

Qatar's Occupational Heat Stress Legislation and Enforcement

International Conference on Occupational Heat Stress
May 2023

Zayed Souhail Al Mazrooui
Head of the Occupational Safety and Health Unit

Ministerial Decision No. (17) for the year 2021

Ministerial Decision No. (17) for the year 2021 specifying measures to protect workers from heat stress in lieu of Ministerial Decision No 16 for the year 2007.

Prohibited hours

During summertime, work shall be prohibited from June 1 to September 15 of each year

Work shall not be allowed between 10 am and 3.30pm.

- 1** Requiring employers to complete a risk assessment study to mitigate heat stress together with the workers. A copy of the assessment shall be kept at the workplace for labour inspectors to review.
- 2** Enabling workers to self pace their work by taking rest periods when needed.
- 3** Imposing a maximum temperature beyond which, work shall stop
- 4** Adopting the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) index to assess the level of occupational heat stress.
- 5** Requiring employers to perform annual health check-ups to diagnose and assess chronic diseases that may contribute to the risk of heat stress.

**The new legislation introduced
new and fundamental amendments**

Why was the previous Ministerial Decision amended

04

'The study recommended that the previous ministerial decision setting working hours during summertime be amended, to ensure full protection for workers who are at risk of heat stress during summer in Qatar.

03

The health data collected from workers during the study period were analyzed; workers from the construction and agricultural sectors were monitored for a period averaging 5,500 hours.

02

The study was considered the most comprehensive and proactive in the Gulf and the World with a record number of samples. Various strategies were used to submit recommendations based on practical evidence to mitigate the effects of heat stress.

01

As part of the technical cooperation programme with the International Labour Organization, and in cooperation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, a scientific study was conducted in Qatar in the summer of 2019 to assess and mitigate heat stress at work in Qatar. The study was implemented by specialists from the University of Thessaly - Greece.

MoL's Monitoring and Implementation Efforts

The Ministry organizes annual awareness and inspection campaigns to ensure compliance with the prohibition of outdoor work during summer and to protect workers from heat stress.

A strict inspection plan is led by the Occupational Safety and Health Unit during summer and legal action is taken against companies found in violation.



The Action Plan started with an awareness campaign for workers and employers about the risks of heat stress and the relevant mitigation measures. The Action Plan was translated to several languages that are common among workers.

An employers and workers' Guidebook and FAQs detailed the new amendments of the Ministerial Decision No. 17 of 2021.

Inspectors were trained to use WBGT devices to measure heat stress indicators and ensure that they do not exceed 32.1 degrees.

The State was divided into geographical regions and inspectors were dispatched to cover all regions; with emphasis on the construction sector.



OSHS Action Plan to Monitor Corporate Compliance

Sites were inspected during prohibited hours between 10 am and 3:30 pm, to ensure compliance with the provisions of the decision.

Statistics related to the inspection campaign were published on the Ministry's website and social media accounts to reflect the number of sites that have been shut down.

Statistics were published on the number of inspection visits and sites that were closed for breaching the provisions of the Decision.

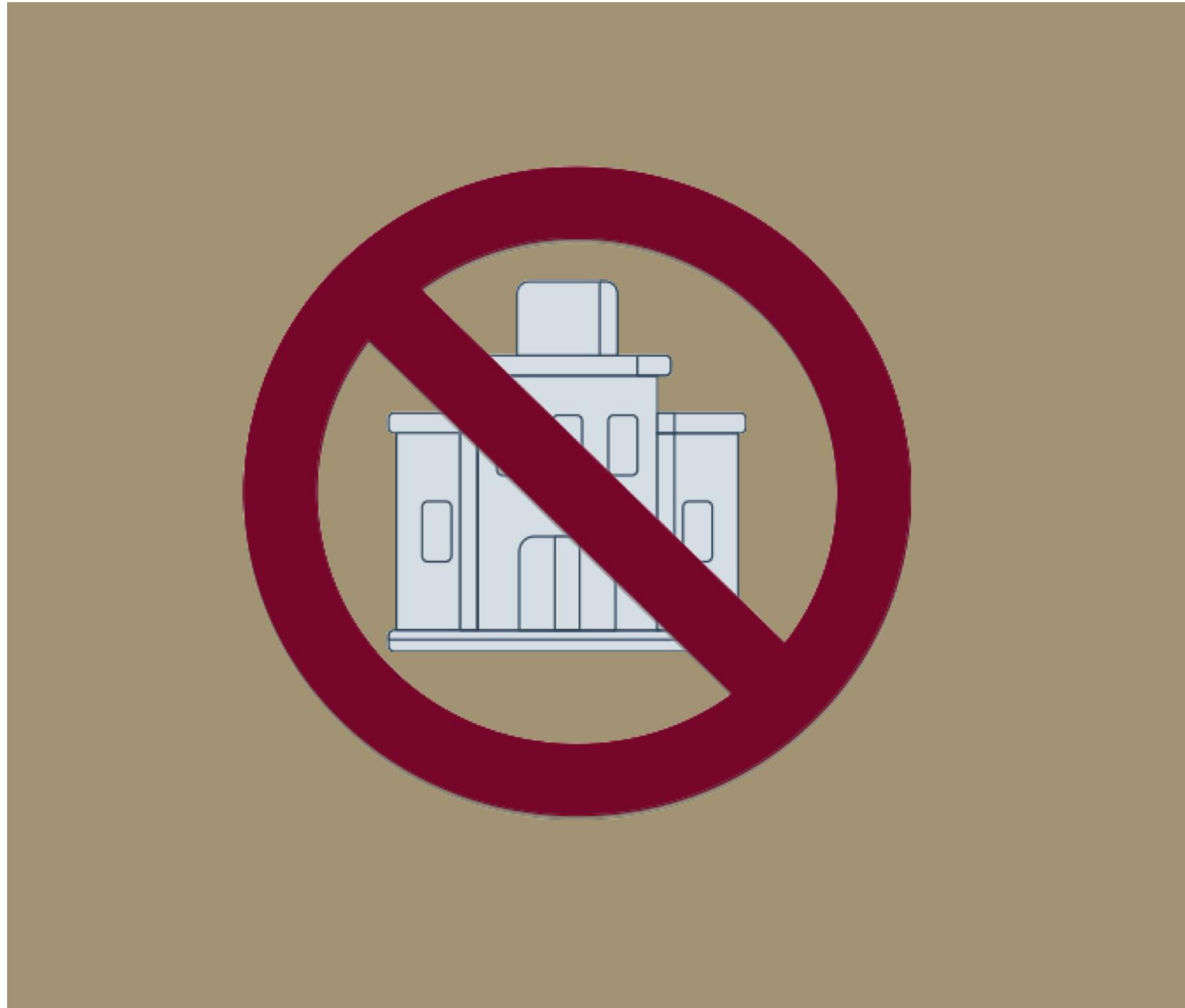


OSHS Action Plan to Monitor Corporate Compliance

Ministerial Decision No. (17) for the year 2021

Year	Number of Inspection Visits	The number of sites that breached the Decision and were consequently closed
2020	1644	308
2021	2543	393
2022	2526	463

Sanctions imposed in case of violation of the Ministerial Decision



Any workplace, breaching the provisions of the Law, shall be closed, in whole or in part, upon the Minister's decision.



وزارة العمل
Ministry of Labour
دولة قطر • State of Qatar

Thank you