

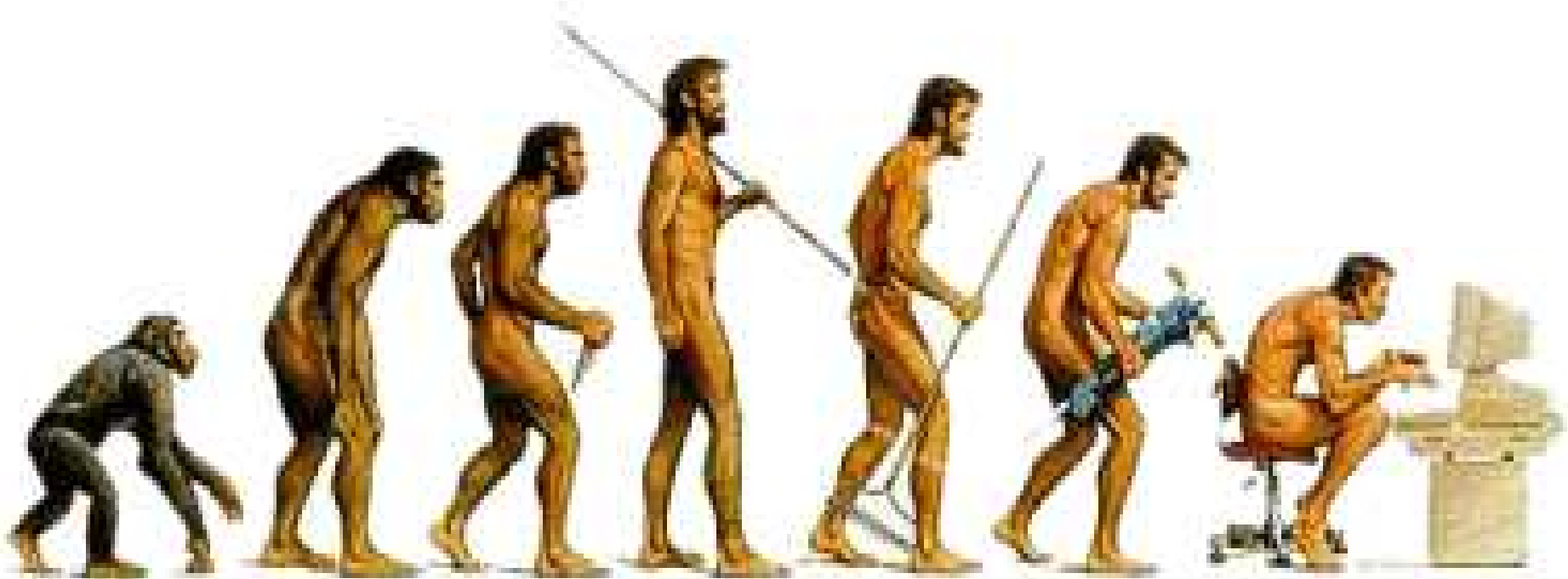


The role of the Occupational Health and Safety Technician and future outlook

President of UNPISI ATS ITALY, Dr. Giovanni Rossi

Part I – Evolution of the profession

To chart the future of this profession, one must first examine its history, grasping the factors that have reshaped the role of the Prevention Technician in today's society.



Profile Evolution

Pre-unification



Grasceri (Grand Duchy of Tuscany)

Provisions Officers (Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia) Municipal

Guardians (Kingdom of the Two Sicilies)



With the establishment of the Kingdom of Italy, these various functions were governed by specific regulations that defined three primary types of surveillance officers



