

COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

EIGHTH REPORT OF THE
STEEL INDUSTRY SAFETY AND
HEALTH COMMISSION

(1976)

The 8th report of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission details the activities of the Commission and of its working parties during 1976 and contains analyses of the work carried out during this period.

This report contains tables giving the principal statistics for accidents at work in the steel industries in Member States.

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HEALTH COMMISSION

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1. INTRODUCTION

1976 was a year of very little activity for the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission due to serious administrative difficulties.

Owing to the multilingual nature of the exchange of experiences which is, it will be recalled, the object of the Steel Industry Commission, it cannot work particularly quickly.

The lack of any structure which can provide regular administrative assistance, particularly for the typing of working documents (reports, minutes and opinions) of the Steel Industry Commission and its Working Parties, which must be sent to experts in their mother tongues because of their very specialised technical nature, is a further complication and the cause of delays in the delivery of these documents and the preparation of meetings.

The Secretariat of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission has always suffered from a shortage of staff. It is not surprising therefore that due to the departure of the only secretary assigned to it, and to the abnormally long time taken to replace her, more than nine months, the department ceased to function almost entirely as regards meetings, the Secretariat finding it impossible to organise a single meeting of the Steel Industry Commission or its Working Parties during 1976.

Hence, the brevity of this report.

Although this situation is to be deplored and calls for suitable corrective measures, which the Steel Industry Commission has been demanding for years, it takes note of the Statements made by the representative of the Commission of the European Communities to the effect that all the facilities required for it to function properly would henceforth be obtained. The Steel Industry Commission unanimously reaffirms its confidence in the Commission of the European Communities, taking account both of the terms of the ECSC Treaty and of the financial resources which are provided under the system of levies by the steel industry and from which the steel industry should reap some benefit.

2. ACCIDENT STATISTICS

2.1. Accident statistics

The Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission regrets that at the time of writing the statistics on industrial accidents in 1975 are not available, despite the efforts made by the Statistical Office of the European Communities which is responsible for their compilation and publication.

This regret is made all the greater by the fact that the delay in publishing these statistics seems to be getting longer from year to year, although the changes in one country's system of remuneration for steel workers (in the Netherlands, workers are now paid on a monthly basis and systematic records are no longer kept of their daily hours at work, which makes it difficult to calculate the number of hours worked), and the difficulties involved in the application by undertakings in the new Member States of the Community of the system of recording numbers of accidents and workers side by side with their own system, account for this delay to a certain extent.

The Steel Industry Commission earnestly hopes the undertakings, the national employers' organisations responsible for collecting the data issued by the undertakings and the Statistical Office will coordinate their activities better in the future, so that the statistics may be made available as early as possible.

At the end of the Report there is a set of tables giving national and Community statistics similar to those contained in previous reports and comprising the latest figures to hand, namely those for 1974.

In order to preserve the significance of the series of results for the period 1960-1974 for the Community of the Six, the figures for the new Member States have not been incorporated in the tables of Community statistics. However, the figures for these countries are given in national tables similar to those used for the six original Community countries.

Tables relating to the Community of the Nine will not be significant for a few years until there are sufficient data on the new Member States.

Despite certain variations in the results in the various countries, Community accident trend statistics for 1974 are largely similar to those for 1973, even though 1974 was a record year for steel production.

2.2. Study of the Statistics and their Significance

The Steel Industry Commission having drawn attention on a number of previous occasions to the difficulties in interpreting current statistics, particularly as regards their significance and comparability, in 1974 instructed its Secretariat to carry out a study on the significance of these statistics. This study is now complete, full co-operation having been received from 16 steel mills in three different countries.

The Secretariat devoted a considerable proportion of its time in 1976 to this work.

This study covered all accidents involving bodily injuries from 1965-1974 in these 16 mills, which had an average workforce of 96,000. Over this ten-years period, the number of hours worked in these mills was 1,738,752,000 and the number of recorded accidents involving bodily injuries was 961,094.

This study was completed in 1976 and will be examined by the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission at its meeting of 25 January 1977.

2.3. Study of Very Serious Accidents

As a result of the study carried out on industrial accident statistics and their significance, the Secretariat and a number of experts who had taken part in this work came to the conclusion that a special study of very serious accidents was necessary, for several reasons.

