

CIS Newsletter January 2002 No.148

CIS Newsletter celebrates 14 years & still going strong! Bringing news to over 135 countries in the CIS Network

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Editorial - January 2002

Dear CIS Colleagues

Happy New Year to everyone, hope it is healthy, safe and successful for you, your colleagues and your families. We look forward to 2002 with all its challenges and opportunities ahead for us to help improve the knowledge of all workers through disseminating validated and authoritative information, which at all times, should be timely and presented in usable formats.

Important News from Geneva:

There are news items for you in this edition from CIS HQ in Geneva -

- the launch of the CIS Centres web site
- the launch of ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (see write-up in this newsletter)
- the report of the 2001 annual meeting

As urged in the December 2001 Newsletter we should all make greater efforts in our own country to promote CIS activities and products and try to get some of the income streams back for CIS.

2002 Annual Meeting in Vienna Austria.....will be on Sunday 26 May 2002 at the ILO Congress and Exhibition. CIS members may wish to go to the ILO Triennial Congress, exhibition and other events such as the multi-media show. As a result, no other workshops are planned. It appears unlikely that any preferential delegate fees to the Conference and Exhibition will be made available to CIS members.

ANY COUNTRY/CIS CENTRE RECEIVING TECHNICAL AID WHO BELIEVE THEY MAY QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT EMMERT CLEVENSTINE AT CIS HQ

IMMEDIATELY. REMEMBER THE MEETING IS ONLY 4 MONTHS AWAY! and time flies by very quickly!!!!

Also remember to send to Geneva HQ any items which you wish to have placed on the agenda. You should send as soon possible any items you wish to have discussed. Also remember to send your annual reports in early.

Members may be interested in the following event to be held in the UK the week after the CIS Meeting and ILO Congress.

27-31 May 2002 - 2nd International Fire Information Conference and visits: organised by InFIRE and the Fire Information Group, UK, to be held at the Imperial Hotel, London, UK - full details were sent with CIS Newsletter November 2001 edition.

URGENT NOTICE FROM JAPAN

See below for details sent by Koichi Igarashi, JIHSA about training course places available in 2002..... now is your chance to obtain further training.

Thanks to all the contributors to this edition of your Newsletter - all news however small is most welcomed. If you are planning any publications, seminars or training courses, then please send your details to me so that we can share your efforts with others. Don't forget to send me your latest news!

You know I welcome ideas for inclusion in the future editions of this Newsletter. Let me know if there are any areas you would wish to see covered in future.

A number of individuals and organisations have let me know that wish to receive the Newsletter by email.... just let me know and I will send it.

Best wishes to you and your colleagues.
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CIS NETWORK OF NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTRES.....

WORKING TOGETHER AND HELPING EACH OTHER....

News from Geneva

Welcome www.ciscentres.org
to the Information Network of the CIS Centres!

.....says the headline message on this new website which is the product of the ongoing co-operation of the [International Occupational Safety and Health](#)

[Information Centre \(CIS\)](#) and its *National and Collaborating Centres* all over the world. The goal of this Network is to help its members and the rest of the world to find information from the participating countries on subjects related to occupational safety and health (OSH).

Providers of the information are the *CIS Centres* and *CIS* itself. The organizational work stays with *CIS*. The operation of the Network is generously offered by the [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\)](#).

The web site also has a number of topics - some still under construction and need more information. Among the topics are Legislation, Good Practice, Publications, Research Statistics, News and Events for example. The site is available in French, Spanish and English.

The intention is to have a few pages in a uniform format for each Centre, to reinforce the idea that we are all members of a network, with users led easily to the Centres own home sites. The **CIS Centres Information Network** can be accessed in three languages (English, French and Spanish).

Centres are invited to provide the content. The Centres site is mainly a gateway to all the institutional sites and *CIS* hopes to be able to provide a presence on the Centres site **for those institutions that do not yet have one of their own**, as well as to point users to those that do.

Since several of the European Centres are also members of the network organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in Bilbao, and a few are national focal points, it needs to be said that the Centres portal is not intended to be competitive - indeed, the ILO appears as an international focal point on the Agency site - or necessarily even consciously complementary. The functionality of the Agency site has been a great inspiration to the designers of the Centres site, but care is being taken to avoid confusing users with too similar a look, in order to provide the world with two independent but mutually reinforcing portals.

The searchable *CIS* database of institutions in the field of occupational safety and health at www.ilo.org/cis, under the heading *CIS Network - Direct Access*, and the alphabetic directories at the *CIS* site will continue to provide the world with other routes of access to the Centres.

CIS Centres are invited to visit the *CIS Centres* site and to send input, comments and suggestions. The value of this portal depends on the information provided by the participants, the *CIS Centres*, and it can only be done with your help! On the other hand, your participation as a *CIS Centre* on this portal will give you better on-line visibility and provide you with the possibility of more efficient cooperation.

CIS Centres Club

CIS Centres Club is part of the web site and is an e-mail-based discussion group, or "mailing list". It was created to provide a facility for the exchange of ideas and information among staff at *CIS* and the *CIS National and Collaborating Centres*. *CIS Centres Club* is hosted by the [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety](#).

It is a **closed** discussion group, limited to the staff of CIS and CIS National and Collaborating Centres. If you work for a CIS National or Collaborating Centre and would like to participate in the CIS Centres Club, please contact the discussion group administrator at cccadmin@ilo.org.

CIS Annual Meeting Report 2001

CIS Centres should have received copies of the CIS Annual Meeting Report 2001 which contains the report of the meeting, the outcomes of the three Workshops, the presentation by IPEC on Abolishing the Worst Forms of Child Labour, outcomes from the General Discussion groups, and Annual Reports from a number of CIS Centres.

Now is the time to make your 2002 report and send it into Geneva so that your centre's activities are known to the rest of the world.

Anyone who has not yet received the 2001 report should contact CIS HQ Geneva.

ILO-OSH 2001

ILO-OSH 2001 is a very important publication which has just been issued by Safework. There is a 4 page summary at the end of this newsletter which you can use and circulate to others in your country to make them aware of this important publication.

ILO-OSH 2001 provides a unique international model, compatible with other management system standards and guides. It is not legally binding and not intended to replace national laws, system standards and guides.

ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines encourages the integration of OSH management systems with other management systems and states that OSH should be an integral part of business management.

It is expected that this will be used as the major tool across the world. Currently in English with the French and Spanish versions available from January 2002, the ILO Safework inform that the translation of the Guidelines into German, Portuguese and Japanese, by JISHA - the Japanese Industrial Safety and Health Administration are almost completed. Safework is also discussing with national authorities and agencies for the translation into other languages. The German government have already established a tripartite committee to develop a national framework on OSH Management System.

For further information contact:

ILO Safework, Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 799 6740 Fax: +41 22 799 8516

NEWS FROM JAPAN

2002 Training Courses in Japan.....places still available!!! Act now!!!

Koichi Igarashi writes.....

As I explained at the 2001 CIS Meeting, a number of JICA Training Courses will be held this year - 2002.

Although JICA already called for participants, there are still some available. Then JICA asked us to call participants again. We appreciate if you put the following information to CIS Newsletter.

Kindly informed that Training Courses of FY 2002, organised by JICA, will be held as the following schedule in Japan.

We would like to ask you to call participants as quickly as possible and then contact JICA Office or Japanese Embassy in your country. Then please inform them that your country wants to send participants for these training courses.

JICA will inform you the procedure of application. Please note that JICA will bear round-trip air-ticket, accommodation fee, and other local expenses in Japan.

The courses are:

1) Working Environment Improvement Technology (WEIT)
Time: August to September 2002 (about 8 weeks) in OSAKA

2) Biological Monitoring in Occupational Health (BM)
Time: January to March 2003 (about 9 weeks) in Osaka

3) Seminar on Policy of Industrial Safety
Time: October 2002 (not finalised schedule) in Tokyo

Koichi Igarashi, Managing Director, JISHA
e-mail: kokusai@jisha.or.jp

Good News from the European Commission - free access to official documents and the OJ

In line with the various European Commission institutions' transparency policy, as from 1 January 2002, access to and consultation of all official documents available in the EUR-Lex portal, especially to documents published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ), will be **free of charge**, irrespective of adoption or publication date, or the formats involved. Access to the value-added service, CELEX, with its powerful search facilities, analytical information as well as forthcoming services will continue to be subject to payment either by subscription or on a pay-as-you-view basis.

The OJ is available in the eleven official languages of the European Union.
See web site <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>

Spain takes over the Presidency of the European Union

From 1 January to 30 June 2002 Spain takes over the Presidency of the European Union with a very active programme of work entitled "**More Europe**". The challenges faced by the Union in the coming months are many:

- the fight against terrorism
- the introduction of the euro
- continuing economic and social reforms
- fulfilling the enlargement schedule
- developing a European foreign and defence policy, and
- the debate about the future of Europe

Only if specific advances are achieved in these priority areas will it be possible to ensure that Europe becomes the area of Prosperity, Openness, Freedom and Security that its citizens are demanding. The ultimate goal of "More Europe" is responding to European citizens' expectations.

More information about the Spanish Presidency and the programme can be found on the new web site www.ue2002.es

www.oshworld.com is launched

Newly launched is this very informative occupational health, safety, fire, environment and chemical information service. Contains Editorial, Focus articles, Diary of Events, News, and links to hundreds of validated and authoritative sites worldwide. All the web links - both subject and country have been extensively researched and the lists greatly extended. Sometimes valuable information on specific OSHE topics are "lost" within the extensive websites. OSHWORLD highlights these for you, for example if you are looking for asbestos information you will find some excellent sites which have been identified. You will also find links to OSHE bookshops, a "Reference Shelf" containing quick routes to information which may be required on a day-to-day basis, products, diary of events and more.....

Also shows how to cost effectively search the Internet. Bookmark this portal for future reference!

Please note...update your bookmarks

..... you may have used the SilverPlatter Health and Safety World web site www.hs publishing.com/hsworld which I have edited for 5.5. years. This ceased on 20 November 2001

.....**use www.oshworld.com**

and quote this URL

News from Korea

KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter

The full text of the latest KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter can be found at <http://www.kosha.or.kr/english/english.htm>

Main topics include:

- > Ministry of Labour establishes occupational disease-preventive measures
- > OSH Statistics -Ministry of Labour announces results of survey conducted on the fatal accidents related to work at government institutions

UPDATE of events in KOREA are as follows:

- *Asbestos exposure standards strengthened by 20 times
- *'Occupational Accident Prevention Campaign Period' "Let's make Korea the safest country in the world"
- *President stresses augmentation of fire fighters
- *Ministry of Labour conducts winter safety inspection covering some 600 construction sites
- *'SAFE KIDS Korea' the Children's safety watchdog born- Citizens Solidarity for Safety Practice and DAEKYO held a children safety symposium -
- *KOSHA 2000 program introduces tailored model covering each type of business
- *KOSHA begin full operation of the visiting Health Help Service System
- *Chemical plant safety map developed and installed in Yeosu city for the first time-
- Degree of risk at workplaces can be seen at a glance
- *Number of participants in virtual safety training exceeds 10,000.
- *Cooperation with TUV Korea regarding S-mark certification
- *Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute signs a research agreement with Japan's National Institute of Industrial Health -
- *KOSHA opens Occupational Safety Patent Exhibition Room
- *NEW MATERIALS/INFORMATION Partial translated Korean version of ILO Occupational safety and health encyclopaedia published; KOSHA builds additional Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) covering 17,000 kinds of chemicals

For more information contact KOSHA
<http://www.kosha.net/>

News from NIOSH

Doris Sweet - RTECS Editor retires

Many people who have used RTECS - the Registry of Toxic Effects in Chemicals will know of the quality of the information in the database. RTECS has been very carefully edited for many years by Doris Sweet who many will know personally.

Doris retired from NIOSH and Government Service on 2 January 2002.

NIOSH are in the final stages of RTECS as a NIOSH project, and licensing it out to MDL Information Services.

