



Information on a full-time work week for a SLI

Dear WASLI Community, In order to help one of our National Members with their negotiations with the local government for better working conditions for signed language interpreters, we need your help. Does your country or region have a document (guideline, law, professional code,...) that states how many hours a full-time sign language interpreter can or should work? If you do, can you send the document, a link or reference to: secretary.wasli@gmail.com? WASLI will pass on the information. Let's support each other in furthering the development of our profession!

Request sent out October 2019

United States

Best practices RID

<https://rid.org/about-rid/about-interpreting/standard-practice-papers/>

Self Care for Interpreters

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3DKvZMfFLdaHJNeVdsWDJTUUK/view>

Catie Center

<https://healthcareinterpreting.org/category/best-practices/>

DEAF interpreters:

<https://nvrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/CDI-Standard-Practice-Paper.pdf>

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf in the US has a series of short Standard Practice Papers. While there is not a law or set guidelines regarding the number of hours interpreters can or should work, there might be useful information in some of these Standard Practice Papers. In particular the paper titled "Professional Sign Language Interpreting" could prove helpful.

Here is the link to the Standard Practice Papers at RID:

T

Ecuador

Ecuador currently has a practical manual of the sign language interpreter, on page 43 you can find the estimated time of interpretation in relay technique and to determine the time required for the presence of two interpreters.

This manual was built by FENASEC, validated in three meetings in 3 cities in our country with the presence of Ecuadorian Sign Language Interpreters.

Likewise, to inform that as every document is perfectible and changes according to the actuality and needs of the deaf community, we are carrying out, together with the National Association of Interpreters and Interpreters of Ecuadorian Sign Language - ANILSEC some reforms that are typical of the exercise of functions of an ILS.

http://www.cordicom.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2016/04/MANUAL_V3_diagramado.pdf

Australia

<https://aslia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/ASLIA-OHS-Policy.pdf>

Taiwan

Most sign language interpreters in Taiwan are freelancers who can decide how many hours they want to work on their own. As for working hours for full-time interpreters who work in a certain organization, their working hours are stipulated by the Labor Standards Act of Taiwan. More specifically, Article 30 regulates that working hours should be 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week. Article 32 regulates that the over-time working hours should be within 4 hours per day and 46 hours per month.

See the following link for Labor Standards Act

<https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=N0030001>



Labor Standards Act - Article Content - Laws & Regulations Database of T...

New Zealand

There are no specific guidelines (and definitely no legislation) that specify maximum working hours per week, but we do have these Health and Safety guidelines: <https://slianz.org.nz/working-with-interpreters/health-and-safety-guidelines/>

Poland

Concerning your questions. Unfortunately we don't have any legal guidelines, laws concerning sign language interpreters' working hours. There are only few companies or associations that hire full time interpreters, our association being one of them. The interpreters there work typical full time shifts- 8 hours per day, five days a week, sometimes additionally weekends. But that's it, no special regulations for sign language interpreters.

Additionally, the majority of Polish Sign Language interpreters work as freelancers and for many of them interpreting is a part-time job. Those who interpret full-time are very few.

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands there's no maximum for an interpreter. He or she can decide how many hours she/he would like to work as interpreter.

Czech Republic

There is no limit for interpreting hours. But the problem is limit of money for that and difficult condition for payment of interpreters through organization from government.

Malta

We do not currently have any formal documents outlining our working conditions but we work as follows:

SLI are employed by the national disability agency on a full-time basis
Our work week is 40h and includes interpreting, travel between appointments, preparation and administration
SLI have a 2.5h team meeting each week

Switzerland

Procom, the interpreter service in Switzerland has the following rule:

20 hours interpreting per week
80 hours interpreting per month

German region of Switzerland: one full time week includes:
20 hours interpreting and 20 - 22 hours traveling/waiting/preparing

Croatia

We would like to inform you that in Croatia we still don't have any limitations on SLI's working week.

However, since SLI in Croatia are employed through different EU and Croatian Ministries projects we need to work 160 hours/month or 40 hours/ week. This means that it may happen that one day you will be working 4 hours and are expected to work 12 hours the next day to make up for "lost hours" of the previous day.

Ireland

In 2017 CISLI produced a working document on Occupational Health and Safety for Sign Language Interpreters

<https://app.box.com/s/nsbye3kcpsimez3et8q90fq5oh0fxxuc>

Norway

In Norway an interpreter normally interprets 25 hours a week. A normal working week is 37,5 hours so the rest of the time is preparation and commuting.