

HOME AWAY FROM HOME WHEN WORKING FOR BOUWGENIUS IN THE NETHERLANDS



Our international carpenters leave hearth and home to come and work for BouwGenius in the Netherlands. So it is our duty to make sure they feel welcome, work on suitable projects, the paperwork is correct, the salary is transferred on time and, last but not least, have a nice home. How that works, a nice home? That is what [Adeline Jumelet](#), responsible for the facility issues surrounding the shelters, knows all about.

"As an [NBBU member](#), BouwGenius has to meet the requirements of the Stichting Normering Flexwonen (SNF). For that certificate, the Stichting Normering Flexwonen checks the houses we rent for our foreign employees every year. [There are 10 categories that are checked. These range from fire safety to information provision.](#) The inspections used to be random, but last year, for the first time, there was a 100% check. This means that all our rented houses were physically checked by the inspector. Together with the inspector, I visited over 100 shelters in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany in six days. Sometimes we drove 700 kilometres in one day. The landlords of the properties also attended these visits. They were intensive and fun days," Adeline says of her 2023 start.

"We go through the whole property together. The inspector makes a report and also indicates on the spot what needs to be adjusted. For example, there must be working smoke detectors, and there must be a fire blanket and fire extinguisher at every cooking facility. These are key points (so-called majors) that must be resolved within six weeks," Adeline says of the inspections. "But sometimes more drastic adjustments are needed. Consider, for example, the window in a bedroom, which must be at least half a square metre in size to let in enough daylight. Is the window too small? Then it has to be replaced within a year. Otherwise, BouwGenius can no longer use that bedroom."

WIFI

A few homes require some minor adjustments but most are approved immediately, Adeline laughs: "That means my colleagues Janita and Milou from housing succeed in their mission. They often search and book the houses online, so nice to see that the property meets expectations. AND it means our men have a pleasant place to stay. Of course, the owners of the houses are also happy that they pass the inspection. For themselves, but also because they like to contribute to our employees feeling safe at home. In some respects, BouwGenius goes even further than the SNF prescribes: our employees always have their own bedroom, regardless of whether the accommodation is for 3 or 10 people. Plus," adds Adeline, "let's not forget good

WiFi. Key for contact with the home front. With WiFi, our men can eat "together" with their families while video calling, for example."

PERSONAL CONTACT

Full of pride, Adeline explains why she loves her job so much: "We have a beautiful collection of accommodations. With a rural location or, on the contrary, picturesque in the historic city centre of Kampen and Brielle. My personal mission is to give our employees a "home away from home". That starts with a nice home



and gets better through personal attention. I am there for them, available for questions, information or if something needs to be taken care of like a broken microwave oven. That's why my working week is from Saturday to Wednesday. Especially on weekends, our craftsmen are at home of course, I visit to answer questions, check homes and liaise with landlords. I am always welcomed with a big smile and a cup of tea. Because of this personal contact I perform my job with heart and soul."

WHY STILL WORK WITH A NON-CERTIFIED EMPLOYMENT AGENCY?

[Paul Muller, Managing Director of BouwGenius](#) adds on this topic: "There are over 800,000 migrant workers in the Netherlands and only 125,000 SNF-certified beds. That means that many migrant workers are probably not nearly as comfortable living as employees of NBBU employment agencies. And that is putting it weakly. I don't understand why there are still clients who work with non-certified agencies. Besides the fact that working with a certified temping agency safeguards a client from liability, as a hirer, don't you want a rested temporary worker who is feeling well? Yes, I am proud of how we fulfil the "home-away-from-home" feeling.