We wish Doris a happy and well earned retirement and thank her for all her hard work over the years.

News from the UK

TUC poll – British public urge crackdown on safety crimes

People in Britain want to see more companies prosecuted for breaking health and safety laws and more health and safety inspectors to catch them, according to a poll conducted for the TUC. A conference at the TUC discussed the findings and press for "Law enforcement and corporate accountability".

Of those expressing a view in a poll of over 1,000 telephone interviews, more than twice as many people said that they want to see more rather than fewer health and safety prosecutions (45% to 19%). Last year there were 376 deaths at work, 30% of which are likely to lead to an employer being prosecuted and in only 4 cases are manslaughter charges likely.

Even more people want to see extra safety inspectors. Overall, two thirds (66%) of those expressing a view said there are not enough inspectors. There are currently just 3000 workplace health and safety inspectors despite there being around 1 million injuries in workplaces last year.

TUC Head of Organisation and Services, Frances O'Grady, will tell the conference:

'People at work are fed up with bad bosses who avoid their responsibilities.

'The public clearly want more prosecutions so that employers who injure their workers are held accountable. Allied with this, we need to see higher fines so that companies have a genuine financial incentive to care for their workforce as well as a moral obligation.'

The newly merged union representing Health and Safety Executive inspectors, Prospect, launched a campaign to secure resources for employing more inspectors. Prospect Joint General Secretary Paul Noon said:

'The cost of putting in place a framework of safety inspections with enough inspectors to carry them out would only be about £35m extra in real terms each year.

'We want this money spent on doubling the number of safety inspectors so that workplaces are inspected at least every five years. Currently, employers can expect to be inspected once every 10-15 years, if at all.'

http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-4035-f0.cfm

All TUC press releases can be found at www.tuc.org.uk

New TUC Publication

A new book from the TUC, **Keeping well at work**, is available to order for £8.99 by calling +44 20 7739 3539.

For more info see http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-4032-f0.cfm

Other enquiries:

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Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS, UK

News from the USA

ASTM International Name Change Reflects Global Scope

ASTM, one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world, has announced a change in its name. The change to ASTM International reinforces the openness of the ASTM standards development process to worldwide input as well as reflecting the global application and use of ASTM standards.

Today, membership in ASTM International exceeds 30,000 technical experts from more than 100 countries who comprise this worldwide standards forum. "From its inception, the ASTM method of developing standards has been based on consensus without borders," notes ASTM International's President James A. Thomas. "Our process ensures that interested individuals and organizations representing industry, academia, consumers, and governments alike, all have an equal vote in determining a standard's content."

Founded in 1898 as the American Chapter of the International Association for Testing and Materials and most recently known as the American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM International is a not-for-profit organization that provides a global forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems and services. ASTM standards are accepted and

used in research and development, product testing, quality systems, and commercial transactions around the globe.

Charles Ludolph, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe in the United States Department of Commerce, commented, "ASTM standards play a vital role in international trade. ASTM's open process welcomes individuals throughout the world. As a result, ASTM facilitates the development of standards that can be used on a worldwide basis and play a vital role in aiding global trade."

To facilitate global input into the standards development process, ASTM International uses on-line technologies that further encourage open participation and responsiveness to industry needs. They include Internet-based Standards Development Forums enabling 24/7 access worldwide, on-line balloting, electronic minutes and templates, and state-of-the-art distribution methods.

ASTM International's efforts to build global cooperation in the standards development process were the focal point in a number of recent events:

22 Countries Attend ASTM International Open House on November 29 and 30 2001 with leaders of the National Standards Bodies of some 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as Canada. "ASTM is highly engaged throughout all parts of the world. By hosting the standards leadership of these regions, we hope to collaborate even further in the future," explains Kathleen (Kitty) Kono, ASTM Vice President, Global Cooperation.

Colombia and Uruguay

In October 2001, ASTM signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the national standards body of Colombia, Instituto Colombiano de Normas Tecnicas y Certificacion (ICONTEC). The document enhances the ability of ASTM and ICONTEC standards to support the needs of the Colombian people, continue growth of the Colombian economy, and aid in the development of Colombian national standards for health, safety, and the environment.

ASTM Technical Committees Increase Global Efforts

ASTM's technical committees, which represent industry fields ranging from metals to the environment, have a long history of international activity. Most recently, Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials and Applications signed an MOU with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) highlighting the acceptance and use of globally accepted standards, such as those of D01, to meet the needs of all stakeholders in the paint and coatings industry.

Meanwhile, global activity in several other ASTM committees continues to strengthen. Committees experiencing increased global participation are: A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys, D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants, D24 on Carbon Black, D30 on Composite Materials, E28 on Mechanical Testing, and F24 on Amusement Rides.

For more information on the global activities of ASTM International, contact [Kitty Kono](#), Vice President, Global Cooperation Tel: + 1610-832-9687; fax: 610-832-9599

OFFSHORE RESEARCH NEWS

Issue 134 of Offshore Research Focus has been published on the ORF Web Site at www.orf.co.uk. The newsletter copy is being printed and will be distributed shortly.

Provided below are some brief article summaries with web site to each article:

"Deterioration and Spalling of High Strength Concrete Under Fire"

An investigation into high strength concrete spalling has been carried out for the HSE. The report from the study provides qualitative and some quantitative information for making decisions regarding concrete constituents and curing.

www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=concrete

"Beyond Design Lifetime Criteria for Offshore Cranes"

Description of a new HSE report that presents a review of regulatory requirements and best practice, including guidance, to assist HSE inspectors when assessing a dutyholders' compliance with the relevant regulations for offshore cranes.

www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=cranes

"New Report on Offshore Helideck Design Published"

Report on a study for the HSE to provide guidance on the effects of recent developments on the structural design of offshore helidecks and to consider the adequacy of current design codes.

www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=helideck

"Report Shows Reduction in Major Hydrocarbon Releases"

Brief description of the report on the Hydrocarbon Release Incident Investigation Project. The aim of the project was to investigate all offshore hydrocarbon releases over the 12 month period 1/4/00 to 31/3/01 and analyse them to identify causes and remedial measures.

www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=releases

"Statistical Analysis of Safety Performance on Offshore Installations"

Report of the key findings from a series of four projects carried out by Liverpool University to analyse offshore incident data, specify appropriate statistical methods and identify questions that could be addressed with the available incident data. www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=analysis

"New Pressure Relief and Blowdown System Guidelines"

Report on studies undertaken as part of a joint industry project to develop new guidelines on the design and operation of relief and blowdown systems. The aim of the research was to validate and compare methodologies currently used and to assess their appropriateness for the practical aspects of relief systems.

Link: www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=guidelines

"Inspecting and Auditing the Management of Emergency Response"

A source of information for HSE inspectors when drawing up inspection and audit initiatives in the field of offshore emergency response management has been prepared

as part of a project recently completed by Link Associates International Ltd.

www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=response

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News from Russia

Alexey Bondarenko, CIS Unit, VCOT, Moscow, Russia writes:

In 2001 our All Russia Centre for Occupational Safety and Health (ARCOSH) was involved in the literary and scientific editing of the Russian printed version of ILO OHS Encyclopaedia. Three volumes (of four) are published so far. The fourth one is expected in February 2002.

We also organised the All Russia Conference on OSH Scientific Research and some seminars with international participation: Lifelong Learning, OSH costs and benefits (within the framework of ILO project in Russia) , European Social Charter.

For me personally this year was rather tough but fruitful - I had several publications in the OKHRANA TRUDA I SOTSIALNOE STRAKHOVANIE Magazine (some 22000 copies throughout Russia).

Apart from OSH matters, I produced a Russian - Modern Greek and Modern Greek - Russian Dictionary of Common and Business Terms (not big - some 12000 words and terms). The book will be published in the beginning of 2002.

News from Belgium from the TUTB

Issue 17 of TUTB Newsletter has been published and the full-text of articles are available on : www.etuc.org/tutb/uk/newsletter.html

Articles include:

DOSSIER SPECIAL

Interdiction de l'amiante

L'amiante à l'OMC : une victoire immédiate - des menaces à terme

Nouvelles initiatives pour l'interdiction de l'amiante dans le monde
"Sortir de l'amiante" : quelle stratégie pour la protection de la santé ?

LEGISLATION EUROPEENNE

La révision de la directive Machines

Directive Bruit : un pas en avant sous la présidence suédoise

Mise en oeuvre de la directive Machines. Une enquête du BTS

Vibrations : le Conseil a adopté une position commune

SPECIAL REPORT

Asbestos ban :Asbestos disputes in the WTO : battle won - but not the war

Asbestos - not wanted in the world

"Doing away with asbestos" : what strategy for health protection ?

EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

Revision of the Machinery Directive

The Implementation of the Machinery Directive. A TUTB survey

Noise Directive : a step forward under the Swedish Presidency

Workers' exposure to vibrations: Council common position

MSD: Opinion on MSD : An impulse for new initiatives from the European Commission

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Website Design Guidelines

Version 2 of the UK Government Website Design Guidelines is now available on the e-Envoy website at: www.e-envoy.gov.uk/webguidelines.htm

There is a Framework for senior managers - a summary of main points of the Guidelines and changes from the first version.

A version of the Guidelines for use by local authority web management teams is being developed by the Digital Communications team in consultation with representatives from local government. They will consult widely when a draft is available, though they've invited web developers to get in touch with them in advance of this notification at webguidelines@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

Also coming soon: an Illustrated handbook for web management teams will be out for consultation in the Government Web Developer community.

News from the ILO

Contribution of disabled people is being lost worldwide - to their own livelihood, to their families, to employers and to society as a whole - says ILO

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations specialised agency with global responsibility for labour and employment issues, launched a new *Code of Practice on Managing Disability in the Workplace* at a meeting in London to coincide with the International Day for Disabled Person, Monday 3rd December 2001.

The background to the code is:

The unemployment rate among disabled people is more than double the workforce as a whole, and often higher

Many of the obstacles which people face in the search for jobs and at work arise as much, if not more, from social barriers, than from a genuine inability to work

Unemployment among disabled persons is significantly higher than in the workforce as a whole - at least double this rate, but often higher, with some countries reporting a rate as high as 80% of the labour force of disabled person

There are approximately 610 million persons with disabilities in the world, of whom 386 million are of working age, and 80% live in developing countries, mostly in rural areas

The new ***ILO Code of Practice on Managing Disability in the Workplace***, provides guidance to enterprises on how to recruit people with disabilities and maintain employment for workers who become disabled. It is the first of its kind and can be applied by all employers, in both developed and developing countries..

Also launched was a new guide, entitled ***Unlocking Potential: The New Disability Business Case***, published by the Employers' Forum on Disability in association with the ILO will be introduced. In his introduction to this publication Göran Hultin, Executive Director of the Employment Sector of the ILO, says: "Unlocking Potential proposes a sophisticated business case argument and end with a call to action, reminding us that business, government, trade unions and the not-for-profit sector must combine forces if business is to benefit fully from the contribution of people with disabilities."

The ILO Code of Practice "Managing Disability in the Workplace" and "Unlocking Potential: The New Disability Business Case", are available through ILO-London, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP, UK Tel: 020 7828 6401 on request, free of charge.

ILO Code of Practice "Managing Disability in the Workplace" may also be accessed via the ILO website www.ilo.org/london.

Hazards Magazine aims to be a source of up-to-date information for union safety representatives, but should be read by all those seeking health and safety information. The latest edition - No.76 of this quarterly magazine is full of information, warnings, news items, reviews, events and latest outpourings from the Hazards Safety Watchdog.

Further information regarding subscriptions and orders contact:
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web: www.hazards.org

News from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Third European survey on working conditions 2000 by Pascal Paoli and Damien Merllié

This report presents the main findings of the Third European survey on working conditions. The survey was carried out simultaneously in each of the 15 Member States of the European Union in March 2000. These surveys aim to provide an overview of the state of working conditions in the European Union, as well as indicating the nature and content of changes affecting the workforce and the quality of work. Since they are of a general nature, obviously they cannot address all the issues in detail. However, they do indicate the need for more detailed research, including qualitative research on specific issues.