(1890) Vigile Sanitario

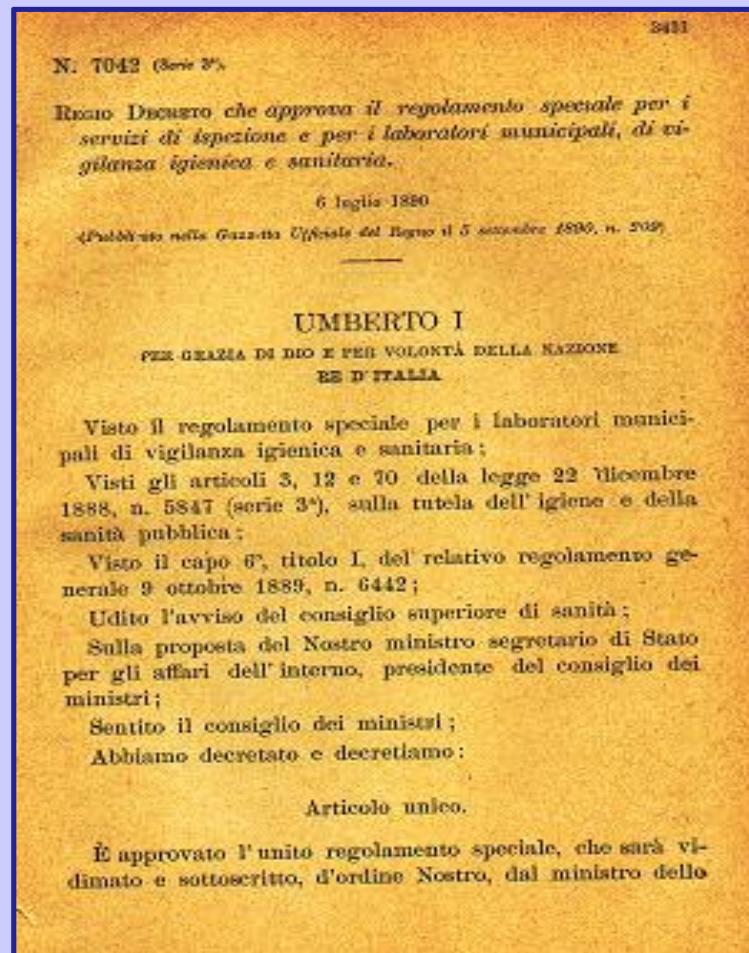
Comunale: Municipal Health Inspector

(1907) Guardie di Sanità: Health Guards

(1934) Vigile Sanitario

Provinciale: Provincial Health Inspector

-Municipal Health Inspector, July 6th, 1890 –
Royal Decree No. 7042 of July 6th, 1890, Articles 2 and 5,
established this role for municipal laboratories.



The duties of the Health Inspector:

- Hygiene conditions of the soil and inhabited areas;**
- Conditions of agricultural industries, manufactories, and factories that could pollute the air and water of inhabited environments;**
- Hygienic state of housing;**
- Public and collective buildings;**
- Factories, warehouses, retail outlets, and markets where food products are prepared and sold;**
- Beverages, food, and items for personal and domestic use.**



