INAIL: a short overview
INAIL (Istituto Nazionale per l’Assicurazione contro gli Infortuni sul Lavoro) is a non economic, financially independent public body which manages in Italy the compulsory insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases on behalf of State.

Since the first law dating back to the end of XIX century, the protection for workers provided by INAIL has increasingly taken on the characteristics of a system of global and integrated protection, ranging from compensation to actions of prevention in the workplace, to medical and economic benefits, to health care, rehabilitation and reintegration into social and working life for people who have suffered physical damage following accidents or occupational diseases.

With recent legislative measures INAIL has broadened its mission to also include research, certification and inspection activities.

Therefore, INAIL has taken on the strategic function of Centre for Health and Safety at Work in Italy.

On the cover: building project realized by architect Armando Brasini for INAIL venue in Via IV Novembre, Rome (1926).
**INSURANCE**

INAIL protects workers against physical and economic damages deriving from accidents and diseases caused by the working activity.

The insurance is compulsory for all employers who employ dependent workers in activities classified as risky by the law.

The Insurance relationship’s parties are:

- **Employer:** has the obligation to pay the insurance premium according to the risk of company’s activities.
- **Employee:** is protected by INAIL by economic and health care benefits in case of work accident or occupational disease. The worker is covered even though the employer has failed to declare the occupational activity or to pay the insurance premium. This principle is called “automatic provision of benefits”.
- **INAIL:** is the public insurer body which collects premiums and provides economic, health care and supplementary benefits.

With the Legislative decree no. 38/2000 INAIL insurance also covers the **permanent biological damage** and its patrimonial consequences.

In 1999 also the **insurance for domestic accidents (housewives)** was established, aimed at recognizing the social value of work carried out in the home.
Prevention is a most important function of INAIL which has been entrusted by law, along with other bodies, with the task of carrying out in the best possible way activities of information and training, advice, assistance and support to enterprises for the full implementation of regulations in the field of health and safety at the workplace.

INAIL develops training programmes for particular working sectors both in the private and in the public system, intended for specific professional figures involved in prevention at various levels, functions and competences, in particular in the small and medium enterprises.

With the view to supporting health and safety at the workplace, INAIL has put into place a system of incentives to enterprises which are committed to improving health and safety at work through investments and training activities and a system of tariff reductions for companies which implement ameliorative preventive interventions.

Furthermore, INAIL cooperates with other competent bodies to create a stable and organic linkage between school and the working world in order to disseminate among young people the culture of health and safety in life, study and work environments.

Information on health and safety at work is also spread out through meetings, publications, information campaigns and research.
The function of rehabilitation carried out by INAIL is based on the concept of “taking over” the insured worker following the damaging event, meaning that people with disability are treated taking into consideration their specificity and complexity. To this extent, a wide range of customised interventions are provided, aimed at the maximum possible recovery and the reintegration of the persons into their family, social and professional life.

INAIL performs its tasks on rehabilitation through a series of initiatives ranging from outpatient interventions provided at some of its local Offices, to rehabilitation medicine at the Rehabilitation Motor Centre in Volterra, to prosthetic rehabilitation provided at Prostheses Centre in Vigorso di Budrio and its branch in Rome. In particular, the Prostheses Centre in Vigorso di Budio is a centre of excellence which tests, designs and implements custom-made prostheses and technological devices and holds individual training courses aimed at the best use of these aids, which are a fundamental step along the individual path towards autonomy.

In 2001, INAIL started up “Superabile”, an integrated contact-center, mainly constituted by a daily updated portal containing news, information and documentation on disability matters (www.superabile.it) and a free telephone advice service.
INAIL function in technical-scientific and research sector is performed through activities of research, experimentation, control, advice, assistance and high training with the aim of fostering health and safety in life and working environments.

In particular, the main research areas of interest concern occupational medicine, industrial hygiene and safety technologies.

Through a multidisciplinary approach, INAIL carries out research, measurement and assessment on risks deriving from chemical, biological, carcinogenic and physical agents as well as from ergonomic and psychosocial factors. The aim is to develop methods, procedures and rules in line with the technological evolution of systems, equipments and productive processes.

Among other tasks assigned to INAIL: the epidemiological surveillance on occupational cancers; inspection activities on work equipments; certification and recognition of laboratories and certification bodies according to European rules and international treaties; controls and inspections in factories at high-risk related to particular activities; tests on tools and equipments used by workers. As notified body, INAIL issues certificates of compliance with the European directives.
ORGANISATION

Employees: approx. 10,000

General Division
15 Central Directorates
5 Technical Departments
5 Services
Medical Department
Research Sector
21 Regional Directorates
220 Local Offices

FIGURES

- Insurance positions
  3,828,842

- Workers covered
  approx. 21 million

- Premium income
  9,053,080

- Portfolio enterprises
  3,342,812

- Annuities:
  828,803

- Economic benefits cost
  6,118,439

*Figures updated to 30/12/2011*
Health and Safety of workers is competitiveness for enterprises