60% of respondents consider their work affects their health. The health problems which are most prevalent are backache, stress, overall fatigue and muscular pains.

The report is limited to a straightforward presentation of the results, but it is planned to carry out more detailed statistical analysis at a later stage and to produce separate reports on specific issues.

Copies of the report **Third European survey on working conditions 2000** by Pascal Paoli and Damien Merllié is available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg. ISBN 9289701307 EUR25.

For further details about the content of the report contact:
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions,
Wyattville Road, Loughlinstown, Dublin 18, Ireland Tel: + 353 1 2043100
Fax: + 353 1 2826456, + 353 1 2824209 Email: postmaster@eurofound.ie

News from the USA

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards and other databases on cd-rom

It would seem to be everyone's favourite pocket guide, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health NIOSH Pocket Guide (NPG) is intended as a source of general industrial hygiene information on several hundred chemicals/classes for workers, employers, and occupational health professionals.

The NPG does not contain an analysis of all pertinent data, rather it presents key information and data in abbreviated or tabular form for chemicals or substance groupings (e.g. cyanides, fluorides, manganese compounds) that are found in the work environment. The information found in the NPG should help users recognise and control occupational chemical hazards.

The Pocket Guide includes the following:

- Chemical Names, synonyms, trade names, conversion factors, CAS, RTECS, and DOT Numbers.
- NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits (NIOSH RELs)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)
- NIOSH Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health values (NIOSH IDLHs) (documentation for those values can be found elsewhere on the NIOSH website).
- A physical description of the agent with chemical and physical properties
- Measurement methods
- Personal Protection and Sanitation Recommendations
- Respirator Recommendations
- Information on Health Hazards including route, symptoms, first aid and target organ information

Available in CD-ROM format as DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No.2001-145 from:
Publications, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati OH 45226-1998, USA.

Tel: +1800-35-NIOSH

web: www.cdc.gov/niosh

Titles you may have missed.....

An Introduction to Fire Safety for Managers

R. Burchett

H & H Scientific Consultants Ltd. HHSC Handbook No.27 2001

ISBN 0948237414

www.hhsc.co.uk/hhscbks.htm#h27rev

Tolley's fire safety management handbook

K. Coules and C. Eskells

Butterworths Tolley, 2001 ISBN 07545 10654

Contains 18 chapters on a wide range of topics e.g. - legal implications, fire prevention, fire defence systems, staff training, fire training manual, historic and heritage buildings, British and European Standards, arson, and where to find specific guidance.

American Public Health Association

Publications are now listed on the HHSC Website at:
further details www.hhsc.co.uk/isbnlist.htm#apha

In particular, please see:

Children's Environmental Health: reducing the risk in a dangerous world

Dona Schneider and Natalie Freeman

ISBN 0875532411

further details www.hhsc.co.uk/apha.htm#0875532411

Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 17th Edition

James Cair

ISBN 087553242X (softback)

further details www.hhsc.co.uk/apha.htm#087553242X

Public Health Management of Disasters: The Practice Guide

Linda Y Landesman

ISBN 0875530257

further details www.hhsc.co.uk/apha.htm#0875530257

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J. Dereberg and J. T. Anderson

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European award scheme recognises good practices in the prevention of workplace accidents

Seventeen companies from across Europe received awards in recognition of their innovative approaches to preventing workplace accidents at an awards ceremony to be held in Brussels recently. The award scheme, organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, has uncovered a rich variety of effective approaches to preventing accidents at work.

The award-winning good practices ranged from an action plan devised by a Spanish engine components manufacturer that resulted in a 70% cut in accidents from slips, trips and falls, to a safety awareness campaign targeted at Belgium's fishing fleet and a successful 10-year partnership programme between employers and unions at a UK chemicals firm.

Each year, about 5 500 people are killed at work in the EU and 75 000 are so severely injured they have to stop full-time employment. Latest figures reveal that in 1998 the number of accidents leading to more than three days absence from work amounted to 4.7 million. It is estimated that work-related accidents cost the EU 150 million lost working days each year. Direct insurance costs alone are in the region of €20 billion annually. But the vast majority of such accidents are preventable.

The aim of the awards is to acknowledge and motivate good practice activities and stimulate the sharing of practical solutions to prevent work-related accidents. The award scheme forms part of the 2001 European Week for Safety and Health at Work. This saw thousands of activities focused on accident prevention taking place across Europe in October 2001.

Real workplace examples of effective good practices were nominated by Member States. They cover many different types of organisations - including small businesses, the public and private sectors, as well as trade unions working in partnership with employers, and national health and safety institutions.

The Agency and the European jury have been impressed by the quality of the good practices nominated by Member States. A key aim now is to make these practical solutions accessible via the Agency website and other media, so everyone can all benefit from these experiences.

All the award-winning and commended examples are published in a new report Accident prevention in practice which is available at <http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/reports/howprevent/>

Further information:

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Gran Via 33,
E-48009 Bilbao, Spain, e-mail: information@osha.eu.int, fax: +34 94 479 4383

How to reduce workplace accidents

The Agency has also published an information report - which presents 22 accident prevention schemes from across Europe. It is available at

<http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/reports/workaccidents>.

Preventing accidents at work

The latest issue of the Agency's magazine Preventing accidents at work is available at

<http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/magazine/#4>

NEWS FROM UGANDA

Onwards and upwards.....

Paul Obua writes:

The Uganda Department of Occupational Safety and Health has undertaken a number of activities this year, 2001. Five seminars on occupational safety and health were held in the year covering mainly agriculture and construction sectors. The seminars were distributed fairly according to the five regions of the country. Participants in the seminars included workers' representatives, employers and some stakeholders such as the Federation of Uganda Employers in the Country. The Department is very grateful to Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, Kampala Office for providing the funding for these activities.

Appreciative feedback has been received from various groups and individuals who have attended and been motivated by the seminars which have contributed to their workplace safety and health awareness.

The Department of Occupational Safety and Health, with the cooperation of the ILO Area Office, Dar-Es-Salaam, undertook a Countrywide Survey exercise of workplaces with the aim of:

- (i) Establishing the total number of workplaces in the Country which require the Department's services as provided for by Law.
- (ii) To identify the number of workplaces in the various sectors of the economy.
- (iii) To establish the level of awareness of the Labour Laws by workers and employers and
- (iv) To establish the total number of equipment and plants that require statutory examination and Inspections.

A total of 21 of the 56 Districts were covered in the Country. The Department hope to cover the remaining districts too, subject to availability of resources.

The Department has also recruited nine more Inspectors in various disciplines to boost its staffing. This is another step forward which the Department has achieved in addressing and improving Labour Inspections in Uganda.

May I take this opportunity to thank the new officers for successfully joining the Department and wish them well as we work for the improvement of occupational safety and health services in our Nation.

News from the USA

WORKPLACE ANTHRAX EXPOSURE GUIDANCE: *OSHA to Help Employers Assess Risk*

A new model to assist employers and employees in dealing with possible workplace exposures to anthrax in mail handling operations. The [Anthrax Matrix](#) guides employers in assessing risk to their workers, providing appropriate protective equipment and specifying safe work practices for low, medium and high risk levels in the workplace.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration developed the matrix in consultation with the U.S. Postal Service, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI.

The Anthrax Matrix, shaped like a pyramid, includes three sections: green for low, yellow for medium and red for high risk of exposure. Each section links to useful information and practical guidance to help determine an appropriate response.

The matrix is available on OSHA's website at www.osha.gov. There is also general information on anthrax and mail handling procedures on the agency's website, links to detailed information from CDC, the U.S. Postal Service, the FBI and other sources of information on biological and chemical hazards and emergency preparedness.

The matrix guides employers in:

>assessing risk to their workers;

>providing appropriate protective equipment;

>specifying safe work practices for low-, medium and high-risk levels in the workplace.

News from the UK TUC.....Changing Times - Achieving Work Life Balance

The organisation of work, particularly the organisation of working time, has always been central to the trade union agenda - the fight for shorter working hours and longer, paid holidays are examples.

Today employers and union reps have to respond to the pressures of competitiveness, higher productivity and greater customer expectations of service quality and delivery. At the same time, unions are responding to their members' need

to devote time to their lives outside of work, whether to domestic commitments, education, leisure, community activities or a combination of all of these.

Achieving the right balance between time at work and time outside of work is now firmly on the collective bargaining agenda: unions are pro-active in the culture of flexibility, non-standard hours working and customer services. This course, which is based on the tried and tested methods and experiences set out in *Changing Times: a TUC guide to work-life balance*, is intended to equip union representatives to negotiate and organise for work-life balance. While designed primarily for union reps, the course can be used for joint union-management courses.

Course aims

The course aims to help participants to:

- understand the kind of changes that are happening to the organisation of working time
- think through a range of responses to these changes which benefit employees and employers
- promote partnership working by unions and management to address common problems
- work through a process for agreeing change and achieving work-life balance

Further information

Please note that these courses can be tailored to individual unions, sectors and agreements. Further course information available from Liz Rees, TUC National Education & Training Officer on Tel: +44 (0)20 7467 1240 email lrees@tuc.org.uk.

For further information about Work-Life Balance project contact Jo Morris, TUC, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS Tel:+ 1 (0)20 7467 1261 e-mail jmorris@tuc.org.uk

A new Changing Times website www.tuc.org.uk/changingtimes has been launched which will give tutors and participants alike access to a wealth of information on work life balance and changing times.

Diary of Events

Many other events are listed in www.oshworld.com

International event: Fire India International Conference 2002 (FIIC'02)

Will be held in New Delhi at the 'Taj Palace Hotel', in New Delhi from 20-22 February 2002, being organised by the esteemed Institution of Fire Engineers (India)
Contact: A.K. GHOSAL, ASIAN MARKETING SERVICES FIRE & SAFETY PUBLICATIONS DIVISION, 208 Central Plaza, 2/6 Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata – 700 020, INDIA
Fax: +91 (33) 474-9070 / 474-8029
Tel: + 91 (33) 474-9718 / 474-9444

-MAIL: ams1@vsnl.com

asiamktg1@yahoo.com

Innovation & Prevention: major conference and exhibition

On 26-31 May 2002 the XVIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work - *Innovation and Prevention* takes place in Vienna, Austria. It is organised by Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA) (Austrian Workers' Compensation Board), Hauptverband der Osterreichischen Sozialversicherungstrager (Federation of Austrian Social Security Institutions), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the International Labour Office (ILO).

The World Congress takes place every third year and is a magnet for all those who wish to see and hear about the latest developments in health and safety. There will be an extensive exhibition from worldwide organisations and companies.

Contact:

Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA Kongressburo, Adalbert Stifter Strasse 65, A-1200 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +43 1 33 111 537

Fax: +43 1 33 111 469

Email: safety2002@auva.sozvers.at

Web: www.safety2002.at

Third Behavioural Safety User Conference and Workshop, Manchester, UK, April 3rd and 4th 2002

Manchester Conference Centre (near Piccadilly Train station - itself 18 minutes from Manchester airport by tram)

The Workshop on the 3rd June will be 1/2 day (pm) - unless one-day is requested by enough people. This workshop is for delegates who wish to develop a knowledge of (or review) key theory before attending the 'warts and all' event on the 4th.

The conference on the 4th is based around a series of presentations from users (of all consultants - not just ours) on the topic: "difficulties we've had and lessons learnt trying to overcome them".

Speakers are actively sought from other consultant providers! (NB Presenting organisations attend free).

The results of this conference will appear as an article on Behavioural Safety in EurOHS June 2002 edition.