The annual figures for such accidents, defined for the purposes of this study as those which result in death or recognised disablement greater than 10%, are relatively low compared with the total number of accidents involving bodily injuries (0.2-0.3%) and thus do not affect the frequency rate of a particular work.

As they are not regarded as a special category, such accidents, and in particular their causes, have never been the subject of a specific global study even though it seems that there must be a number, or at the very least categories of main causes such as transport, gas and molten substances.

It must also be understood that these very serious accidents, giving rise to the greatest social, moral, economic and legal consequences need, first and foremost, the essential preventive measures and constitute the fundamental reason for the promotion of safety.

A study of this type on the causes of very serious accidents can only be carried out with the co-operation of several mills and on the basis of experience over several years due to the relative infrequency of such accidents in each mill. For this reason, ASSIMILOR (Association de la sidérurgie et des mines de fer lorraines) was approached with a view to obtaining its agreement in principle and the agreement of the mills in Lorraine for such work to be carry out.

The approaches were very successful and four steel undertakings in Lorraine promised their co-operation.

An initial meeting of safety engineers from these mills was organised at the headquarters of ASSIMILOR on 22 and 23 September 1976 with a view to preparing a draft specimen questionnaire. This questionnaire was subjected to an initial exercise, the results of which were examined at a second meeting also held in Metz, on Friday 10 December 1976. A number of improvements have already been made.

The aim of the study to be carried out by ASSIMILOR in conjunction with these Lorraines undertakings is to seek and analyse as far as possible the causes of all the very serious accidents which occurred from 1970-1976 in the mills in question.

The anticipated results of this study are as follows :

- finalising of a standard questionnaire to be used for surveys on very serious accidents and possibly other accidents also
- initial information on the categories of causes of very serious accidents
- establishment of a method of research into the causes of such accidents.

The study will probably last for two to three years.

3. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

3.1. Distribution of documents

In 1976 the following documents were prepared for publication:

- Comprehensive Accident Control for Preventing Accidents Causing Injury
- First Aid and Rescue (revised edition)
- Tapping the Blast Furnace
- Development of Industrial Safety at Cockerill-Liège.

Moreover, in 1976 1,023 Steel Industry Commission documents were sent out at the request of the Community or external undertakings or organisations.

3.2. Film on the " Principles of Accident Prevention "

Copies of this film were made available free of charge to 15 agencies which hire out industrial and/or safety films on a non-commercial basis and to eight bodies, whose aim is the promotion of safety, to be used in their training activities.

In addition, a circular was sent to all iron and steel works in the Community, giving the addresses of the film libraries having the film available.

This film was also shown at the first Colloque of the ISSA International Section for the Prevention of Occupational Risks in the Iron and Steel Manufacturing Industry (Vienna, October 1976) and at the ILO International Seminar on Industrial Safety Policies (Turin, November 1976).

It was awarded a "Special Merit" Diploma at the Belgium film festival held in Namur on 18 and 19 November 1976.

4. STUDIES

4.1. Hydrogen

The studies on " The use of hydrogen in the iron and steel industry " and " Safety problems involved in the use of hydrogen in the iron and steel industry ", assigned to Mr DECKER and Mr ARRAGON respectively, are complete and will be used as the basis for a seminar to be organized in due course.

4.2. The causes of very serious accidents in the iron and steel industry in Lorraine

The contract for the first part of this study, mentioned in Section 2.3., was signed at the end of 1976. It will be recalled that this study is expected to last for two to three years.

STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I

Fatal accidents in the Community of Six

Year	Number of fatalities	Frequency rate (1)	Accident: production ratio (2)
1960	198	0,19	2,71
1961	168	0,16	2,28
1962	192	0,20	2,62
1963	148	0,16	2,02
1964	151	0,16	1,82
1965	167	0,18	1,94
1966	115	0,13	1,35
1967	107	0,13	1,19
1968	136	0,17	1,37
1969	136	0,16	1,27
1970	133	0,16	1,22
1971	115	0,15	1,11
1972	93	0,12	0,82
1973	117	0,12	0,95
1974	114	0,14	0,86

