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FORUM NEWS

Austria | Occupational diseases

Austria – Changes to the list of occupational diseases

On 28th March 2024 the Occupational Diseases Modernisation Act was promulgated in Austria. It contains some innovations in the field of occupational diseases.

The most important innovation is the addition of four new occupational diseases.

These are:

- Hypothenar/Thenar Hammer Syndrome
- Focal dystonia in instrumental musicians
- Squamous cell carcinoma, actinic keratoses of the skin due to UV exposure
- Ovarian cancer after exposure to asbestos

Until now these diseases could only be recognized as occupational diseases within the framework of the general clause, under which a recognition of diseases that are not mentioned in the list of occupational diseases is possible if certain conditions are met.

Due to a lack of practical relevance diseases of the deeper respiratory tract and lungs caused by “Thomasschlackenmehl” were extinguished.

Furthermore, the list of occupational diseases has been restructured and numbered, but this does not result in any changes in content.

The new provisions apply retroactively from 1st March 2024.

If the insured person already suffers from one of the new occupational diseases on 1st March 2024 or has died of such an illness, benefits must be paid to the insured person or the surviving dependents if the insured event occurred after 31st December 1955.

The benefits are to be granted from 1st March 2024 at the earliest if the application is submitted up to and including 28th February 2025. After that benefits are due at the earliest from the date of application. ●

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