For further details contact:

Dr Tim Marsh, Ryder Marsh (Safety) Ltd, Clifton House, Clifton Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 8UX, UK

Tel: +44 (0)161 881 8471 Email: TimMarsh@RyderMarsh.co.uk

web: www.rydermarsh.co.uk

22-25 May 2002, Berchtesgaden, Germany WWDU 2002: 6th International Scientific Conference on Work With Display Units - World Wide Work

Contact: WWDU 2002 Secretary, c/o Ergonomic Institute for Occupational and Social Sciences, Research Company Ltd., Soldauer Platz 3, 14055 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 3021050 Fax: +49 30 3011386 / 3019840
E-mail: gisela.cakir@ergonomic.de web: wwdu.org/2002

2002 China International Forum on Work Safety (CWS2002) and International Exhibition for Occupational Safety and Health(COS+H 2002) to be held 9-12, Oct. 2002, Beijing, China

The following events will be held in October 2002 in Beijing:

Safety at work and protect workers' health in the 21st century

Time: October 9-12, 2002

Venue: Exhibition Hall of the World Trade Center, Beijing

Sponsor: State Administration of Work Safety, P.R.C.

Work Safety and Occupational Health in the 21st Century

October 10-12, 2002 China World Hotel, Beijing

Sponsors: State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) P.R.C International Labour Organization (ILO)

For further information: web: www.Chinasafety-2002.gov.cn

From: Yang Nailian, China CIS National Center email: ynl@cis-safety-inf.org.cn

For further information on ILO-OSH 2001, please contact: SafeWork, ILO, 4, route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland Tel: +41-22-799-6715 Fax :+ 41-22-799-6878 Email: safework@ilo.org <http://www.ilo.org/safework>

1. Background

As a result of the ever-increasing pace of worldwide liberalization of trade and economies, as well technological progress, the number of occupational accidents and diseases are increasing in many developing countries. It is estimated that every year over 1.2 million workers are killed due to work-related accidents and diseases and 250 million occupational accidents and 160 million work-related diseases are occurring. The economic loss related these accidents and diseases are estimated to amount 4% of world gross national product.

After the successful introduction of the “systems” approach to management by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through its series on Quality Management (ISO 9000 series) and Environmental Management (14000 series) during early 1990s, there was a view that the same approach could be used for managing occupational safety and health at the *organization* level. The possible initiation of work to develop an ISO standard on OSH Management Systems was discussed at an ISO International Workshop on OSH-MS Standardization in 1996. The workshop formed the view that the ISO should discontinue its respective efforts and that the International Labour Organization (ILO), because of its tripartite structure, would be a more appropriate body than ISO to elaborate international guidance documents for the establishment and implementation of effective occupational safety and health management systems.

In the light of the Workshop conclusion, the Occupational Safety and Health Branch (now: SafeWork) of the ILO, in co-operation with the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), started in 1998 with the identification of key OSH-MS elements in existing standards. The first step was to review existing OSH management system standards and guidance documents. Based on this review, common elements of OSH management systems were identified and the draft Guidelines were prepared. Over a period of nearly two years, the draft was systematically reviewed by international experts, and improved continuously.

At the end of 1999, the *British Standards Institution (BSI)*, an ISO member body, launched an official proposal for the establishment of a new field of technical activity *Occupational health and safety management*, with a view to developing an ISO standard. This competing initiative by the ISO to on-going ILO work encountered strong international opposition and a campaign to stop the ISO work. This resulted in the failure of the BSI proposal in favor of the ILO.

The final draft ILO document was submitted for comments to ILO constituents January 2001. The ILO Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems (ILO-OSH 2001) were adopted at a tripartite Meeting of experts in April

2001. The ILO Governing Body approved the publication of the Guidelines in June 2001. The Guidelines was published in December 2001.

2. ILO Guidelines on OSH Management Systems (ILO-OSH 2001)

ILO-OSH 2001 provides a unique international model, compatible with other management system standards and guides. It is not legally binding and not intended to replace national laws, regulations and accepted standards. It reflects ILO values such as tripartism and relevant international standards including the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161). Its application does not require certification, but it does not exclude certification as a means of recognition of good practice if this is the wish of the country implementing the Guidelines.

The ILO Guidelines encourage the integration of OSH-MS with other management system and state that OSH should be an integral part of business management. While integration is desirable, flexible arrangements are required depending on the size and type of operation. Ensuring good OSH performance is more important than formality of integration. As well as this, ILO-OSH 2001 emphasises that OSH should be a line management responsibility at the organization,

The guidelines provide guidance for implementation on two levels - national (Chapter 2) and *organizational* (Chapter 3).

A. National occupational safety and health management system framework

At the national level, they provide for the establishment of a national framework for occupational safety and health (OSH) management systems, preferably supported by national laws and regulations. Action at national level includes the nomination of (a) competent institution(s) for OSH-MS, the formulation of a coherent national policy and the establishment of a framework for an effective national application of ILO-OSH 2001, either by means of its direct implementation in *organizations* or its adaptation to national conditions and practice (by national guidelines) and specific needs of *organizations* in accordance with their size and nature of activities (by tailored guidelines).

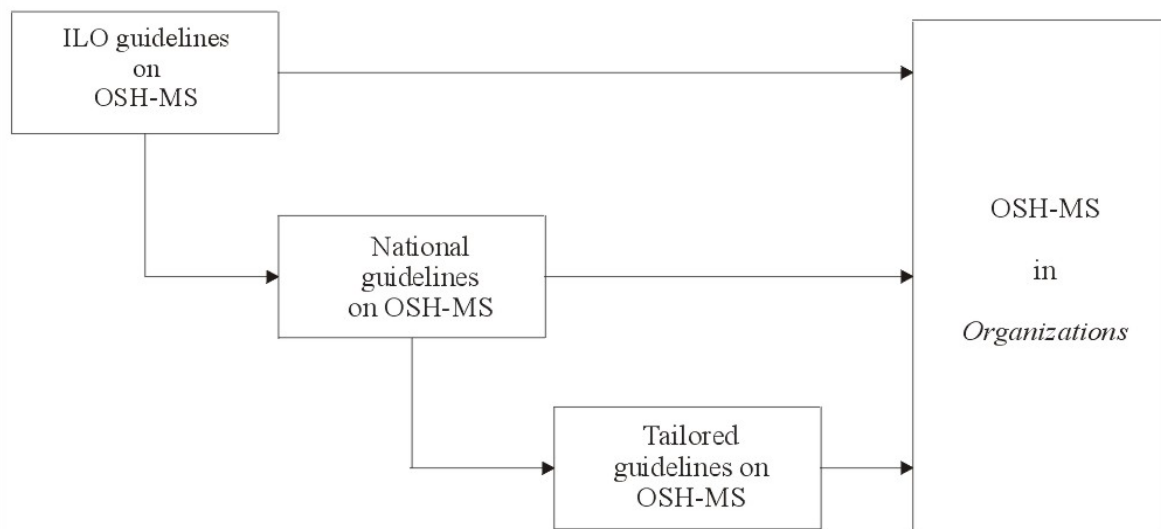
The National Policy for OSH-MS should be formulated by competent institution(s) in consultation with employers' and workers' organizations, and should consider:

- Promotion of OSH-MS as part of overall management
- Promote voluntary arrangements for systematic OSH improvement
- Avoid unnecessary bureaucracy, administration and costs
- Support by labour inspectorate, safety and health and other services

The functions and responsibilities of implementing institutions should be clearly defined as well. Figure 1 of the Guidelines describes the elements of the national framework for OSH managements systems. It shows the different ways in which ILO-OSH 2001 may be implemented in a member State:

Figure 1.

Elements of the national framework for OSH management systems



Source: Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems (ILO/OSH 2001) (Geneva, 2001)

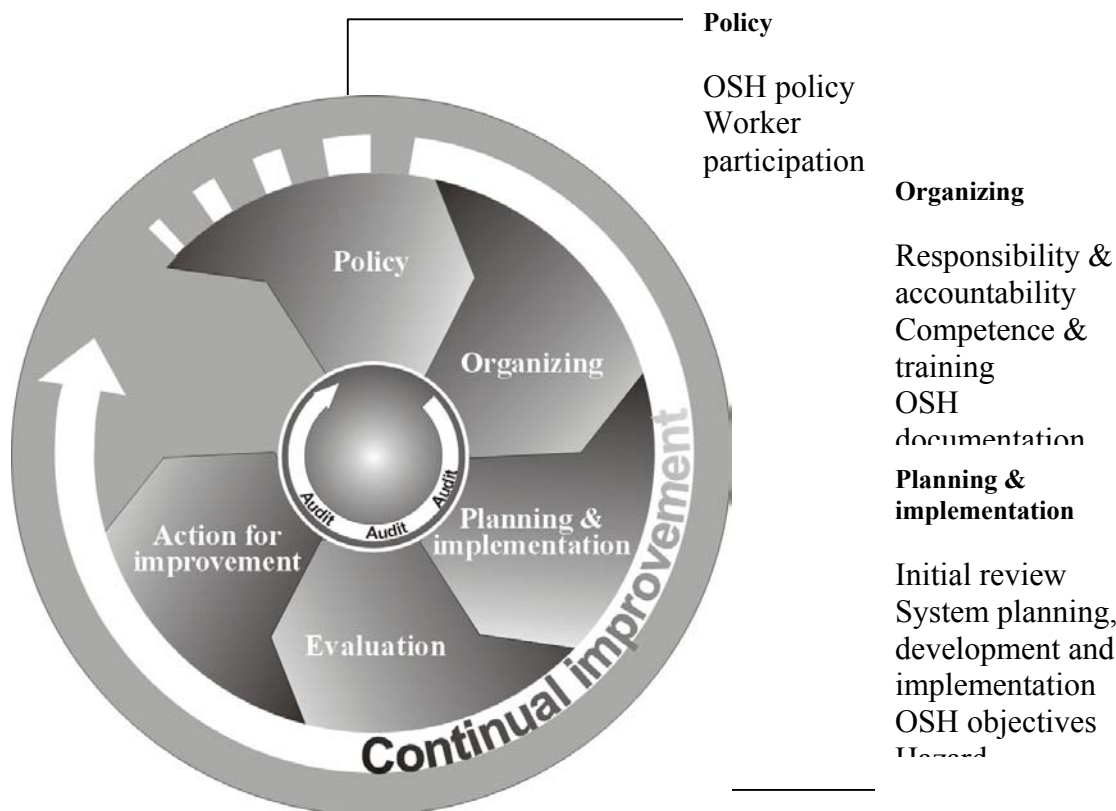
B. The occupational safety and health management system in the *organization*

Chapter 3 of ILO-OSH 2001 deals with the occupational safety and health management system at the *organizational* level. The Guidelines stress that compliance to national laws and regulations are the responsibility of the employer. ILO-OSH 2001 encourages the integration of OSH management system elements into overall policy and management arrangements, as well as stressing the importance that at *organizational* level, OSH should be a line management responsibility, and should not be seen as a task for OSH departments and/or specialists.

The OSH management systems in the *organization* has five main sections which follow the internationally accepted Demming cycle of Plan-Do-Check-Act, which is the basis to the “system” approach to management. These sections are namely Policy, Organizing, Planning and implementation, Evaluation and Action for improvement

Policy contains the elements of OSH policy and worker participation. It is the basis of the OSH management system as it sets the direction for the *organization* to follow. Organizing contains the elements of responsibility and accountability, competence and training, documentation and communication. It makes sure that the management structure is in place, as well as the necessary responsibilities allocated for delivering the OSH policy. Planning and implementation contains the elements of initial review, system planning, development and implementation, OSH objectives and hazard prevention. Through the initial review, it shows where the *organization* stands concerning OSH, and uses this as the baseline to implement the OSH policy. Evaluation contains the elements of performance monitoring and measurement, investigation of work-related injuries, ill-health, diseases and incidents, audit and management review. It shows how the OSH management system functions and

identifies any weaknesses that need improvement. It includes the very important element of auditing, which should be undertaken for each stage. Persons independent of the activity being audited should conduct audits. This does not necessarily mean third party auditors. Action for improvement includes the elements of preventive and corrective action and continual improvement. It implements the necessary preventive and corrective actions identified by the evaluation and audits carried out. It also emphasizes the need for continual improvement of OSH performance through the constant development of policies, systems and techniques to prevent and control work-related injuries, ill-health, diseases and incidents. The main sections and their elements of the OSH management system at the organization are shown in figure 2 below:



CIS Newsletter January 2002 No.1

**CIS Newsletter celebrates 14 years & still going strong! Bringing ne
the CIS Network**

tries in

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4. Titles you may have missed

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Editorial - January 2002

Dear CIS Colleagues

Happy New Year to everyone, hope it is healthy, safe and successful for you, your colleagues and your families. We look forward to 2002 with all its challenges and opportunities ahead for us to help improve the knowledge of all workers through disseminating validated and authoritative information, which at all times, should be timely and presented in usable formats.