Lotta alla Pellagra e alla
Malaria



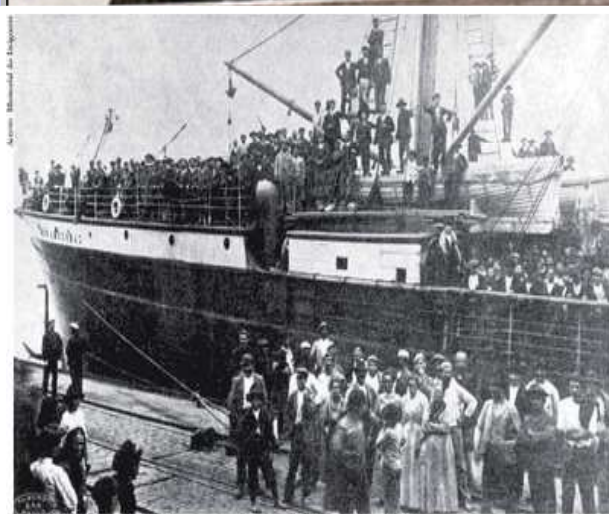
Controllo alimenti



Stato igienico delle case



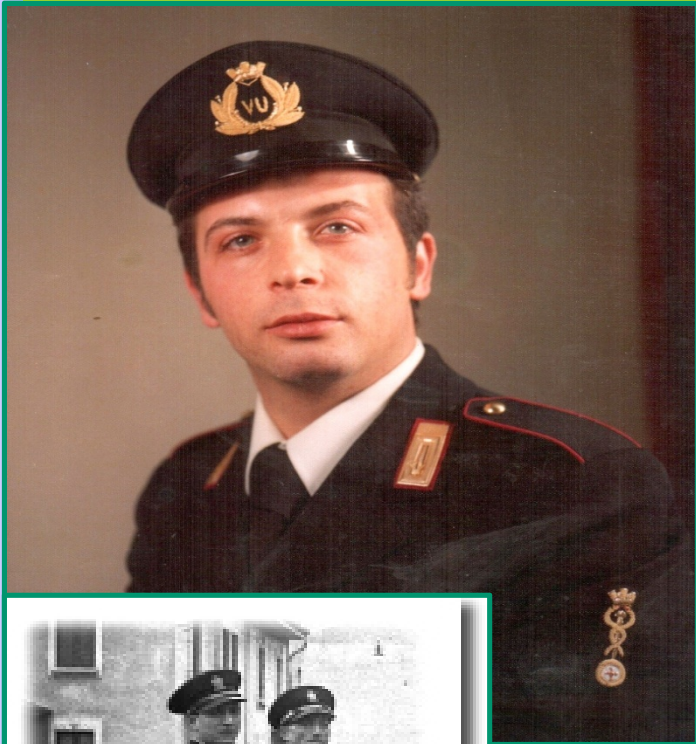
Industrie insalubri



Desembarque de imigrantes no Porto de Santos (SP), 1907.