(1) Number of fatal accidents per million hours worked

(2) Number of fatal accidents per 1.000 000 tonnes of crude steel

Accidents causing absence from work in the Community of Six

Year	No. of workers	Accidents resulting in ≥ 1 day's absence			Accidents resulting in ≥ 3 day's absence		Percentage of accidents resulting in between 1 and 3 day's absence
		Number	f.r.(1)	acc:prod (2)	Number	f.r. (1)	
1960	494,264	102,686	98	1.405	89,569	86	12,2
1961	501,332	100,656	96	1.369	88,685	84	12,5
1962	469,941	88,142	92	1.207	76,422	80	13,0
1963	461,02	84,496	89	1.154	73,747	78	12,4
1964	468,836	88,395	93	1.067	76,994	81	12,9
1965	460,564	83,479	90	971	72,378	78	13,3
1966	442,123	73,687	85	865	64,000	74	12,9
1967	426,329	66,628	80	741	56,804	68	15,0
1968	418,916	66,962	82	679	57,167	70	14,6
1969	424,273	71,686	87	669	62,201	75	13,8
1970	433,507	76,943	92	705	67,382	81	12,0
1971	428,562	73,882	94	714	63,241	81	13,8
1972	421,098	74,391	97	657	62,777	82	15,5
1973	430,540	80,494	103	656	67,480	87	15,5
1974	443,891	81,710	103	616	68,592	87	16,1

(1) frequency rate

(2) number of accidents causing absence from work per million tonnes crude steel

Seriousness of accidents in the Community of Six

Year	Number of calendar days lost	Number of hours lost per 1.000 hours worked	Number of days lost per accident
1960	1.735.370	9.59	16.9
1961	1.747.758	9.55	17.4
1962	1.576.954	9.21	17.9
1963	1.527.193	8.98	18.1
1964	1.580.937	9.21	17.9
1965	1.492.686	8.88	17.9
1966	1.355.529	8.40	18.4
1967	1.206.785	7.76	18.1
1968	1.202.514	7.91	18.1
1969	1.323.955	8.55	18.5
1970	1.387.454	8.76	18.1
1971	1.431.769	9.15	19.4
1972	1.401.376	9.09	18.8
1973	1.462.756	9.31	18.2
1974	1.494.021	9.22	18.3

GERMANY
=====

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1,000	Fatal accidents r.r. +	Accidents causing ≥1 day's absence		Accidents causing ≥3 day's absence f.r. +	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
				f.r. +	f.r. +		
1960	214.671	427.479	0.18		108	95	13.6
1961	214.845	426.250	0.12		102	92	9.8
1962	203.976	386.124	0.20		95	85	10.5
1963	198.184	376.060	0.16		89	79	11.2
1964	200.656	389.527	0.15		97	85	12.3
1965	196.246	376.518	0.19		98	87	11.2
1966	186.913	351.223	0.13		98	80	13.0
1967	179.935	392.045	0.14		86	72	16.2
1968	177.372	336.016	0.18		94	80	14.9
1969	179.616	346.463	0.15		100	87	13.0
1970	181.686	345.182	0.15		105	94	10.5
1971	175.187	310.063	0.15		106	92	13.2
1972	165.488	298.213	0.11		105	90	14.3
1973	169.409	312.292	0.18		113	96	15.0
1974	173.179	314.874	0.13		106	90	15.1

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

BELGIUM

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1,000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≥ 1 day's absence	Accidents causing ≥ 3 days' absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. +	f.r. +	f.r. +	
1960	53.361	108.542	0.20	128	100	28.0
1961	52.878	106.915	0.19	122	95	22.1
1962	51.021	107.981	0.19	110	84	23.6
1963	50.662	107.150	0.23	107	82	23.4
1964	52.193	108.605	0.17	114	87	23.7
1965	50.459	108.767	0.18	107	80	25.2
1966	48.164	97.564	0.14	95	70	26.3
1967	47.581	94.790	0.13	90	67	25.6
1968	48.031	95.516	0.18	87	65	25.3
1969	49.043	97.668	0.17	87	66	24.1
1970	50.018	98.347	0.16	93	72	22.6
1971	50.049	94.843	0.17	96	73	24.0
1972	50.017	95.069	0.15	105	82	22.1
1973	51.249	93.505	0.30	112	85	24.1
1974	52.979	96.601	0.17	113	86	23.9