Important News from Geneva:

There are news items for you in this edition from CIS HQ in Geneva -

- the launch of the CIS Centres web site
- the launch of ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (see write-up in this newsletter)
- the report of the 2001 annual meeting

As urged in the December 2001 Newsletter we should all make greater efforts in our own country to promote CIS activities and products and try to get some of the income streams back for CIS.

2002 Annual Meeting in Vienna Austria.....will be on Sunday 26 May 2002 at the ILO Congress and Exhibition. CIS members may wish to go to the ILO Triennial Congress, exhibition and other events such as the multi-media show. As a result, no other workshops are planned. It appears unlikely that any preferential delegate fees to the Conference and Exhibition will be made available to CIS members.

ANY COUNTRY/CIS CENTRE RECEIVING TECHNICAL AID WHO BELIEVE THEY MAY QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT EMMERT CLEVENSTINE AT CIS HQ IMMEDIATELY. REMEMBER THE MEETING IS ONLY 4 MONTHS AWAY! and time flies by very quickly!!!!

Also remember to send to Geneva HQ any items which you wish to have placed on the agenda. You should send as soon possible any items you wish to have discussed. Also remember to send your annual reports in early.

Members may be interested in the following event to be held in the UK the week after the CIS Meeting and ILO Congress.

27-31 May 2002 - 2nd International Fire Information Conference and visits: organised by InFIRE and the Fire Information Group, UK, to be held at the Imperial Hotel, London, UK - full details were sent with CIS Newsletter November 2001 edition.

URGENT NOTICE FROM JAPAN

See below for details sent by Koichi Igarashi, JIHS about training course places available in 2002..... now is your chance to obtain further training.

Thanks to all the contributors to this edition of your Newsletter - all news however small is most welcomed. If you are planning any publications, seminars or training courses, then please send your details to me so that we can share your efforts with others. Don't forget to send me your latest news!

You know I welcome ideas for inclusion in the future editions of this Newsletter. Let me know if there are any areas you would wish to see covered in future.

A number of individuals and organisations have let me know that wish to receive the Newsletter by email.... just let me know and I will send it.

Best wishes to you and your colleagues.
Sheila Pantry, OBE
85 The Meadows, Todwick,
Sheffield S26 1JG, UK
Tel: +441909 771024 Fax: +441909 772829
Email SheilaPantry@Compuserve.com

CIS NETWORK OF NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTRES.....

WORKING TOGETHER AND HELPING EACH OTHER....

News from Geneva

Welcome www.ciscentres.org
to the Information Network of the CIS Centres!

.....says the headline message on this new website which is the product of the ongoing co-operation of the [International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre \(CIS\)](#) and its *National and Collaborating Centres* all over the world. The goal of this Network is to help its members and the rest of the world to find information from the participating countries on subjects related to occupational safety and health (OSH).

Providers of the information are the *CIS Centres* and *CIS* itself. The organizational work stays with *CIS*. The operation of the Network is generously offered by the [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\)](#).

The web site also has a number of topics - some still under construction and need more information. Among the topics are Legislation, Good Practice, Publications, Research Statistics, News and Events for example. The site is available in French, Spanish and English.

The intention is to have a few pages in a uniform format for each Centre, to reinforce the idea that we are all members of a network, with users led easily to the Centres own home sites. The **CIS Centres Information Network** can be accessed in three languages (English, French and Spanish).

Centres are invited to provide the content. The Centres site is mainly a gateway to all the institutional sites and CIS hopes to be able to provide a presence on the Centres site **for those institutions that do not yet have one of their own**, as well as to point users to those that do.

Since several of the European Centres are also members of the network organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in Bilbao, and a few are national focal points, it needs to be said that the Centres portal is not intended to be competitive - indeed, the ILO appears as an international focal point on the Agency site - or necessarily even consciously complementary. The functionality of the Agency site has been a great inspiration to the designers of the Centres site, but care is being taken to avoid confusing users with too similar a look, in order to provide the world with two independent but mutually reinforcing portals.

The searchable CIS database of institutions in the field of occupational safety and health at www.ilo.org/cis, under the heading *CIS Network - Direct Access*, and the alphabetic directories at the CIS site will continue to provide the world with other routes of access to the Centres.

CIS Centres are invited to visit the CIS Centres site and to send input, comments and suggestions. The value of this portal depends on the information provided by the participants, the CIS Centres, and it can only be done with your help! On the other hand, your participation as a CIS Centre on this portal will give you better on-line visibility and provide you with the possibility of more efficient cooperation.

CIS Centres Club

CIS Centres Club is part of the web site and is an e-mail-based discussion group, or "mailing list". It was created to provide a facility for the exchange of ideas and information among staff at CIS and the CIS National and Collaborating Centres. CIS Centres Club is hosted by the [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety](#). It is a **closed** discussion group, limited to the staff of CIS and CIS National and Collaborating Centres. If you work for a CIS National or Collaborating Centre and would like to participate in the CIS Centres Club, please contact the discussion group administrator at ccadmin@ilo.org.

CIS Annual Meeting Report 2001

CIS Centres should have received copies of the CIS Annual Meeting Report 2001 which contains the report of the meeting, the outcomes of the three Workshops, the presentation by IPEC on Abolishing the Worst Forms of Child Labour, outcomes from the General Discussion groups, and Annual Reports from a number of CIS Centres.

Now is the time to make your 2002 report and send it into Geneva so that your centre's activities are known to the rest of the world.

Anyone who has not yet received the 2001 report should contact CIS HQ Geneva.

ILO-OSH 2001

ILO-OSH 2001 is a very important publication which has just been issued by Safework. There is a 4 page summary at the end of this newsletter which you can use and circulate to others in your country to make them aware of this important publication.

ILO-OSH 2001 provides a unique international model, compatible with other management system standards and guides. It is not legally binding and not intended to replace national laws, system standards and guides.

ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines encourages the integration of OSH management systems with other management systems and states that OSH should be an integral part of business management.

It is expected that this will be used as the major tool across the world. Currently in English with the French and Spanish versions available from January 2002, the ILO Safework inform that the translation of the Guidelines into German, Portuguese and Japanese, by JISHA - the Japanese Industrial Safety and Health Administration are almost completed. Safework is also discussing with national authorities and agencies for the translation into other languages. The German government have already established a tripartite committee to develop a national framework on OSH Management System.

For further information contact:

ILO Safework, Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 799 6740 Fax: +41 22 799 8516

NEWS FROM JAPAN

2002 Training Courses in Japan.....places still available!!! Act now!!!

Koichi Igarashi writes.....

As I explained at the 2001 CIS Meeting, a number of JICA Training Courses will be held this year - 2002.

Although JICA already called for participants, there are still some available. Then JICA asked us to call participants again. We appreciate if you put the following information to CIS Newsletter.

Kindly informed that Training Courses of FY 2002, organised by JICA, will be held as the following schedule in Japan.

We would like to ask you to call participants as quickly as possible and then contact JICA Office or Japanese Embassy in your country. Then please inform them that your country wants to send participants for these training courses.

JICA will inform you the procedure of application. Please note that JICA will bear round-trip air-ticket, accommodation fee, and other local expenses in Japan.

The courses are:

1) Working Environment Improvement Technology (WEIT)
Time: August to September 2002 (about 8 weeks) in OSAKA

2) Biological Monitoring in Occupational Health (BM)
Time: January to March 2003 (about 9 weeks) in Osaka

3) Seminar on Policy of Industrial Safety
Time: October 2002 (not finalised schedule) in Tokyo

Koichi Igarashi, Managing Director, JISHA
e-mail: kokusai@jisha.or.jp

Good News from the European Commission - free access to official documents and the OJ

In line with the various European Commission institutions' transparency policy, as from 1 January 2002, access to and consultation of all official documents available in the EUR-Lex portal, especially to documents published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ), will be **free of charge**, irrespective of adoption or publication date, or the formats involved. Access to the value-added service, CELEX, with its powerful search facilities, analytical information as well as forthcoming services will continue to be subject to payment either by subscription or on a pay-as-you-view basis.

The OJ is available in the eleven official languages of the European Union.
See web site <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>

Spain takes over the Presidency of the European Union

From 1 January to 30 June 2002 Spain takes over the Presidency of the European Union with a very active programme of work entitled "**More Europe**". The challenges faced by the Union in the coming months are many:

- the fight against terrorism
- the introduction of the euro
- continuing economic and social reforms
- fulfilling the enlargement schedule
- developing a European foreign and defence policy, and
- the debate about the future of Europe

Only if specific advances are achieved in these priority areas will it be possible to ensure that Europe becomes the area of Prosperity, Openness, Freedom and Security that its citizens are demanding. The ultimate goal of "More Europe" is responding to European citizens' expectations.

More information about the Spanish Presidency and the programme can be found on the new web site www.ue2002.es

www.oshworld.com is launched

Newly launched is this very informative occupational health, safety, fire, environment and chemical information service. Contains Editorial, Focus articles, Diary of Events, News, and links to hundreds of validated and authoritative sites worldwide. All the web links - both subject and country have been extensively researched and the lists greatly extended. Sometimes valuable information on specific OSHE topics are "lost" within the extensive websites. OSHWORLD highlights these for you, for example if you are looking for asbestos information you will find some excellent sites which have been identified. You will also find links to OSHE bookshops, a "Reference Shelf" containing quick routes to information which may be required on a day-to-day basis, products, diary of events and more.....

Also shows how to cost effectively search the Internet. Bookmark this portal for future reference!

Please note...update your bookmarks

..... you may have used the SilverPlatter Health and Safety World web site www.hspublishing.com/hsworld which I have edited for 5.5. years. This ceased on 20 November 2001

.....use www.oshworld.com

and quote this URL

News from Korea

KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter

The full text of the latest KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter can be found at <http://www.kosha.or.kr/english/english.htm>

Main topics include:

- > Ministry of Labour establishes occupational disease-preventive measures
- > OSH Statistics -Ministry of Labour announces results of survey conducted on the fatal accidents related to work at government institutions

UPDATE of events in KOREA are as follows:

- *Asbestos exposure standards strengthened by 20 times
- *'Occupational Accident Prevention Campaign Period' "Let's make Korea the safest country in the world"
- *President stresses augmentation of fire fighters
- *Ministry of Labour conducts winter safety inspection covering some 600 construction sites
- *'SAFE KIDS Korea' the Children's safety watchdog born- Citizens Solidarity for Safety Practice and DAEKYO held a children safety symposium -
- *KOSHA 2000 program introduces tailored model covering each type of business
- *KOSHA begin full operation of the visiting Health Help Service System
- *Chemical plant safety map developed and installed in Yeosu city for the first time-
- Degree of risk at workplaces can be seen at a glance
- *Number of participants in virtual safety training exceeds 10,000.
- *Cooperation with TUV Korea regarding S-mark certification
- *Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute signs a research agreement with Japan's National Institute of Industrial Health -
- *KOSHA opens Occupational Safety Patent Exhibition Room
- *NEW MATERIALS/INFORMATION Partial translated Korean version of ILO Occupational safety and health encyclopaedia published; KOSHA builds additional Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) covering 17,000 kinds of chemicals

For more information contact KOSHA
<http://www.kosha.net/>

News from NIOSH

Doris Sweet - RTECS Editor retires

Many people who have used RTECS - the Registry of Toxic Effects in Chemicals will know of the quality of the information in the database. RTECS has been very carefully edited for many years by Doris Sweet who many will know personally.

