable alarm systems;
- ensure the presence of measures and equipment for the extinction of a fire, which must be maintained in full efficiency;
- provide workers with adequate information and training on fire risks.



The new text then provides a classification of work environments in four groups, based on their presence in Annex I of the D.P.R. August 1, 2011 No. 151 "Regulation simplifying the rules governing the procedures relating to the prevention of fires" and the presence of specific safety standards that indicate the minimum fire-fighting measures to be applied. Based on this classification, it then provides specific mandatory technical and procedural provisions by type of workplace.

The contents of the draft are instead substantially similar to those of the D.M. 10 March 1998 for aspects of fire risk assessment, identification of prevention, control and maintenance measures (in which the obligation to register controls) was added, and emergency planning.

The draft decree confirms the current training system for firefighters and emergency management, introducing the periodicity of the (five-year) update and the programs for updating.

From what emerges from the work remains the right not to write down the emergency plan in cases of workplaces where they are occupied up to 9 workers, workplaces open to the public with overcrowding up to 49 people, regardless of the number of workers, although absolutely recommended.