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

FRANCE

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1.000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≥ 1 day's absence	Accidents causing > 3 days' absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	
1960	148.362	343.471	0.22	74	71	4.0
1961	150.312	341.506	0.20	73	71	2.7
1962	128.977	287.720	0.20	73	70	4.3
1963	129.410	282.906	0.14	72	70	2.8
1964	130.129	284.695	0.15	71	69	2.8
1965	126.839	270.871	0.17	67	65	3.0
1966	119.944	251.737	0.12	65	63	3.1
1967	113.013	234.055	0.10	59	58	1.7
1968	107.809	219.408	0.13	57	56	1.7
1969	107.634	218.766	0.20	62	60	3.2
1970	109.274	218.742	0.17	64	62	3.1
1971	107.863	209.250	0.15	68	66	2.9
1972	105.823	199.664	0.13	70	68	2.9
1973	105.785	197.588	0.09	73	71	2.7
1974	108.786	197.838	0.13	79	77	2,5

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

ITALY

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1,000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≥ 1 day's absence	Accidents causing > 3 days' absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. +	f.r. +	f.r. +	
1960	51.177	111.132	0.15	104	78	25.0
1961	54.532	118.503	0.15	112	82	26.8
1962	57.081	118.145	0.20	110	80	27.3
1963	57.609	122.318	0.15	112	88	21.4
1964	55.665	111.331	0.10	107	84	21.5
1965	55.614	112.587	0.19	102	77	24.5
1966	55.506	108.360	0.16	95	75	21.0
1967	54.640	110.263	0.12	96	75	21.9
1968	54.611	108.322	0.18	91	69	24.2
1969	56.026	102.701	0.14	98	76	22.5
1970	59.287	108.790	0.17	117	91	22.2
1971	62.370	109.731	0.12	121	91	24.8
1972	66.518	114.022	0.12	132	95	28.0
1973	69.946	116.084	0.08	141	102	27.7
1974	73.902	123.481	0.14	143	105	26.6

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1,000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≥ 1 day's absence	Accidents causing > 3 days' absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	
1960	19.705	47.619	0.05	121	115	5.0
1961	19.308	40.646	0.17	117	110	6.0
1962	19.082	39.108	0.23	107	100	7.0
1963	19.902	38.581	0.10	111	103	7.2
1964	19.403	39.279	0.46	112	102	8.9
1965	19.572	38.717	0.21	115	106	7.8
1966	19.552	38.071	0.26	108	100	8.0
1967	19.299	37.121	0.27	104	98	5.8
1968	18.968	36.347	0.22	94	88	6.4
1969	19.045	36.780	0.16	105	97	7.6
1970	19.576	36.734	0.14	102	94	7.8
1971	19.294	35.635	0.17	94	87	7.4
1972	19.041	34.501	0.09	85	74	12.9
1973	19.351	34.693	0.14	82	76	7.3
1974	19.563	34.578	0.35	84	79	6.0

(x) f.r. = frequency rate

NETHERLANDS

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1,000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≥ 1 day's absence	Accidents causing ≥ 3 days' absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	
1960	—	—	—	—	—	—
1961	9.457	18.201	0.05	63	54	14.3
1962	9.804	18.597	0.32	69	57	17.4
1963	9.935	18.946	0.11	61	53	13.1
1964	10.790	20.634	0.05	70	61	12.9
1965	11.834	22.372	0.04	69	59	14.5
1966	12.044	22.404	0.04	66	57	13.6
1967	11.863	22.047	0.05	54	48	11.1
1968	12.125	22.292	0.09	55	49	10.9
1969	12.909	23.620	0.08	44	40	9.1
1970	13.666	24.427	0.12	42	38	9.5
1971	13.799	23.953	0.17	47	43	8.5
1972	14.211	24.192	0.17	45	40	11.1
1973	14.800	24.137	0.08	48	42	12.5
1974	15.480	25.331	0.08	43	38	11.6

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

DENMARK

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1,000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≥1 day's absence	Accidents causing ≥3 day's absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. +	f.r. +	f.r. +	
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-
1974	1.705	3.005	0,33	79	63	20,03

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

GREAT BRITAIN

Year	No. of workers	No.of hours worked x 1.000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≥ 1 day's absence	Accidents causing > 3 days' absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	f.r. ⁺	
1973	137.676	270.274	0,15	30	29	3,3
1974	138.767	263.680	0,08	32	29	9,4