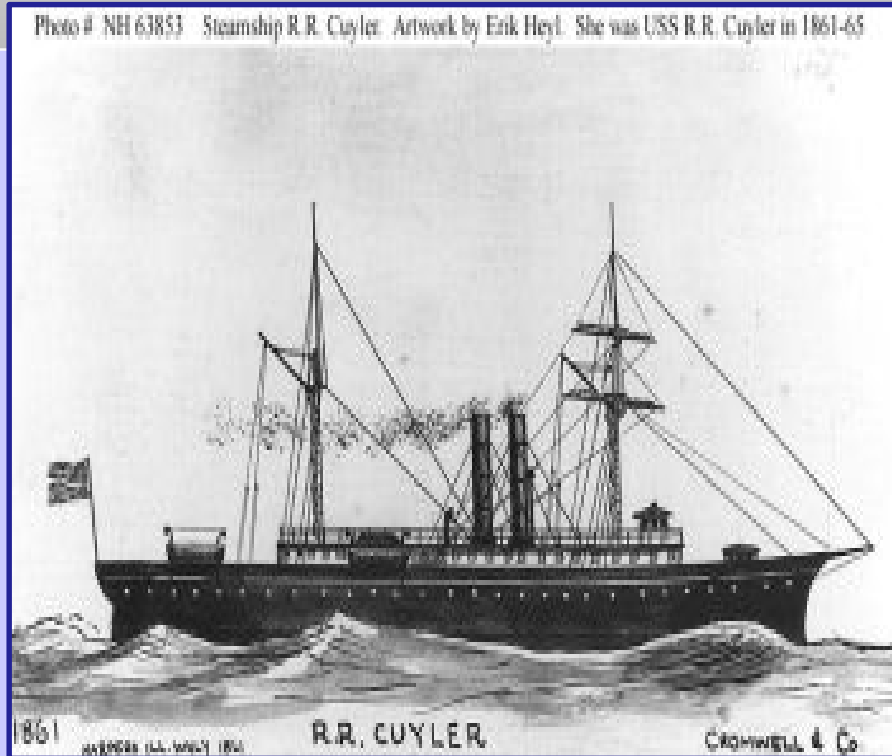
Emigrazione

-The Health Inspection Corps

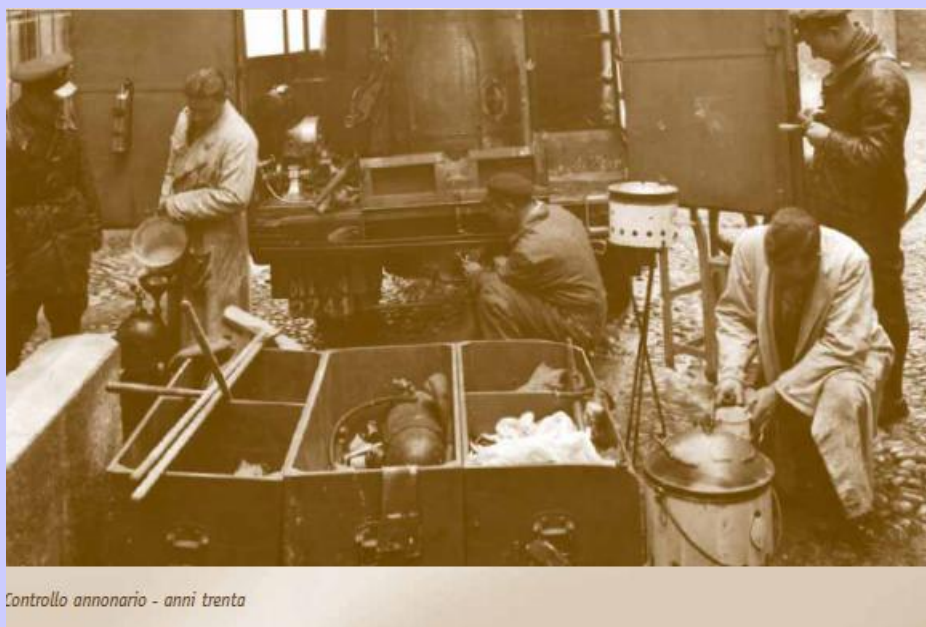
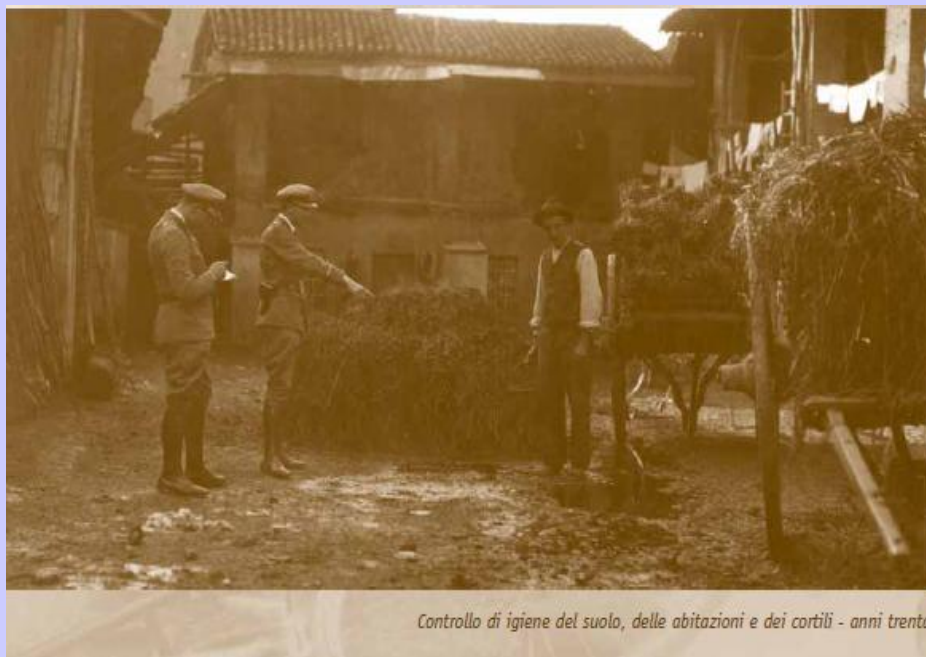


- Health Guards (1907) -

Their duties consisted of assisting the government Health Officer, their direct superior, in carrying out maritime health and hygiene inspections, and reporting to him for all subsequent actions.



- Provincial Health Inspector (1934) -



The 3 Major Italian Healthcare Reforms

1978 (Law 833): Foundation

Creation of the **National Health Service (SSN)**. Universal, free, and equitable system for all citizens. Establishment of **USLs** (Local Health Units).

1992-93 (Leg. Decree 502/517): Corporate Restructuring

"Aziendalizzazione": USLs became **ASLs**, autonomous entities with business-like management. Regionalization of healthcare and introduction of the General Director role.

1999 (Leg. Decree 229 - "Bindi Reform"): Consolidation

Introduction of **LEAs** (Essential Levels of Care) guaranteed to everyone. Integration of social and health services and regulation of private practice within public hospitals.

1978: Healthcare Reform (Law 833/78)

Birth of USL: The dismantling of Provincial Medical Offices initially caused issues due to pay disparities and differing expertise between provincial and municipal staff.

New ASL (Local Health Authority) Functions: Direct management of prevention, control, and inspection in: Workplace Safety and Environment.

Food Sector: Hygiene and safety checks on facilities, equipment, and staff, both in the licensing phase (Health Authorizations) and during operations.



Unification of Inspection Staff

Context: Decree **DPR 761/79** merged inspection personnel from various authorities (State, Provinces, Municipalities, and Mutual Funds) into a **single role**.

Objective: To overcome fragmentation by creating the "**Health & Inspection Officer**", a unified figure with integrated expertise in public health, food safety, and workplace security.





- DECRETO 17 gennaio 1997, n. 58 -
Regolamento concernente la individuazione della
figura e relativo profilo professionale del tecnico
delle prevenzione nell'ambiente e nei luoghi di
lavoro.

(pubblicato sulla G.U. del 14 marzo 1997, n. 61)

Who is the "Tecnico della Prevenzione"?

The **Prevention Technician** (full title: *Prevention Technician in the Environment and the Workplace*) is a graduated health professional responsible for public health protection through prevention, surveillance, and control activities.



. Key Areas of Intervention:

Occupational Health & Safety: Ensuring compliance with regulations to prevent workplace injuries and occupational diseases.

Food Safety: Inspecting the entire food supply chain, from production to consumption, to ensure hygiene standards.

Public Health & Hygiene: Supervising the safety of living environments and consumer products (e.g., cosmetics).

Environmental Protection: Monitoring risk factors affecting the environment and the community

. Prevention Technicians in Italy: Facts & Figures

In Italy, there are **11,812** registered Prevention Technicians (TPALL) as of December 31, 2023.

However, only a portion of them operates within the public sector with inspection duties. Their distribution and numerical strength in public service can be summarized as follows:

Workforce Statistics

Inspection Officers: Approximately **2,108** professionals are actively engaged in surveillance and inspection activities across the national territory. Population Ratio:

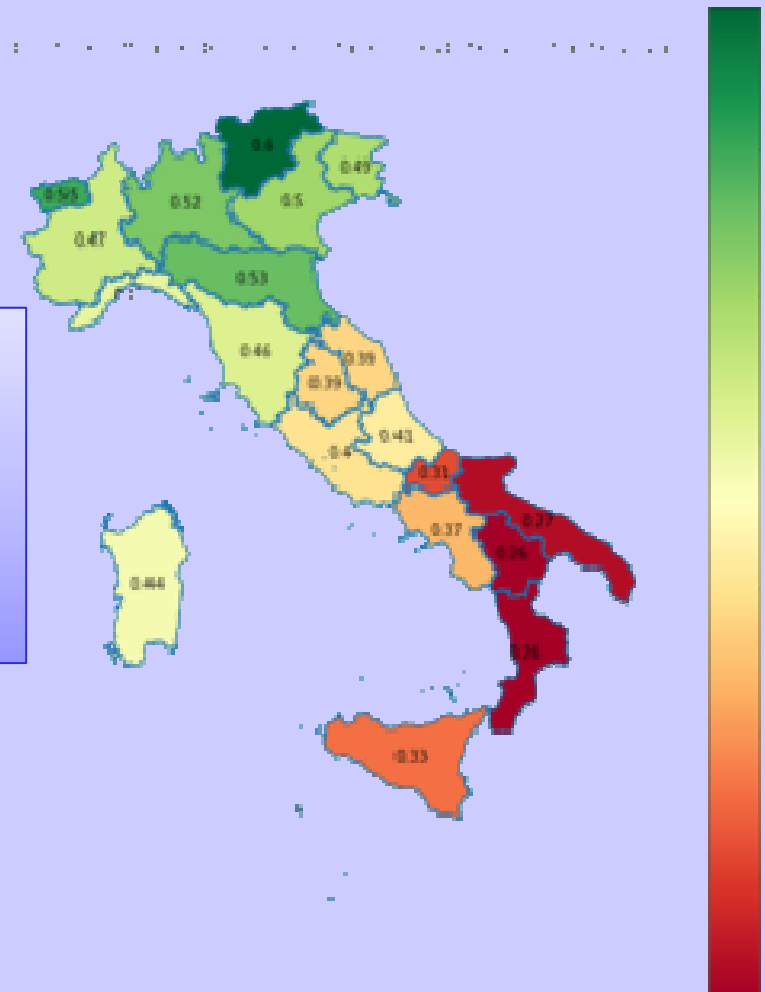
On average, there is only one inspection technician for every 28,000 inhabitants.

Public Sector Distribution

Personnel are primarily employed within the **Prevention Departments** of Local Health Authorities (ASL/ATS), divided into specific functional areas:

Competent Authorities:

- **Ministry of Health** (Central Authority)
- **Regions**
- **Local Health Authorities** (ASL



PSAL (Occupational Health and Safety): Surveillance of construction sites, factories, and businesses to prevent workplace injuries and occupational diseases.

SIAN (Food Hygiene and Nutrition Service): Inspections across the entire food supply chain, from production to service.

SISP (Public Health and Hygiene Service): Supervision of indoor air quality, drinking water, and cosmetics safety.

Public Veterinary Health: Collaboration in hygiene controls for foods of animal origin.



ARPA (Regional Environmental Protection Agencies): Monitoring environmental risk factors such as air, noise, and electromagnetic pollution.



Ministry of Health: Central and peripheral technical roles (e.g., USMAF for maritime and aviation health).

Official Controls: Key Figures (SIAN & Veterinary Services)

ASL Staff: Over 10,000 professionals (Doctors, Veterinarians, Prevention Technicians) operating on the ground.

Technical Support: Approximately 4,100 experts employed in the official laboratory network (IZS and ARPA).

Inspection Activity: More than 200,000 inspections per year at Food Business Operator (FBO) facilities.

Official Controls: Key Figures (SIAN & Veterinary Services)

Analytical Monitoring: Around 30,000 - 40,000 annual samples for chemical and microbiological analysis.

System Effectiveness:

Compliance: Over 90% of inspected facilities meet health and safety standards.

Coverage: Growing trend, with regional peaks exceeding 60% of registered businesses inspected annually.

Slaughtering: Systematic 100% control of all legally slaughtered livestock.

NAS Carabinieri vs. ASL Prevention Technicians Affiliation:



NAS: Military officers of the Carabinieri (under the Ministry of Health).

Technicians (TPALL): Civil health professionals (employed by regional ASLs).

Main Objective:

NAS: Repressive and investigative activity focused on fraud, adulteration, and serious criminal offenses.

ASL Technicians: Preventive and routine surveillance to ensure compliance with hygiene-sanitary requirements and workplace safety.

Scope of Action:

NAS: National operations, often delegated by the **Judiciary**, with a strong focus on pharmaceuticals, doping, and private healthcare.

ASL Technicians: Capillary and scheduled inspections of production and commercial activities within their **local jurisdiction**.

Legal Status: Both act as **Judicial Police**

Officers (*Ufficiali di Polizia Giudiziaria*) during their inspection duties.



GRAZIE dell'Attenzione