Doris retired from NIOSH and Government Service on 2 January 2002.

NIOSH are in the final stages of RTECS as a NIOSH project, and licensing it out to MDL Information Services.

We wish Doris a happy and well earned retirement and thank her for all her hard work over the years.

News from the UK

TUC poll – British public urge crackdown on safety crimes

People in Britain want to see more companies prosecuted for breaking health and safety laws and more health and safety inspectors to catch them, according to a poll conducted for the TUC. A conference at the TUC discussed the findings and press for "Law enforcement and corporate accountability".

Of those expressing a view in a poll of over 1,000 telephone interviews, more than twice as many people said that they want to see more rather than fewer health and safety prosecutions (45% to 19%). Last year there were 376 deaths at work, 30% of which are likely to lead to an employer being prosecuted and in only 4 cases are manslaughter charges likely.

Even more people want to see extra safety inspectors. Overall, two thirds (66%) of those expressing a view said there are not enough inspectors. There are currently just 3000 workplace health and safety inspectors despite there being around 1 million injuries in workplaces last year.

TUC Head of Organisation and Services, Frances O'Grady, will tell the conference:

'People at work are fed up with bad bosses who avoid their responsibilities.

'The public clearly want more prosecutions so that employers who injure their workers are held accountable. Allied with this, we need to see higher fines so that companies have a genuine financial incentive to care for their workforce as well as a moral obligation.'

The newly merged union representing Health and Safety Executive inspectors, Prospect, launched a campaign to secure resources for employing more inspectors. Prospect Joint General Secretary Paul Noon said:

'The cost of putting in place a framework of safety inspections with enough inspectors to carry them out would only be about £35m extra in real terms each year.

'We want this money spent on doubling the number of safety inspectors so that workplaces are inspected at least every five years. Currently, employers can expect to be inspected once every 10-15 years, if at all.'

http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-4035-f0.cfm

All TUC press releases can be found at www.tuc.org.uk

New TUC Publication

A new book from the TUC, **Keeping well at work**, is available to order for £8.99 by calling +44 20 7739 3539.

For more info see http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-4032-f0.cfm

Other enquiries:

Owen Tudor, TUC Senior Health and Safety Policy Officer 020 7467 1325

or email otudor@tuc.org.uk

Trades Union Congress, Congress House,
Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS, UK

News from the USA

ASTM International Name Change Reflects Global Scope

ASTM, one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world, has announced a change in its name. The change to ASTM International reinforces the openness of the ASTM standards development process to worldwide input as well as reflecting the global application and use of ASTM standards.

Today, membership in ASTM International exceeds 30,000 technical experts from more than 100 countries who comprise this worldwide standards forum. "From its inception, the ASTM method of developing standards has been based on consensus without borders," notes ASTM International's President James A. Thomas. "Our process ensures that interested individuals and organizations representing industry, academia, consumers, and governments alike, all have an equal vote in determining a standard's content."

Founded in 1898 as the American Chapter of the International Association for Testing and Materials and most recently known as the American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM International is a not-for-profit organization that provides a global forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems and services. ASTM standards are accepted and used in research and development, product testing, quality systems, and commercial transactions around the globe.

Charles Ludolph, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe in the United States Department of Commerce, commented, "ASTM standards play a vital role in international trade. ASTM's open process welcomes individuals throughout the world. As a result, ASTM facilitates the development of standards that can be used on a worldwide basis and play a vital role in aiding global trade."

To facilitate global input into the standards development process, ASTM International uses on-line technologies that further encourage open participation and

responsiveness to industry needs. They include Internet-based Standards Development Forums enabling 24/7 access worldwide, on-line balloting, electronic minutes and templates, and state-of-the-art distribution methods.

ASTM International's efforts to build global cooperation in the standards development process were the focal point in a number of recent events:

22 Countries Attend ASTM International Open House on November 29 and 30 2001 with leaders of the National Standards Bodies of some 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as Canada. "ASTM is highly engaged throughout all parts of the world. By hosting the standards leadership of these regions, we hope to collaborate even further in the future," explains Kathleen (Kitty) Kono, ASTM Vice President, Global Cooperation.

Colombia and Uruguay

In October 2001, ASTM signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the national standards body of Colombia, Instituto Colombiano de Normas Tecnicas y Certificacion (ICONTEC). The document enhances the ability of ASTM and ICONTEC standards to support the needs of the Colombian people, continue growth of the Colombian economy, and aid in the development of Colombian national standards for health, safety, and the environment.

ASTM Technical Committees Increase Global Efforts

ASTM's technical committees, which represent industry fields ranging from metals to the environment, have a long history of international activity. Most recently, Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials and Applications signed an MOU with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) highlighting the acceptance and use of globally accepted standards, such as those of D01, to meet the needs of all stakeholders in the paint and coatings industry.

Meanwhile, global activity in several other ASTM committees continues to strengthen. Committees experiencing increased global participation are: A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys, D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants, D24 on Carbon Black, D30 on Composite Materials, E28 on Mechanical Testing, and F24 on Amusement Rides.

For more information on the global activities of ASTM International, contact [Kitty Kono](#), Vice President, Global Cooperation Tel: + 1610-832-9687; fax: 610-832-9599

OFFSHORE RESEARCH NEWS

Issue 134 of Offshore Research Focus has been published on the ORF Web Site at www.orf.co.uk. The newsletter copy is being printed and will be distributed shortly.

Provided below are some brief article summaries with web site to each article:

"Deterioration and Spalling of High Strength Concrete Under Fire"

An investigation into high strength concrete spalling has been carried out for the HSE. The report from the study provides qualitative and some quantitative information for making decisions regarding concrete constituents and curing.
www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=concrete

"Beyond Design Lifetime Criteria for Offshore Cranes"

Description of a new HSE report that presents a review of regulatory requirements and best practice, including guidance, to assist HSE inspectors when assessing a dutyholders' compliance with the relevant regulations for offshore cranes.
www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=cranes

"New Report on Offshore Helideck Design Published"

Report on a study for the HSE to provide guidance on the effects of recent developments on the structural design of offshore helidecks and to consider the adequacy of current design codes.
www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=helideck

"Report Shows Reduction in Major Hydrocarbon Releases"

Brief description of the report on the Hydrocarbon Release Incident Investigation Project. The aim of the project was to investigate all offshore hydrocarbon releases over the 12 month period 1/4/00 to 31/3/01 and analyse them to identify causes and remedial measures.
www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=releases

"Statistical Analysis of Safety Performance on Offshore Installations"

Report of the key findings from a series of four projects carried out by Liverpool University to analyse offshore incident data, specify appropriate statistical methods and identify questions that could be addressed with the available incident data. www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=analysis

"New Pressure Relief and Blowdown System Guidelines"

Report on studies undertaken as part of a joint industry project to develop new guidelines on the design and operation of relief and blowdown systems. The aim of the research was to validate and compare methodologies currently used and to assess their appropriateness for the practical aspects of relief systems.
Link: www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=guidelines

"Inspecting and Auditing the Management of Emergency Response"

A source of information for HSE inspectors when drawing up inspection and audit initiatives in the field of offshore emergency response management has been prepared as part of a project recently completed by Link Associates International Ltd.
www.orf.co.uk/general/document_loader_fs.asp?issue=134&article=response

ORF Editorial Team,
The Steel Construction Institute
Tel: +44 (0) 1344 62345
Fax: +44 (0) 1344 622944
Email: orf@steel-sci.com

News from Russia

Alexey Bondarenko, CIS Unit, VCOT, Moscow, Russia writes:

In 2001 our All Russia Centre for Occupational Safety and Health (ARCOSH) was involved in the literary and scientific editing of the Russian printed version of ILO OHS Encyclopaedia. Three volumes (of four) are published so far. The fourth one is expected in February 2002.

We also organised the All Russia Conference on OSH Scientific Research and some seminars with international participation: Lifelong Learning, OSH costs and benefits (within the framework of ILO project in Russia) , European Social Charter.

For me personally this year was rather tough but fruitful - I had several publications in the OKHRANA TRUDA I SOTSIALNOE STRAKHOVANIE Magazine (some 22000 copies throughout Russia).

Apart from OSH matters, I produced a Russian - Modern Greek and Modern Greek - Russian Dictionary of Common and Business Terms (not big - some 12000 words and terms). The book will be published in the beginning of 2002.

News from Belgium from the TUTB

Issue 17 of TUTB Newsletter has been published and the full-text of articles are available on : www.etuc.org/tutb/uk/newsletter.html

Articles include:

DOSSIER SPECIAL

Interdiction de l'amiante

L'amiante à l'OMC : une victoire immédiate - des menaces à terme

Nouvelles initiatives pour l'interdiction de l'amiante dans le monde

"Sortir de l'amiante" : quelle stratégie pour la protection de la santé ?

LEGISLATION EUROPEENNE

La révision de la directive Machines

Directive Bruit : un pas en avant sous la présidence suédoise

Mise en oeuvre de la directive Machines. Une enquête du BTS

Vibrations : le Conseil a adopté une position commune

SPECIAL REPORT

Asbestos ban :Asbestos disputes in the WTO : battle won - but not the war

Asbestos - not wanted in the world
"Doing away with asbestos" : what strategy for health protection ?

EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

Revision of the Machinery Directive
The Implementation of the Machinery Directive. A TUTB survey
Noise Directive : a step forward under the Swedish Presidency
Workers' exposure to vibrations: Council common position

MSD: Opinion on MSD : An impulse for new initiatives from the European Commission

Laurent Vogel, BTS-TUTB, Bd du roi Albert II, 5, boîte 5
B-1210 Bruxelles, Belgique
Tel: + 322 224 05 60
Fax: + 322 224 05 61
web :www.etuc.org/tutb
Email: lvogel@etuc.org

Website Design Guidelines

Version 2 of the UK Government Website Design Guidelines is now available on the e-Envoy website at: www.e-envoy.gov.uk/webguidelines.htm

There is a Framework for senior managers - a summary of main points of the Guidelines and changes from the first version.

A version of the Guidelines for use by local authority web management teams is being developed by the Digital Communications team in consultation with representatives from local government. They will consult widely when a draft is available, though they've invited web developers to get in touch with them in advance of this notification at webguidelines@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

Also coming soon: an Illustrated handbook for web management teams will be out for consultation in the Government Web Developer community.

News from the ILO

Contribution of disabled people is being lost worldwide - to their own livelihood, to their families, to employers and to society as a whole - says ILO

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations specialised agency with global responsibility for labour and employment issues, launched a new *Code of*

Practice on Managing Disability in the Workplace at a meeting in London to coincide with the International Day for Disabled Person, Monday 3rd December 2001.

The background to the code is:

The unemployment rate among disabled people is more than double the workforce as a whole, and often higher

Many of the obstacles which people face in the search for jobs and at work arise as much, if not more, from social barriers, than from a genuine inability to work

Unemployment among disabled persons is significantly higher than in the workforce as a whole - at least double this rate, but often higher, with some countries reporting a rate as high as 80% of the labour force of disabled person

There are approximately 610 million persons with disabilities in the world, of whom 386 million are of working age, and 80% live in developing countries, mostly in rural areas

The new ***ILO Code of Practice on Managing Disability in the Workplace***, provides guidance to enterprises on how to recruit people with disabilities and maintain employment for workers who become disabled. It is the first of its kind and can be applied by all employers, in both developed and developing countries..