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

IRELAND

Year	No. of workers	No. of hours worked x 1,000	Fatal accidents	Accidents causing ≤ 1 day's absence	Accidents causing ≥ 3 days' absence	Percentage of accidents with 1 - 3 days' absence
			f.r. +	f.r. +	f.r. +	
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-
1974	906	Not published	0	55	45	18,02

(+) f.r. = frequency rate

ACCIDENTS, PRODUCTION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMUNITY OF SIX

Year	f.r. ⁺	Crude steel production 1,000 t	Variation in % (++)	Load factor	Variation in % (++)	Number of workers at end of year	Variation in % (++)	Foreign workers	Variation in % (++)	Percentage of total workers	Intake (2)	Percentage of total workers
1960	98	73,076		95.5		482,453		(1)			81,765	16.9
1961	96	73,511	+ 0.05	91.7	- 3.8	483,351	+ 0.2	(1)			72,320	15.0
1962	92	73,011	- 0.07	87.5	- 4.2	479,466	- 0.8	56,050		11.7	73,522	15.3
1963	89	73,218	+ 0.03	83.3	- 4.2	469,326	- 2.1	55,399	- 1.16	11.8	61,644	14.4
1964	93	82,856	+13.2	90.0	+ 6.7	477,513	+ 1.7	65,293	+17.8	13.7	84,144	17.6
1965	90	85,991	+ 3.8	84.2	- 5.8	464,707	- 2.7	64,052	- 1.9	13.8	63,424	13.6
1966	85	85,105	- 1.0	78.6	- 5.6	439,949	- 5.3	58,486	- 8.7	13.3	52,109	11.9
1967	80	89,885	+ 5.6	80.1	+ 1.5	423,984	- 3.6	53,809	- 8.0	12.7	43,715	10.3
1968	82	98,634	+ 9.6	85.7	+ 5.6	421,658	- 0.5	56,039	+ 4.1	13.3	51,640	13.7
1969	87	107,318	+ 8.8	89.0	+ 3.3	432,122	+ 2.5	64,570	+ 15.2	14.9	80,155	18.6
1970	92	109,203	+ 1.8	86.2	- 2.8	437,181	+ 1.2	69,115	+ 7.0	15.8	79,894	18.3
1971	94	103,376	- 5.3	76.1	-10.1	426,639	- 2.4	67,665	- 2.1	15.9	60,421	14.2
1972	97	113,147	+ 9.5	81.5	+ 5.4	426,172	- 0.1	72,058	+ 6.5	16.9	61,084	15.7
1973	103	122,874	+ 8.6	85.1	+ 3.6	439,511	+ 3.1	81,260	+12.8	18.5	86,297	19.6
1974	103	132,563	+ 7.9	88.1	+ 3.5	460,772	+ 4.8	84,776	+ 4.4	18.4	80,925	10.4

(+) f.r.= frequency rate of accidents causing absence from work per million hours worked

(1) figure calculated on different basis prior to 1962, as Algerian workers in France were not classed as foreign workers.

(++) Each column marked " variation in % " shows the variation of the figure in the preceding column as against the previous year.

(2) including movements from one work to another

LISTE DES MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION GENERALE
ET DE SES GROUPES DE TRAVAIL

LISTE DER MITGLIEDER DES ALLGEMEINEN AUSSCHUSSES
UND SEINER ARBEITSGRUPPEN

ELENCO DEI MEMBRI DELLA COMMISSIONE GENERALE
E DEI SUOI GRUPPI DI LAVORO

NAMEN VAN DE LEDEN VAN DE ALGEMENE COMMISSIE
EN VAN HAAR WERKGROEPEN

LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY SAFETY
AND HEALTH COMMISSION AND ITS WORKING GROUPS

COMMISSION GENERALE DE LA SECURITE ET DE LA SALUBRITE DANS LA SIDERURGIE
ALLGEMEINER AUSSCHUSS FÜR DIE ARBEITSSICHERHEIT UND DEN GESUNDHEITSSCHUTZ IN DER EISEN-UND STAHLINDUSTRIE
COMMISSIONE GENERALE PER LA SICUREZZA E LA SALUBRITA' NELL'INDUSTRIA SIDERURGICA
ALGEMENE COMMISSIE VOOR DE ARBEIDSVEILICHED卜 IN DE IJZER-EN STAALINDUSTRIE
STEEL INDUSTRY SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMISSION

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