

## What should medical examinations cover?



- A detailed occupational and medical history



- Physical examination



- Ancillary laboratory and/or radiological investigations

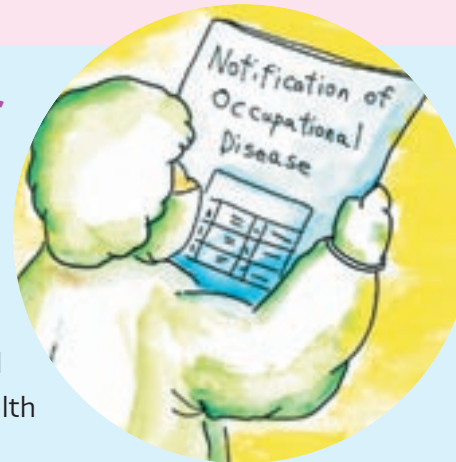
## What happens if the examination results were abnormal?

Depending on the degree of abnormality, the hazardous exposure and the work nature, the doctor may advise the worker that:

- he is medically fit for working in his occupation, but needs to take certain precautionary measures; or
- he should refrain from working in his occupation temporarily until he is confirmed to be medically fit to work again in that occupation; or
- he should refrain from working in his occupation permanently.

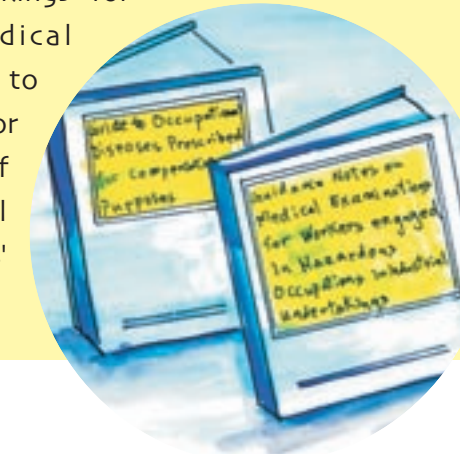
## Should the Labour Department be notified of an occupational disease?

- A doctor is required to notify cases of occupational diseases specified in the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance.
- An employer should notify cases of occupational diseases specified in the Employees' Compensation Ordinance within 14 days of the employees' incapacity, or in the case of death, within 7 days of the death of the employee.



## Further information

Please refer to the "Guidance Notes on Medical Examinations for Workers engaged in Hazardous Occupations in Industrial Undertakings" for further information on medical examinations and to the "Guide to Occupational Diseases Prescribed for Compensation Purposes" for a list of the compensable occupational diseases prescribed in the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.



## Enquiry

If you wish to enquire about this pamphlet or require advice on occupational health and hygiene, please contact the Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the Labour Department through:

**Address** : 15/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

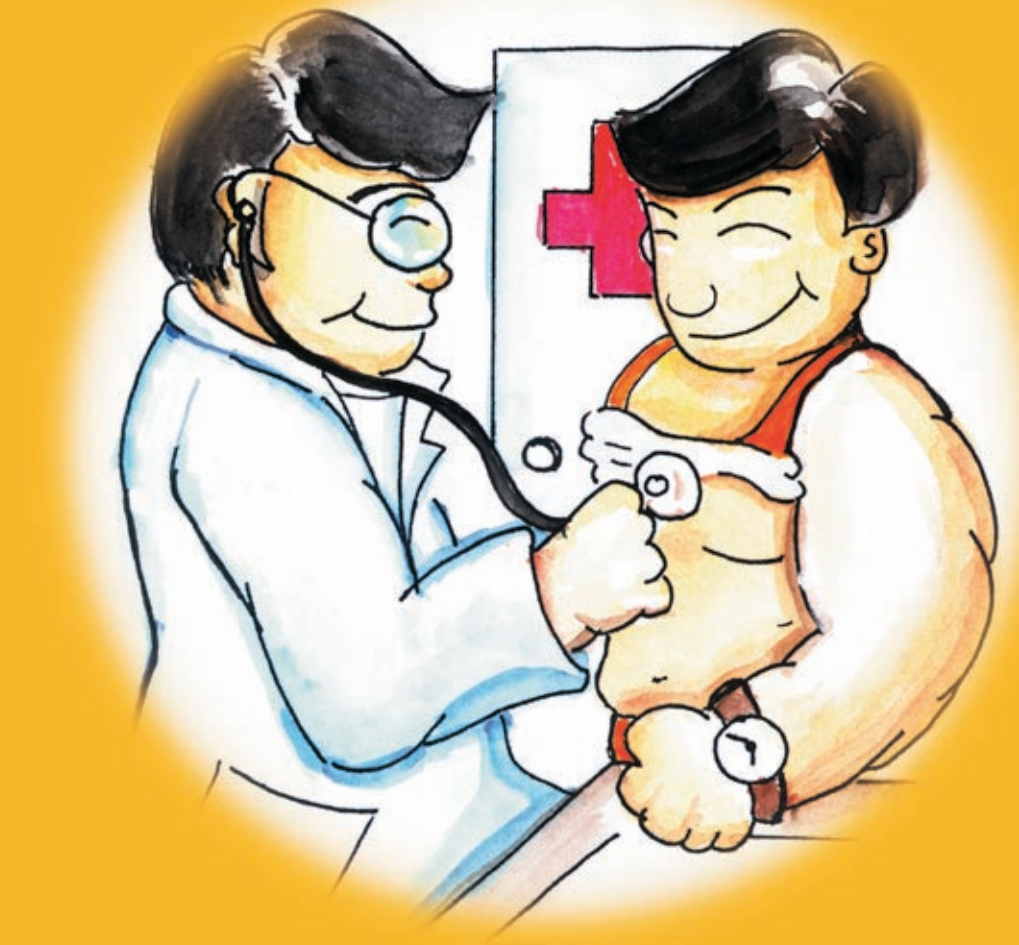
**Telephone** : 2852 4041

**Fax** : 2581 2049

**E-mail** : [enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@labour.gov.hk)

Information on the services offered by the Labour Department and on major labour legislation can also be found by visiting our Home Page in the Internet. Address of our Home Page is <http://www.labour.gov.hk>.

Information on the services offered by the Occupational Safety & Health Council can be obtained through our telephone hotline on 2739 9000.



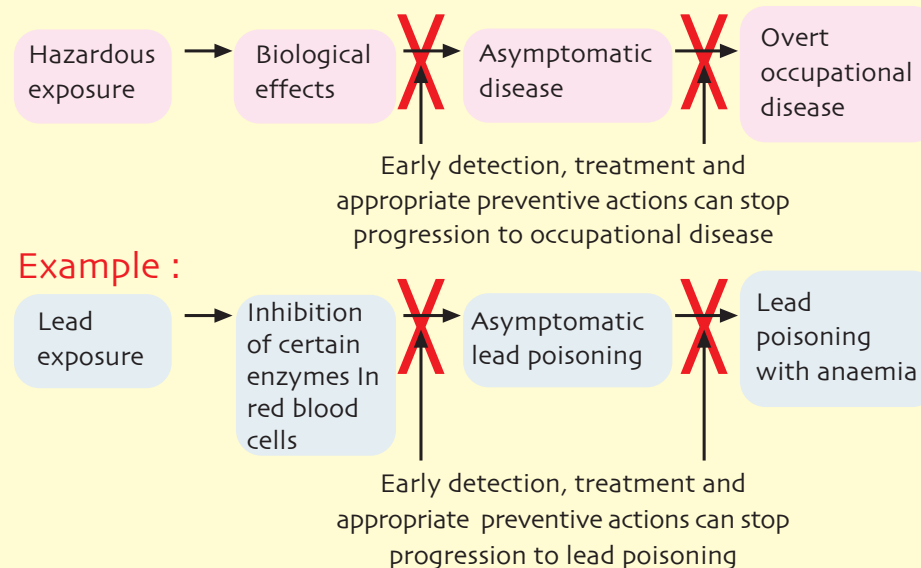
# A Guide to Medical Examinations for Workers engaged in Hazardous Occupations in Industrial Undertakings

## What is health surveillance?

Health surveillance is basically a process of monitoring the health status of persons to determine departures from normal health, so as to identify potential problem areas and the effectiveness of existing preventive strategies. Medical examination is a common means of conducting such surveillance.

## Why is medical examination important?

- Abnormalities or diseases of workers can be detected at an early stage
- Timely treatment can be given to increase the prospect of cure
- Detection of abnormalities or diseases cases can alert employers to review and enhance existing preventive measures



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# Who should undergo medical examinations?

(a) The following workers in industrial undertakings are required by law to undergo medical examinations:

- workers exposed to ionising radiation, asbestos or controlled carcinogenic substances (including alpha-naphthylamine, ortho-tolidine, dianisidine, dichlorobenzidine, auramine and magenta)
- workers engaged in tunnelling work, mines, quarries or compressed air work



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(b) Workers exposed to other hazards in industrial undertakings are also recommended to undergo medical examinations regularly. Below are some examples:

- Silica
- Arsenic
- Cadmium
- Manganese
- Lead
- Mercury
- Organophosphates
- Tar, pitch, bitumen and creosote
- Raw cotton dust
- Benzene
- Methylendiphenyl diisocyanate and Toluene diisocyanate
- Lasers (Class 3B & 4)
- Excessive noise (daily personal noise exposure of 85 dB (A) and above)



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## What types of medical examination are required?

- (a) Pre-employment medical examinations:
- Provide base-line health data of workers
  - Identify those persons who are medically unfit for employment in a particular occupation
- (b) Periodic medical examinations:
- Detect susceptible workers for whom corrective actions are required to stop progression to occupational diseases

## How often should workers be medically examined?

- Depends on the nature of hazardous exposure. For most hazards, the periodic examinations are carried out annually.

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