Also launched was a new guide, entitled ***Unlocking Potential: The New Disability Business Case***, published by the Employers' Forum on Disability in association with the ILO will be introduced. In his introduction to this publication Göran Hultin, Executive Director of the Employment Sector of the ILO, says: "Unlocking Potential proposes a sophisticated business case argument and end with a call to action, reminding us that business, government, trade unions and the not-for-profit sector must combine forces if business is to benefit fully from the contribution of people with disabilities."

The ILO Code of Practice "Managing Disability in the Workplace" and "Unlocking Potential: The New Disability Business Case", are available through ILO-London, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP, UK Tel: 020 7828 6401 on request, free of charge.

ILO Code of Practice "Managing Disability in the Workplace" may also be accessed via the ILO website www.ilo.org/london.

Hazards Magazine aims to be a source of up-to-date information for union safety representatives, but should be read by all those seeking health and safety information. The latest edition - No.76 of this quarterly magazine is full of information, warnings, news items, reviews, events and latest outpourings from the Hazards Safety Watchdog.

Further information regarding subscriptions and orders contact:
Jawad Qasrawi, Hazards, PO Box 199, Sheffield S1 4YL, UK

Tel: +44 (0)114 267 8936 email:sub@hazards.org
web: www.hazards.org

News from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Third European survey on working conditions 2000 by Pascal Paoli and Damien Merllié

This report presents the main findings of the Third European survey on working conditions. The survey was carried out simultaneously in each of the 15 Member States of the European Union in March 2000. These surveys aim to provide an overview of the state of working conditions in the European Union, as well as indicating the nature and content of changes affecting the workforce and the quality of work. Since they are of a general nature, obviously they cannot address all the issues in detail. However, they do indicate the need for more detailed research, including qualitative research on specific issues.

60% of respondents consider their work affects their health. The health problems which are most prevalent are backache, stress, overall fatigue and muscular pains.

The report is limited to a straightforward presentation of the results, but it is planned to carry out more detailed statistical analysis at a later stage and to produce separate reports on specific issues.

Copies of the report **Third European survey on working conditions 2000** by Pascal Paoli and Damien Merllié is available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg. ISBN 9289701307 EUR25.

For further details about the content of the report contact:
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions,
Wyattville Road, Loughlinstown, Dublin 18, Ireland Tel: + 353 1 2043100
Fax: + 353 1 2826456, + 353 1 2824209 Email: postmaster@eurofound.ie

News from the USA

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards and other databases on cd-rom

It would seem to be everyone's favourite pocket guide, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health NIOSH Pocket Guide (NPG) is intended as a source of general industrial hygiene information on several hundred chemicals/classes for workers, employers, and occupational health professionals.

The NPG does not contain an analysis of all pertinent data, rather it presents key information and data in abbreviated or tabular form for chemicals or substance groupings (e.g. cyanides, fluorides, manganese compounds) that are found in the work environment. The information found in the NPG should help users recognise and control occupational chemical hazards.

The Pocket Guide includes the following:

- Chemical Names, synonyms, trade names, conversion factors, CAS, RTECS, and DOT Numbers.
- NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits (NIOSH RELs)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs)
- NIOSH Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health values (NIOSH IDLHs) (documentation for those values can be found elsewhere on the NIOSH website).
- A physical description of the agent with chemical and physical properties
- Measurement methods
- Personal Protection and Sanitation Recommendations
- Respirator Recommendations
- Information on Health Hazards including route, symptoms, first aid and target organ information

Available in CD-ROM format as DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No.2001-145 from:
Publications, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 4676 Columbia
Parkway, Cincinnati OH 45226-1998, USA.

Tel: +1800-35-NIOSH

web: www.cdc.gov/niosh

Titles you may have missed.....

An Introduction to Fire Safety for Managers

R. Burchett

H & H Scientific Consultants Ltd. HHSC Handbook No.27 2001

ISBN 0948237414

www.hhsc.co.uk/hhscbks.htm#h27rev

Tolley's fire safety management handbook

K. Coules and C. Eskells

Butterworths Tolley, 2001 ISBN 07545 10654

Contains 18 chapters on a wide range of topics e.g. - legal implications, fire prevention, fire defence systems, staff training, fire training manual, historic and heritage buildings, British and European Standards, arson, and where to find specific guidance.

American Public Health Association

Publications are now listed on the HHSC Website at:

further details www.hhsc.co.uk/isbnlist.htm#apha

In particular, please see:

Children's Environmental Health: reducing the risk in a dangerous world

Dona Schneider and Natalie Freeman

ISBN 0875532411

further details www.hhsc.co.uk/apha.htm#0875532411

Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 17th Edition

James Cair

ISBN 087553242X (softback)

further details www.hhsc.co.uk/apha.htm#087553242X

Public Health Management of Disasters: The Practice Guide

Linda Y Landesman

ISBN 0875530257

further details www.hhsc.co.uk/apha.htm#0875530257

OEM Health Information Press

Low Back Pain: An Evidence-Based, Biopsychosocial Model for Clinical Management

J. Dereberg and J. T. Anderson

ISBN1883595347

www.hhsc.co.uk/oem.htm#1883595347

Order by: [e-mail](#), phone, fax or letter

HHSC Ltd., PO Box MT 27, Leeds LS17 8QP, UK.

Tel: +44 (0) 113 268 7189 Fax: +44 (0) 113 268 7191

E-mail: hhsc@hhsc.co.uk web: www.hhsc.co.uk

European award scheme recognises good practices in the prevention of workplace accidents

Seventeen companies from across Europe received awards in recognition of their innovative approaches to preventing workplace accidents at an awards ceremony to be held in Brussels recently. The award scheme, organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, has uncovered a rich variety of effective approaches to preventing accidents at work.

The award-winning good practices ranged from an action plan devised by a Spanish engine components manufacturer that resulted in a 70% cut in accidents from slips, trips and falls, to a safety awareness campaign targeted at Belgium's fishing fleet and a successful 10-year partnership programme between employers and unions at a UK chemicals firm.

Each year, about 5 500 people are killed at work in the EU and 75 000 are so severely injured they have to stop full-time employment. Latest figures reveal that in 1998 the number of accidents leading to more than three days absence from work

amounted to 4.7 million. It is estimated that work-related accidents cost the EU 150 million lost working days each year. Direct insurance costs alone are in the region of €20 billion annually. But the vast majority of such accidents are preventable.

The aim of the awards is to acknowledge and motivate good practice activities and stimulate the sharing of practical solutions to prevent work-related accidents. The award scheme forms part of the 2001 European Week for Safety and Health at Work. This saw thousands of activities focused on accident prevention taking place across Europe in October 2001.

Real workplace examples of effective good practices were nominated by Member States. They cover many different types of organisations - including small businesses, the public and private sectors, as well as trade unions working in partnership with employers, and national health and safety institutions.

The Agency and the European jury have been impressed by the quality of the good practices nominated by Member States. A key aim now is to make these practical solutions accessible via the Agency website and other media, so everyone can all benefit from these experiences.

All the award-winning and commended examples are published in a new report Accident prevention in practice which is available at <http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/reports/howprevent/>

Further information:

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Gran Via 33,
E-48009 Bilbao, Spain, e-mail: information@osha.eu.int, fax: +34 94 479 4383

How to reduce workplace accidents

The Agency has also published an information report - which presents 22 accident prevention schemes from across Europe. It is available at

<http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/reports/workaccidents.>

Preventing accidents at work

The latest issue of the Agency's magazine Preventing accidents at work is available at

<http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/magazine/#4>

NEWS FROM UGANDA

Onwards and upwards.....

Paul Obua writes:

The Uganda Department of Occupational Safety and Health has undertaken a number of activities this year, 2001. Five seminars on occupational safety and health were held in the year covering mainly agriculture and construction sectors. The seminars were distributed fairly according to the five regions of the country. Participants in the seminars included workers' representatives, employers and some stakeholders such as the Federation of Uganda Employers in the Country. The Department is very grateful to Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, Kampala Office for providing the funding for these activities.

Appreciative feedback has been received from various groups and individuals who have attended and been motivated by the seminars which have contributed to their workplace safety and health awareness.

The Department of Occupational Safety and Health, with the cooperation of the ILO Area Office, Dar-Es-Salaam, undertook a Countrywide Survey exercise of workplaces with the aim of:

- (i) Establishing the total number of workplaces in the Country which require the Department's services as provided for by Law.
- (ii) To identify the number of workplaces in the various sectors of the economy.
- (iii) To establish the level of awareness of the Labour Laws by workers and employers and
- (iv) To establish the total number of equipment and plants that require statutory examination and Inspections.

A total of 21 of the 56 Districts were covered in the Country. The Department hope to cover the remaining districts too, subject to availability of resources.

The Department has also recruited nine more Inspectors in various disciplines to boost its staffing. This is another step forward which the Department has achieved in addressing and improving Labour Inspections in Uganda.

May I take this opportunity to thank the new officers for successfully joining the Department and wish them well as we work for the improvement of occupational safety and health services in our Nation.

News from the USA

**WORKPLACE ANTHRAX EXPOSURE GUIDANCE:
*OSHA to Help Employers Assess Risk***

A new model to assist employers and employees in dealing with possible workplace exposures to anthrax in mail handling operations. The [Anthrax Matrix](#) guides employers in assessing risk to their workers, providing appropriate protective equipment and specifying safe work practices for low, medium and high risk levels in the workplace.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration developed the matrix in consultation with the U.S. Postal Service, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI.

The Anthrax Matrix, shaped like a pyramid, includes three sections: green for low, yellow for medium and red for high risk of exposure. Each section links to useful information and practical guidance to help determine an appropriate response.

The matrix is available on OSHA's website at www.osha.gov. There is also general information on anthrax and mail handling procedures on the agency's website, links to detailed information from CDC, the U.S. Postal Service, the FBI and other sources of information on biological and chemical hazards and emergency preparedness.

The matrix guides employers in:

>assessing risk to their workers;

>providing appropriate protective equipment;

>specifying safe work practices for low-, medium and high-risk levels in the workplace.

News from the UK TUC.....Changing Times - Achieving Work Life Balance

The organisation of work, particularly the organisation of working time, has always been central to the trade union agenda - the fight for shorter working hours and longer, paid holidays are examples.

Today employers and union reps have to respond to the pressures of competitiveness, higher productivity and greater customer expectations of service quality and delivery. At the same time, unions are responding to their members' need to devote time to their lives outside of work, whether to domestic commitments, education, leisure, community activities or a combination of all of these.

Achieving the right balance between time at work and time outside of work is now firmly on the collective bargaining agenda: unions are pro-active in the culture of flexibility, non-standard hours working and customer services. This course, which is based on the tried and tested methods and experiences set out in *Changing Times: a TUC guide to work-life balance*, is intended to equip union representatives to negotiate and organise for work-life balance. While designed primarily for union reps, the course can be used for joint union-management courses.

Course aims

The course aims to help participants to:

- understand the kind of changes that are happening to the organisation of working time
- think through a range of responses to these changes which benefit employees and employers
- promote partnership working by unions and management to address common problems
- work through a process for agreeing change and achieving work-life balance

Further information

Please note that these courses can be tailored to individual unions, sectors and agreements. Further course information available from Liz Rees, TUC National Education & Training Officer on Tel: +44 (0)20 7467 1240 email lrees@tuc.org.uk.

For further information about Work-Life Balance project contact Jo Morris, TUC, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS Tel:+ 1 (0)20 7467 1261 e-mail jmorris@tuc.org.uk

A new Changing Times website www.tuc.org.uk/changingtimes has been launched which will give tutors and participants alike access to a wealth of information on work life balance and changing times.

