

Air duct cleaning law

What is the law across Europe?



Air duct cleaning law

Common question from customers/facilities managers

EU Regulation exists and is applied in every EU member state

What is member experience?

There are many other reasons besides 'The Law'

- Wellness
- Productivity
- Legal Liability
- Energy cost
- Ambient pollution
- Good housekeeping
- Fire
 - Kitchen Extract a separate topic



Decision Support for Facilities Manager

Is it the Law?

“Top
management will
only spend money
if they have to”



Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC

- *General obligations for the employer:*
- technical maintenance of the workplace and of the equipment and devices is carried out as quickly as possible
- the workplace and the equipment and devices are **regularly cleaned to an adequate level of hygiene**
- safety equipment and devices intended to prevent or eliminate hazards are regularly maintained and checked.
- <https://osha.europa.eu/en/legislation/directives/2>



Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC


Is translated into individual Member State laws, which you can look up [here](#)

As an example, the relevant UK Regulations are titled: Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations

UK Workplace (Health Safety & Welfare) Regulations L24 2nd Edition 2013

- Regulation
 - Must comply
- Approved Code of Practice
 - Failure to follow ACoP would be evidence of non-compliance
- Guidance
 - Not compulsory, but advisable





Regulation 5 – Maintenance of Workplace, and of Equipment, Devices and Systems

- 1) The workplace and the equipment, devices and systems to which this regulation applies shall be maintained (including cleaned as appropriate) in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair

- 41) An 'efficient state' means that the workplace and the equipment, devices and systems mentioned in these Regulations should be free of faults likely to affect the health, safety or welfare of workers and provide an adequate level of hygiene. If a potentially dangerous defect is discovered, the defect should be rectified immediately or steps should be taken to protect anyone who might be put at risk.

Approved Code of Practice 5

Guidance 5

- 44) The frequency of regular maintenance, and precisely what it involves and who is competent to complete it, will depend on the equipment or device concerned. There is guidance from HSE and you can get advice from other authoritative sources, particularly manufacturers' information and instructions, as well as relevant trade literature.
- EN15780, [EVHA Guidebooks](#) can provide authoritative sources


Regulation 6 - Ventilation

- 1) Effective and suitable provision shall be made to ensure that every enclosed workplace is ventilated by a sufficient quantity of fresh or purified air.



Approved Code of Practice 6

- 52) Mechanical ventilation systems (including air-conditioning systems) should be regularly and adequately cleaned. They should also be properly tested and maintained to ensure that they are kept clean and free from anything which may contaminate the air.



EU Legislation, Standards and Norms for Duct Cleanliness – May 2022

- [General Workplace Regulation Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC](#) - “the workplace and the equipment and devices are regularly cleaned to an adequate level of hygiene”
- [Minimum Health & Safety Requirements](#) – “the workplace and the equipment and devices, and in particular those referred to in Annex I, point 6, and Annex II, point 6, [i.e. systems for ‘ventilation of enclosed workplaces’] are regularly cleaned to an adequate level of hygiene”
- [National transpositions](#) into local law

Country	EU Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC	Standard/Regulation/Law	Requirement	Notes
Spain	Yes	UNE 100012 Hygienisation of air-conditioning systems.	Annual inspection of ventilation ductwork	https://www.venfilter.com/normativa Inspection may be visual, supplemented by duct or microbiological analysis UNE = La Asociación Española de Normalización (Spanish standards)
Spain	Yes	RITE (Reglamento de Instalaciones Térmicas en los Edificios), published in BOE, number 89, date 2013-04-13, page 27563. Refers to UNE 100012	Regulation refers to UNE 100012	
Belgium	Yes	Follows 89/654/EEC with the General Workplace Regulation, much like UK		

Country	EU Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC	Standard/Regulation/Law	Requirement	Notes
Belgium		Semi-official advice for residential MVHR systems (July 2015) STS P 73-1	No trace of fouling should be visible to the naked eye	Government Economics Department
Greece	Yes	Presidential Decree 16/1996 is in accordance with the EU Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC	<p>Recommendation that....</p> <p>“If air-conditioning or mechanical ventilation installations are used, they must operate in such a way that workers are not exposed to draughts which cause discomfort.</p> <p>Any deposit or dirt likely to create an immediate danger to the health of workers by polluting the atmosphere must be removed without delay.”</p> <p>Ventilation of enclosed workplaces</p> <p>Steps shall be taken to see to it that there is sufficient fresh air in enclosed workplaces, having regard to the working methods used and the physical demands placed on the workers.</p> <p>If a forced ventilation system is used, it shall be maintained in working order.</p> <p>Any breakdown must be indicated by a control system where this is necessary for the workers' health.</p>	
Malta	Yes	None found		
Czech Republic	Yes	None found		

Latvia	No, but closely followed	Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No. 359 (Labour Protection Requirements in Workplaces) closely follows 89/654/EEC	13.3. air-conditioning or ventilation systems shall be maintained in good order, regularly cleaned and the efficiency of their operation shall be inspected
Latvia		Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No. 238 (Fire Safety Regulations)	<p>90. A mechanical ventilation system and a natural ventilation duct shall be cleaned in order to prevent the spread of fire in the structure.</p> <p>80. A natural ventilation duct shall be inspected and cleaned: 80.1. not less than once in five years; 80.2. if there is a gas apparatus in the building - not less than once in three years</p> <p>72. A statement shall be drawn up regarding cleaning results of the smoke stack, heating device and facility, gas apparatus, natural ventilation duct.</p> <p>75. A statement of inspection of the technical condition shall be drawn up regarding the results of inspection of the technical condition of the fuel duct, heating facility, device, and natural ventilation duct.</p> <p>91. Inspection of the technical condition of a mechanical ventilation system and cleaning shall be performed once in five years.</p> <p>92. A statement shall be drawn up regarding cleaning of a mechanical ventilation system or results of the check.</p>

Finland	Yes	Ministry of the Interior decree Number 802/2001 on the cleaning of ventilation ducts and equipment	<u>Decree 802/2001</u> Annual – food & fire-risk Every 5 years – Hospitals, vulnerable populations, hospitality
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Commercial Law

- Reference to standards
 - Reference to good practice
 - Reasonable
 - Workmanlike quality
 - State of the art
- EVHA Guides
 - EN15780
 - VDi 6022
 - REHVA Guides 8 & 9

- How is **Workplace Directive 89/654/EEC** implemented around member states?
- How can we improve compliance?