



## Laga Newsflash

### 2019 SIOD-Action Plan on social fraud prevention: Flash social audits and sector-specific audits

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**The fight against social fraud and social dumping remains a priority for the federal government in 2019. The SIOD (Social Intelligence and Investigation Service) has published its Action Plan on 'social fraud prevention' for 2019.**

The Action Plan was drawn up in consultation with the social inspectorates, labour auditors, the police, the social partners and the government. It comprises 67 concrete actions at national and international level that are collectively intended to ensure a strengthened and more coordinated approach to social fraud and social dumping.

In 2018, the focus was on major social dumping cases in the construction and transport sectors, the problem of social fraud and crime in Belgium's major cities, as well as benefit fraud. The proceeds of the efforts made in 2018 are estimated at EUR 275 million.

#### Priorities for 2019

The priorities for this year are mainly the detection of international social dumping, the further standardisation and digitisation of the social inspectorates and the major-city-policy.

In the fight against international social dumping, both unannounced and announced audits on the work floor by the inspectorates are an important means.

In its strategic policy, the SIOD specifically defined a group of risk sectors in which they exercise increased focus on audits, both announced and unannounced.

## Flash social audits

Within the framework of the Action Plan, it was decided to again organise flash social audits within certain risk sectors.

These are pre-announced audits within a specific risk sector, carried out by the various inspectorates, and are mainly informative and preventive in nature. However, this does not prevent the inspectorates from acting repressively where necessary.

The targeted risk sectors and dates have already been published on the SIOD-website ([Dutch](#) | [French](#)). The SIOD also provides a checklist so that the employer is informed on what can be checked during a social audit. Of course, the inspectorates are free to retrieve all documents that are necessary for the audit.

The following flash social audits are planned for 2019:

- Cleaning sector: 25 January 2019
- Electricity and construction sector: 21 March 2019
- Taxi and transport sector: 17 May 2019
- Catering sector: 6 July 2019
- Agriculture and horticulture sector: 24 September 2019
- Carwash sector: 22 November 2019

## Unannounced audits

In addition to the above flash social audits, there will also be 10,000 unannounced social audits within the group of risk sectors in 2019.

The minimum number of predefined controls per sector within the framework of SIOD actions at national level are:

- Construction: 2,000
- Electricity: 400
- Cleaning: 270
- Catering: 2,200
- Transport of goods: 700
- Meat: 50
- Taxi: 50
- Moving/relocation: 40
- Security: 40
- Agriculture and horticulture: 100
- Carwash: 150
- Metal and technology: 100
- Funeral: 50
- Targeted social dumping actions: 700
- Controls on major cities, including human trafficking (Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Charleroi and Liège): 400
- Yet to be specified additional sectors (including flash social audits): 2,750

## Cooperation between the various inspectorates

These announced and unannounced audits are carried out by the traditional social inspectorates (NSSO, NISSE, FPS ELSD, NEO, NIHDI) together with certain federal government services such as the Economic Inspection, FPS Mobility, FPS Home Affairs and FPS Finance (STI and Customs), supported by the police and the judiciary.

This cooperation between the various inspectorates is also part of the Action Plan. Both at international and national level, further efforts are made to promote cooperation and the exchange of information between the various inspectorates. For example, 'semafoor', a platform for digitised data exchange between the various inspectorates, is further developed.

## How can Laga help you?

Laga's *Employment, Pensions & Benefits* team can assist companies during a social audit and carry out a preventive social audit to check whether all social law and administrative obligations have been met.

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