Diary of Events

Many other events are listed in www.oshworld.com

International event: Fire India International Conference 2002 (FIIC'02)

Will be held in New Delhi at the 'Taj Palace Hotel', in New Delhi from 20-22 February 2002, being organised by the esteemed Institution of Fire Engineers (India)
Contact: A.K. GHOSAL, ASIAN MARKETING SERVICES FIRE & SAFETY PUBLICATIONS DIVISION, 208 Central Plaza, 2/6 Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata – 700 020, INDIA
Fax: +91 (33) 474-9070 / 474-8029
Tel: + 91 (33) 474-9718 / 474-9444
-MAIL: ams1@vsnl.com asiamktg1@yahoo.com

Innovation & Prevention: major conference and exhibition

On 26-31 May 2002 the XVIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work - *Innovation and Prevention* takes place in Vienna, Austria. It is organised by Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA) (Austrian Workers' Compensation Board), Hauptverband der Osterreichischen Sozialversicherungsträger (Federation of

Austrian Social Security Institutions), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the International Labour Office (ILO).

The World Congress takes place every third year and is a magnet for all those who wish to see and hear about the latest developments in health and safety. There will be an extensive exhibition from worldwide organisations and companies.

Contact:

Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA Kongressburo, Adalbert Stifter Strasse 65, A-1200 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +43 1 33 111 537

Fax: +43 1 33 111 469

Email: safety2002@auva.sozvers.at

Web: www.safety2002.at

Third Behavioural Safety User Conference and Workshop, Manchester, UK, April 3rd and 4th 2002

Manchester Conference Centre (near Piccadilly Train station - itself 18 minutes from Manchester airport by tram)

The Workshop on the 3rd June will be 1/2 day (pm) - unless one-day is requested by enough people. This workshop is for delegates who wish to develop a knowledge of (or review) key theory before attending the 'warts and all' event on the 4th.

The conference on the 4th is based around a series of presentations from users (of all consultants - not just ours) on the topic: "difficulties we've had and lessons learnt trying to overcome them".

Speakers are actively sought from other consultant providers! (NB Presenting organisations attend free).

The results of this conference will appear as an article on Behavioural Safety in EurOHS June 2002 edition.

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22-25 May 2002, Berchtesgaden, Germany WWDU 2002: 6th International Scientific Conference on Work With Display Units - World Wide Work

Contact: WWDU 2002 Secretary, c/o Ergonomic Institute for Occupational and Social Sciences, Research Company Ltd., Soldauer Platz 3, 14055 Berlin, Germany

Tel: +49 30 3021050 Fax: +49 30 3011386 / 3019840

E-mail: gisela.cakir@ergonomic.de web: wwdu.org/2002

2002 China International Forum on Work Safety (CWS2002) and International Exhibition for Occupational Safety and Health(COS+H 2002) to be held 9-12, Oct. 2002, Beijing, China

The following events will be held in October 2002 in Beijing:

Safety at work and protect workers' health in the 21st century

Time: October 9-12, 2002

Venue: Exhibition Hall of the World Trade Center, Beijing

Sponsor: State Administration of Work Safety, P.R.C.

Work Safety and Occupational Health in the 21st Century

October 10-12, 2002 China World Hotel, Beijing

Sponsors: State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) P.R.C International Labour Organization (ILO)

For further information: web: www.Chinasafety-2002.gov.cn

From: Yang Nailian, China CIS National Center email: ynl@cis-safety-inf.org.cn

**(ILO-OSH 2001)
SafeWork, ILO Geneva**

For further information on ILO-OSH 2001, please contact: SafeWork, ILO, 4, route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland Tel: +41-22-799-6715 Fax :+ 41-22-799-6878 Email: safework@ilo.org <http://www.ilo.org/safework>

2. Background

As a result of the ever-increasing pace of worldwide liberalization of trade and economies, as well technological progress, the number of occupational accidents and diseases are increasing in many developing countries. It is estimated that every year over 1.2 million workers are killed due to work-related accidents and diseases and 250 million occupational accidents and 160 million work-related diseases are occurring. The economic loss related these accidents and diseases are estimated to amount 4% of world gross national product.

After the successful introduction of the “systems” approach to management by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through its series on Quality Management (ISO 9000 series) and Environmental Management (14000 series) during early 1990s, there was a view that the same approach could be used for managing occupational safety and health at the *organization* level. The possible initiation of work to develop an ISO standard on OSH Management Systems was discussed at an ISO International Workshop on OSH-MS Standardization in 1996. The workshop formed the view that the ISO should discontinue its respective efforts and that the International Labour Organization (ILO), because of its tripartite structure, would be a more appropriate body than ISO to elaborate international guidance documents for the establishment and implementation of effective occupational safety and health management systems.

In the light of the Workshop conclusion, the Occupational Safety and Health Branch (now: SafeWork) of the ILO, in co-operation with the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), started in 1998 with the identification of key OSH-MS elements in existing standards. The first step was to review existing OSH management system standards and guidance documents. Based on this review, common elements of OSH management systems were identified and the draft Guidelines were prepared. Over a period of nearly two years, the draft was systematically reviewed by international experts, and improved continuously.

At the end of 1999, the *British Standards Institution (BSI)*, an ISO member body, launched an official proposal for the establishment of a new field of technical activity *Occupational health and safety management*, with a view to developing an ISO standard. This competing initiative by the ISO to on-going ILO work encountered strong international opposition and a campaign to stop the ISO work. This resulted in the failure of the BSI proposal in favor of the ILO.

The final draft ILO document was submitted for comments to ILO constituents January 2001. The ILO Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems (ILO-OSH 2001) were adopted at a tripartite Meeting of experts in April 2001. The ILO Governing Body approved the publication of the Guidelines in June 2001. The Guidelines was published in December 2001.

2. ILO Guidelines on OSH Management Systems (ILO-OSH 2001)

ILO-OSH 2001 provides a unique international model, compatible with other management system standards and guides. It is not legally binding and not intended to replace national laws, regulations and accepted standards. It reflects ILO values such as tripartism and relevant international standards including the Occupational

Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161). Its application does not require certification, but it does not exclude certification as a means of recognition of good practice if this is the wish of the country implementing the Guidelines.

The ILO Guidelines encourage the integration of OSH-MS with other management system and state that OSH should be an integral part of business management. While integration is desirable, flexible arrangements are required depending on the size and type of operation. Ensuring good OSH performance is more important than formality of integration. As well as this, ILO-OSH 2001 emphasises that OSH should be a line management responsibility at the organization,

The guidelines provide guidance for implementation on two levels - national (Chapter 2) and *organizational* (Chapter 3).

A. National occupational safety and health management system framework

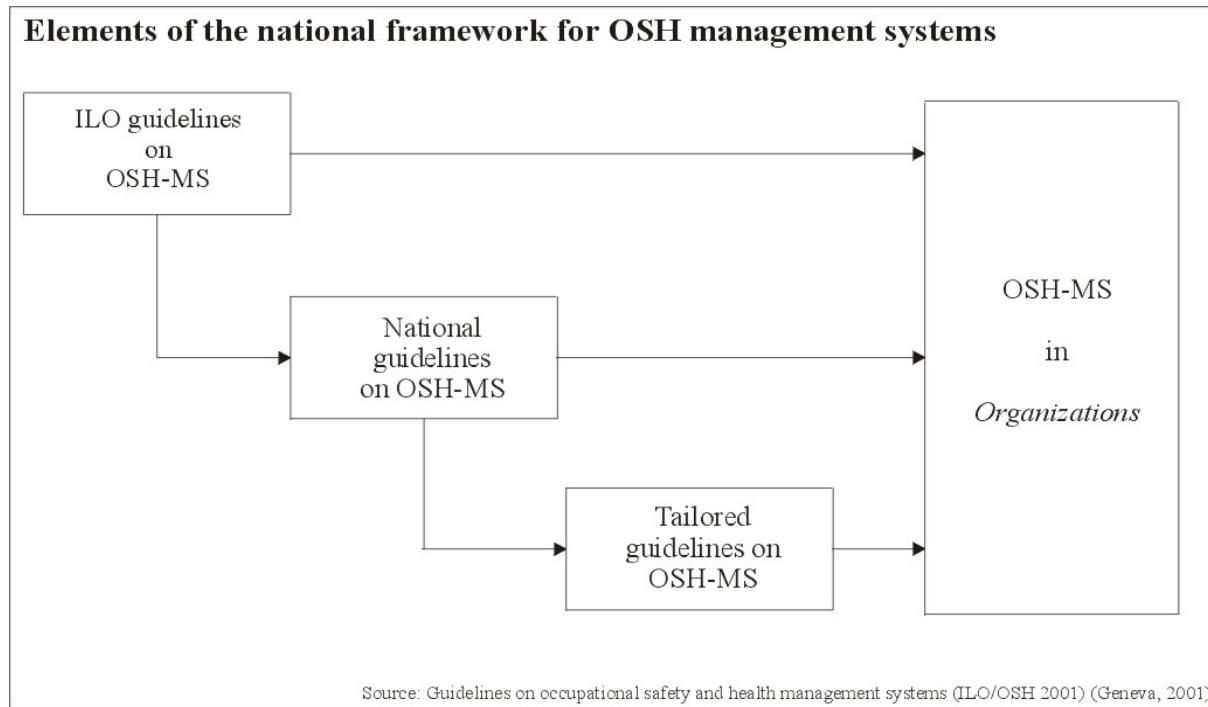
At the national level, they provide for the establishment of a national framework for occupational safety and health (OSH) management systems, preferably supported by national laws and regulations. Action at national level includes the nomination of (a) competent institution(s) for OSH-MS, the formulation of a coherent national policy and the establishment of a framework for an effective national application of ILO-OSH 2001, either by means of its direct implementation in *organizations* or its adaptation to national conditions and practice (by national guidelines) and specific needs of *organizations* in accordance with their size and nature of activities (by tailored guidelines).

The National Policy for OSH-MS should be formulated by competent institution(s) in consultation with employers' and workers' organizations, and should consider:

- Promotion of OSH-MS as part of overall management
- Promote voluntary arrangements for systematic OSH improvement
- Avoid unnecessary bureaucracy, administration and costs
- Support by labour inspectorate, safety and health and other services

The functions and responsibilities of implementing institutions should be clearly defined as well. Figure 1 of the Guidelines describes the elements of the national framework for OSH managements systems. It shows the different ways in which ILO-OSH 2001 may be implemented in a member State:

Figure 1.



B. The occupational safety and health management system in the *organization*

Chapter 3 of ILO-OSH 2001 deals with the occupational safety and health management system at the *organizational* level. The Guidelines stress that compliance to national laws and regulations are the responsibility of the employer. ILO-OSH 2001 encourages the integration of OSH management system elements into overall policy and management arrangements, as well as stressing the importance that at *organizational* level, OSH should be a line management responsibility, and should not be seen as a task for OSH departments and/or specialists.

The OSH management systems in the *organization* has five main sections which follow the internationally accepted Demming cycle of Plan-Do-Check-Act, which is the basis to the “system” approach to management. These sections are namely Policy, Organizing, Planning and implementation, Evaluation and Action for improvement

Policy contains the elements of OSH policy and worker participation. It is the basis of the OSH management system as it sets the direction for the *organization* to follow. Organizing contains the elements of responsibility and accountability, competence and training, documentation and communication. It makes sure that the management structure is in place, as well as the necessary responsibilities allocated for delivering the OSH policy. Planning and implementation contains the elements of initial review, system planning, development and implementation, OSH objectives and hazard prevention. Through the initial review, it shows where the *organization* stands concerning OSH, and uses this as the baseline to implement the OSH policy. Evaluation contains the elements of performance monitoring and measurement, investigation of work-related injuries, ill-health, diseases and incidents, audit and management review. It shows how the OSH management system functions and

identifies any weaknesses that need improvement. It includes the very important element of auditing, which should be undertaken for each stage. Persons independent of the activity being audited should conduct audits. This does not necessarily mean third party auditors. Action for improvement includes the elements of preventive and corrective action and continual improvement. It implements the necessary preventive and corrective actions identified by the evaluation and audits carried out. It also emphasizes the need for continual improvement of OSH performance through the constant development of policies, systems and techniques to prevent and control work-related injuries, ill-health, diseases and incidents. The main sections and their elements of the OSH management system at the *organization* are shown in figure 2 below:

