



## 1 Introduction

Sweden is a constitutional monarchy with a King as its head of state and an elected Parliament (Riksdag). There are two types of local government bodies in Sweden.

- The 18 County Councils (landsting) is the regional units, and
- The 289 Municipalities (kommun) are the local units.

The Government Offices (Regeringskansliet) comprise;

- the Prime Minister's Office (Statsrådsberedningen),
- eleven ministries and
- the Office for Administrative Affairs (Förvaltningsavdelningen).

Sweden has been a Member State of the European Union since 1 January 1995.

### 1.1 Institutions and links

The Swedish Work Environment Authority (Arbetsmiljöverket): is a central authority under the Swedish Government and its principal aim is to reduce the risks of ill-health and accidents in the workplace and to improve the work environment from the physical, mental, social and organisational viewpoints. The authority is responsible for ensuring compliance relating to the work environment and working hours. It is responsible for inspections and enforcement.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority sets out various plans to improve particular areas of H&S with information, support and targeted enforcement.

Arbetsmiljöverket,  
Lindhagensgatan 133, 112 79 Stockholm, Tfn: 010-730 90 00  
[www.av.se](http://www.av.se)

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap, MSB) is responsible for issues concerning civil protection, public safety, emergency management and civil defense as long as no other authority has responsibility. Responsibility refers to measures taken before, during and after an emergency or crisis

MSB works

- via knowledge enhancement, support, training, exercises, regulation, supervision and our own operations
- in close cooperation with the municipalities, county councils, other authorities, the private sector and various organisations
- to achieve greater security and safety at all levels of society, from local to global

The Swedish Government steers the MSB via a body of instructions and an annual appropriation. The instructions specify the MSB's responsibilities and tasks. The appropriation specifies the objectives and reporting requirements, as well as the resources allocated for MSB administration and MSB activities.

Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap, 65181 Karlstad, Tel.: +46 771-240 240 Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency SE-651 81 KARLSTAD  
[www.msb.se](http://www.msb.se)

The Swedish National Electrical Safety Board (Elsäkerhetsverket, ELSÄK): is a state agency whose task is to prevent injury to persons and damage to property caused by electricity. ELSÄK ensures that electrical equipment and installations are designed and operated so that they do not disturb each other

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when used together. ELSÄK creates regulations for electrical plants, installations, repairs and electrical materials that are to be maintained, operated and inspected.

Elsäkerhetsverket, Drottninggatan 92, Box 1371, 111 93 Stockholm, Tel.: +46 (0)8-508 905 00, <http://www.elsakerhetsverket.se>

Institution	Link
Swedish Work Environment Authority Arbetsmiljöverket	<a href="http://www.av.se">www.av.se</a>
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap, MSB ,	<a href="http://www.msb.se">www.msb.se</a>
Swedish National Electrical Safety Board Elsäkerhetsverket	<a href="http://www.elsakerhetsverket.se">http://www.elsakerhetsverket.se</a>

### 1.2 Regulatory framework

The legislative instruments in Sweden are the following:

**EC Regulations** - decided by the European Council or the European Commission according to the Treaty. EC Regulations apply directly in all Member States.

**Act** - (Lag) Rule of law of a general character, passed by the Parliament (Riksdagen)

**Ordinance** - (Förordning)- a rule of law passed by the Government without the Parliament's participation

**Regulations** - (Föreskrifter) are issued by Governmental authorities, pursuant to acts and ordinances. Regulations are published in the Statute Book of each authority.

**General Guidelines** - (Allmänna råd)-accompany the Regulations, giving guidance on their application.