

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?



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.

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



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



Switzerland

Laura Widmer Sandra Schaffner Bär & Karrer

www. international employment lawyer. com