



Safety in retail in the Caribbean Netherlands

During the period from September 2016 through April 2017 the Labor Inspection conducted 86 inspections in the retail industry in the Caribbean Netherlands. It detected one or more violations at 83 companies. What stands out is that many violations concerned primary safety aspects such as the absence of a first aid kit and fire extinguishing equipment.

Retail industry

The retail industry in the Caribbean Netherlands includes all companies which deliver goods and products to private individuals. It concerns supermarkets, bakers, butchers and shops for furniture and other non-food products. This does not only include companies which are owned by local entrepreneurs. A significant part of the companies in the Caribbean Netherlands are run and owned by foreign nationals and these companies are also included. The inspection project was focused on checking whether the legal regulations regarding occupational safety, remuneration, working hours and work performed by foreign nationals are being observed.

Information

Meetings were held on all three islands prior to the inspections. These information meetings focused on the

legal regulations which apply to the retail industry. The meetings were reasonably well attended. In addition to the meetings, information material was developed in the form of an information pamphlet and a website. The pamphlet focuses on both the employer and employee and is available in Papiamentu, English and Dutch. It was distributed in ample quantities by the inspectors to the companies during the inspections.

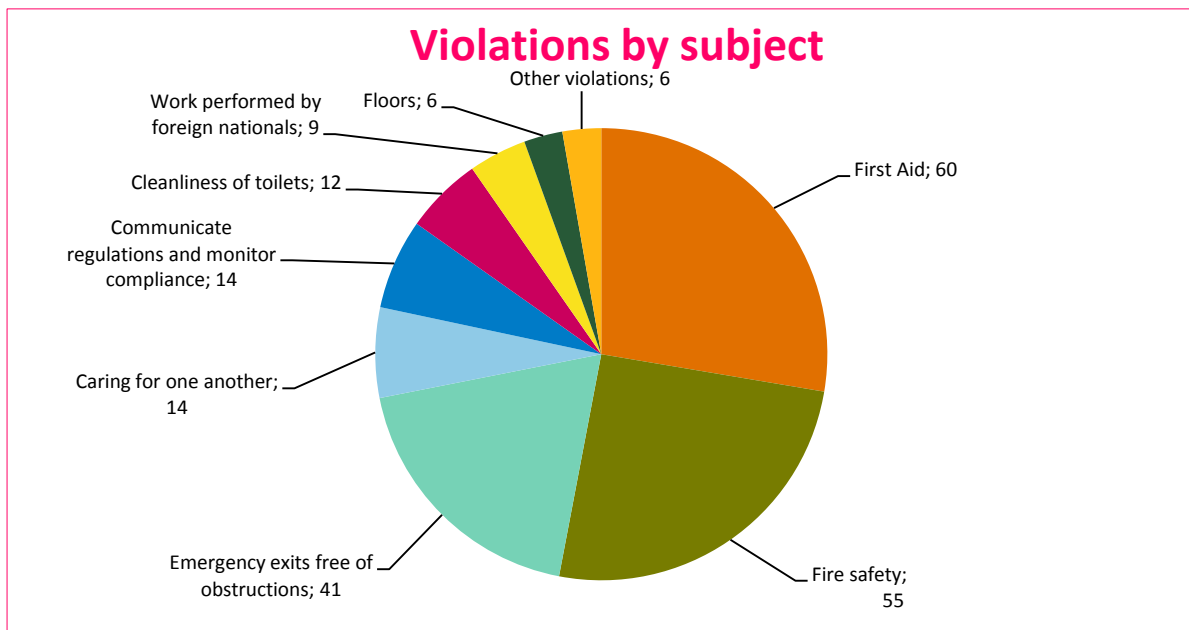
Results of inspections

The Labor Inspection inspected a total of 86 companies on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. It detected one or more violations at 83 of the 86 companies. The chart below shows which violations were detected and which violations stood out the most. A total of 215 violations were detected at 86 companies.



The majority of the violations concerned the absence of a simple first aid kit, problems with emergency exits and escape routes, and the absence of (approved) fire extinguishing equipment. On all three islands these violations were most frequent. The Labor Inspection also detected a relatively large number of violations concerning occupational safety and health, and the management's supervision thereof. This while occupa-

tional safety and health starts with meetings about this topic and providing occupational safety and health instructions. 18 violations related to dirty toilets and bad floors. At nine companies the Labor Inspection detected violations related to the BES Labour Law Foreigners [*Wet arbeid vreemdelingen BES*]. This means that these companies did not have a valid work permit to have a foreign national perform work.





Arbeidsinspectie SZW
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Follow-up

Inspectors mainly used a warning to correct companies during the inspection project. The Labor Inspection performed reinspections 13 weeks after the warnings were sent. The companies where reinspections have already been performed, took measures to resolve the violations. The results of the inspection project will also be brought to the attention of the Public Entities and the CN Fire Department. You can consult the information in the pamphlets via www.ArbeidsinspectieCN.com

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