

Workplace Investigations

Contributing Editors

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

01. What legislation, guidance and/or policies govern a workplace investigation?

Switzerland

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

There is no specific legal regulation for internal investigations in Switzerland. The legal framework is derived from general rules such as the employer's duty of care, the employee's duty of loyalty and the employee's data protection rights. Depending on the context of the investigation, additional legal provisions may apply; for instance, additional provisions of the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection or the Swiss Criminal Code.

Last updated on 15/09/2022

Vietnam

Author: *Stephen Le, Trang Le*
at Le & Tran Law Corporation

There are no specific legislative requirements for workplace investigations in Vietnam. However, Labor Code No. 45/2019/QH14 dated 20 November 2019 (2019 Labor Code), which is currently the primary legislation governing employment relationships, requires employers that have more than ten employees to provide a mechanism and procedure for handling sexual harassment cases in the workplace. Other than that, an employer may incorporate policies and guidelines on how to deal with workplace investigations into its handbook.

Last updated on 25/09/2023

12. Can the identity of the complainant, witnesses or sources of information for the investigation be kept confidential?

Switzerland

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

As mentioned under Question 10, the employer's duty of care (article 328, Swiss Code of Obligations) also entails the employer's duty to respect and protect the personality (including confidentiality and privacy) and integrity of employees (article 328 paragraph 1, Swiss Code of Obligations) and to take appropriate measures to protect them.

However, in combination with the right to be heard and the right to be informed regarding an investigation, the accused also has the right that incriminating evidence is presented to them throughout the investigation and that they can comment on it. For instance, this right includes disclosure of the persons accusing them and their concrete statements. Anonymisation or redaction of such statements is permissible if the interests of the persons incriminating the accused or the interests of the employer override the accused' interests to be presented with the relevant documents or statements (see question 11; see also article 9 paragraphs 1 and 4, Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection). However, a careful assessment of interests is required, and these must be limited to what is necessary. In principle, a person accusing another person must take responsibility for their information and accept criticism from the person implicated by the information provided.^[1]

[1] Roger Rudolph, Interne Untersuchungen: Spannungsfelder aus arbeitsrechtlicher Sicht, SJZ 114/2018, p. 390.

Last updated on 15/09/2022

Vietnam

Author: *Stephen Le, Trang Le*
at Le & Tran Law Corporation

The identity of the complainant and witnesses must be kept confidential and cannot be disclosed to anyone, unless both the complainant and witnesses consent to its disclosure or if the employer is asked to disclose this information by the competent authorities under Vietnamese law.

Last updated on 25/09/2023

Contributors

Switzerland

Laura Widmer
Sandra Schaffner
Bär & Karrer

Vietnam

Stephen Le
Trang Le

www.internationalemploymentlawyer.com