

International Labour Office
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FRANCE 10

Decree and Act: Employment of Women and Children

A) *Décret du 24 septembre 1926 portant modification du décret du 21 mars 1914 sur les travaux dangereux pour les enfants et les femmes. (Journal officiel du 30 septembre 1926, no. 228, p. 10808.)*

Decree to amend the Decree of 21st March, 1914¹, respecting the employments which are dangerous for children and women. Dated 24th September, 1926.

The President of the French Republic,

On the report of the Minister of Labour, Public Health, Public Assistance and Social Insurance,

In consideration of sections 72² and 73 of Book II of the Code of Labour and Social Welfare, which read as follows:—

“72. The various kinds of employment which involve danger or excessive exertion or are prejudicial to morality, and which are prohibited for children under the age of eighteen years and women, shall be specified by public administrative regulations for all establishments mentioned in section 1 and in section 65.

“73. Children under the age of eighteen years, whether workers or apprentices, and women, shall not be employed in unhealthy or dangerous establishments included in the categories mentioned in section 1, in which the worker is required to manipulate objects or is exposed to emanations which are prejudicial to his health, except under special conditions specified by public administrative regulations for each of these categories of workers”;

In consideration of section 185³ of Book II of the Labour Code;

In consideration of the text of the Recommendation concerning the protection of women and children against lead poisoning adopted by the International Labour Conference in the session held October—November, 1919;

In consideration of the Decree of 21st March, 1914¹;

In consideration of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Arts and Manufactures;

In consideration of the opinion of the Superior Labour Commission; and After hearing the Council of State,

Decrees:—

1. The items in schedules A, B and C appended to the Decree of 21st March, 1914¹, shall be amended in conformity with the schedules appended to this Decree.

¹ Bulletin of the International Labour Office (Basle), 1915, vol. X, p. 103.

² Amended by the Act of 7th December, 1926; see under (B) below.

³ “185. The public administrative regulations necessary for the carrying out of the provisions concerning the employment of women and children and concerning the inspection of labour shall be issued after consultation with the Superior Labour Commission and the Advisory Committee on Arts and Manufactures.

“Further, the General Mining Council shall be required to give its opinion on the regulations drawn up in pursuance of sections 28 and 56.”

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2. The provisions of this Decree shall come into operation one year after its promulgation.

3. The Minister of Labour, Public Health, Public Assistance and Social Insurance shall be responsible for the administration of this Decree, which shall be inserted in the *Bulletin des lois* and published in the *Journal officiel* of the French Republic.

SCHEDULES.

1. *Item to be deleted from Schedule A⁴ of the Decree of 21st March, 1914.*

Processes.	Reasons for the prohibition.
Treatment of lead, zinc and copper ores in order to obtain the crude metals.	Noxious emanations.

2. *Items to be added to Schedule A of the Decree of 21st March, 1914.*

Processes.	Reasons for the prohibition.
Melting of lead and manipulation of lead oxides in the manufacture and repair of electric accumulators.	Danger of lead poisoning.
Manufacture of alloys and solder containing more than ten per cent. of lead.	Special diseases due to emanations.
Manufacture of chromate of lead.	Special diseases due to emanations.
Desilverisation of lead.	Noxious emanations.
Manufacture of plumbous enamels.	Special diseases due to emanations.
Smelting of old zinc.	Noxious emanations.
Manipulation, treatment or reduction of ashes containing lead.	Special diseases due to emanations.
Manufacture of lead oxides.	Special diseases due to emanations.
Work at furnaces for the reduction of zinc and lead ores.	Noxious emanations.
Manufacture of sulphate of lead.	Special diseases due to emanations.
Treatment of copper ores in order to obtain crude metals.	Noxious emanations.

3. *Item to be deleted from Schedule B⁵ of the Decree of 21st March, 1914.*

Processes.	Reasons for prohibition.
Melting of lead and manipulation of lead oxides in electric accumulator factories.	Noxious fumes and dust.

⁴ Access to the rooms in which the processes enumerated in Schedule A are carried on is prohibited for women and children.

⁵ Access to the rooms in which the operations enumerated in Schedule B are carried on is prohibited for children.

4. *Items to be deleted from Schedule C⁶ of the Decree of 31st March, 1914.*

Establishments.	Conditions.	Reasons.
Melting of lead and manipulation of lead oxides in electric accumulator factories.	The employment of women, irrespective of their age, shall cease to be lawful in these processes on the expiry of the time limits laid down for the carrying out of the special regulations, except where the measures prescribed by the regulations have been carried out.	Danger of lead poisoning.
Manufacture of enamels with furnaces not consuming their own smoke.	Children under the age of eighteen years and women shall not be employed in workshops in which materials are crushed or sifted.	Noxious emanations.

B) *Loi du 7 décembre 1926 modifiant l'article 72 du livre II du code du travail et de la prévoyance sociale (travaux interdits aux enfants de moins de dix-huit ans et aux femmes). (Journal officiel, 1926, no. 285, p. 12,818.)*

Act to amend section 72 of Book II of the Code of Labour and Social Welfare (employments prohibited for children under the age of eighteen years and for women). Dated 7th December, 1926.

Sole section. Section 72 of Book II of the Code of Labour and Social Welfare shall be amended to read as follows:—

“72. The various kinds of employment which involve danger or excessive exertion or are prejudicial to morality and which are prohibited for children under the age of eighteen years and for women shall be specified by public administrative regulations for all establishments mentioned in sections 1, 30 and 65⁷.”

⁶ Work in the rooms in which the operations enumerated in Schedule C are carried on is permitted to children and women only subject to the conditions specified in the schedule.

⁷ Sections 1, 30 and 65 of Book II of the Code read as follows:—

“1. Children who have not attained the age of thirteen years shall not be employed in or admitted to works, factories, mines and open workings, quarries, yards, workshops and dependencies thereof, whatever their nature, whether public or private, secular or religious, even when these establishments are carried on for vocational purposes or are of a charitable nature.

“This provision shall apply to children placed in these establishments as apprentices. Establishments where none but members of the same family are employed, under the control of the father, mother or guardian, shall be exceptions hereto.

“30. The provisions of this division shall apply to wage-earning and salaried employees in any industrial or commercial establishment or dependency thereof, whatever its nature, whether public or private, secular or religious, even when it is carried on for purposes of vocational instruction or is of a charitable nature.

“Nevertheless, these provisions shall not apply to wage-earning and salaried employees in water transport undertakings or on railways, for whom the rest periods shall be regulated by special provisions.

“65. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to factories, works, yards, workshops, laboratories, kitchens, cellars and wine stores, warehouses, shops, offices, loading and

unloading undertakings, theatres, circuses and other places of entertainment and dependencies thereof, whatever their nature, whether public or private, secular or religious, even when these establishments are carried on for purposes of vocational instruction or are of a charitable nature.

“Establishments where none but members of the same family are employed, under the control of the father, mother or guardian, shall be the sole exceptions hereto.

“Nevertheless, if work is carried on in these establishments with the help of a steam boiler or mechanical power, or if the industry carried on therein is classified among dangerous or unhealthy undertakings, the inspector shall have the right to prescribe the measures for safety and health provided for in this chapter and in chapter II below.”