Workplace Investigations

Contributing Editors

Phil Linnard at Slaughter and May Clare Fletcher at Slaughter and May

09. What additional considerations apply when the investigation involves whistleblowing?



Author: *Chisako Takaya* at Mori Hamada & Matsumoto

See question 4 regarding amendments to the Whistleblower Protection Act.

The person designated as a whistleblower response service employee must not divulge the name, employee ID number, or other information that would allow a whistleblower to be identified without a justifiable reason, and there is a criminal penalty of up to 300,000 yen for violating this duty of confidentiality.

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Author: *Laura Widmer, Sandra Schaffner* at Bär & Karrer

If an employee complains to his or her superiors about grievances or misconduct in the workplace and is subsequently dismissed, this may constitute an unlawful termination (article 336, Swiss Code of Obligations). However, the prerequisite for this is that the employee behaves in good faith, which is not the case if he or she is (partly) responsible for the grievance.

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Contributors

🕨 Japan

Chisako Takaya Mori Hamada & Matsumoto



Switzerland

Laura Widmer Sandra Schaffner Bär & Karrer

www.internationalemploymentlawyer.com