



EUROPEAN YEAR
OF SAFETY, HYGIENE AND
HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK

Activity
Report

3

Key projects



Note to readers

This report on activities in the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work has been prepared for the general public. It is in three volumes:

Volume 1: 'Europe for health and safety at work' outlines the activities of the Commission of the European Communities and the 12 Community Member States during the European Year;

Volume 2: 'List of projects' carried out as part of the European Year. This non-exhaustive list was drawn up on 31 July 1993;

Volume 3: 'Key projects': a description of particularly important national projects which could be copied by other Member States.

In addition to this report, a formal report on the execution of the Year has also been prepared, as required by the Council Decision, for the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Economic and Social Committee and the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, and was forwarded to them.



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Key projects

Activity report
Volume 3

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect either the position or views of the Commission of the European Communities.

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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Belgium

Health and safety in SMEs

It is difficult to reach employers and workers in SMEs (those with less than 50 workers) through traditional means such as posters, leaflets and information days. The enormous postage costs alone are a serious handicap here.

The campaign developed for the European Year therefore used television spots for the first time to increase awareness among workers and employers in SMEs and to encourage them to find out more.

At the same time the various intercompany medical services (IBGDs) distributed a leaflet giving details of how SMEs can obtain relevant information and expert advice cheaply or free of charge.

Using the IBGDs' regular correspondence with their SME clients reduced postage costs to a minimum. The text of the leaflet was also advertised in the news-sheets produced by the various social organizations. In addition the IBGDs were asked to organize at least one project involving SMEs. More specific and targeted initiatives were organized within this general framework: sectoral projects; pilot projects in SMEs; round-table discussions; development of SME training packages.

A systematic evaluation of this campaign would have been very valuable, but also extremely complex and expensive; nor is it certain whether the results would have been useful for other projects. Feedback from employers' and workers' organizations and prevention experts indicates that the campaign succeeded in getting people to talk about accident prevention at work, and that SMEs and their organizations have been convinced of the need for a positive prevention policy geared specifically towards SMEs.

The television spot, leaflet and further information may be obtained from the Commissariaat-generaal voor de bevordering van de arbeid – Ministerie van Tewerkstelling en Arbeid, Belliardstraat 51, B-1040 Brussels.

Round-table discussions

During the European Year attempts were made to develop options other than the traditional study and information days in order to obtain better results. Round-table discussions were one format which was tried out and evaluated on a number of occasions.

Such discussions involve two phases. First, participants attempt to define a problem as accurately as possible (diagnosis) and identify possible solutions and obstacles to them. Then a number of practical proposals are made on how to tackle the problem.

The second phase comes a few months later, when participants should try to reach the broadest possible agreement on proposals for the short and medium term.

The participants represent their various organizations (employers, workers, prevention experts, etc.) and prepare their positions in consultation with them so that talks remain at a formal level. A successful round-table discussion will result in practical initiatives.

Round-table discussions were organized on the following subjects:

'An appropriate prevention policy for temporary workers';
'Transferring information and expertise from large firms to SMEs (toxic and dangerous substances)';
'Health and safety – even on the way to work';
'Muscle and joint pain in the clothing industry'.

Participants found the discussions extremely useful and real results have already been obtained.

Dossiers

As part of a number of campaigns, dossiers were sent to the Safety and Health Committees asking them to examine the subject in question. Such dossiers are a way of developing an informed, systematic and targeted approach to a problem, on the basis of a joint assessment.

The following dossiers were produced:

Information policy in firms or organizations (could be combined with the video 'A worker informed is worth two in the dark');

'Working together – how Safety and Health Committees can organize a European Week in firms or organizations';

'Health and safety – even on the way to work';

'Preventing back pain in health-care institutions'.

The dossiers were extremely successful and demand was such that various reprints were necessary. Their practical usefulness and focused approach were particularly appreciated.

Joint Declaration on Health and Safety in Education and Training

A joint declaration was signed by all educational networks and training establishments, which undertook to incorporate health and safety in education and training.

This was followed by a joint information and consultation campaign at various levels, involving press conferences, seminars, competitions, posters, etc., to promote widespread support for the joint declaration. The campaign led to a considerable number of initiatives in education and a more structured approach to prevention.

Denmark

I. Health and safety at work – The working environment on rails

1. The European working environment train

Target group/purpose

A brightly decorated DSB train was to travel through Denmark providing information on the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work at each port of call.

Description

The working environment train was made up of two goods wagons, with plastic placards on the outside, and one conference coach with chairs, video equipment and barrels to serve as tables.

The goods wagons had been fitted out for exhibitions. The working environment train was the thread running through the land taking the campaigns from place to place. On its first trip to open the European Year the train visited 18 towns, starting in Århus on 1 April 1992 and finishing in Copenhagen. At the beginning of 1993 the train made a second trip across the country taking stock of the events of the European Year. The winners of the competition 'On track for a better working environment' were announced.

Duration

1 April 1992 to 28 February 1993.

Place

The whole country.

Results

The train attracted considerable press coverage and was an excellent focal point for the European Year in Denmark.

Future use

The intention is for each county to build on the experience gained at the opening and closing events.

Material available

Design manual in Danish and various types of exhibition material and videos. Video on the European Year (in Danish and English). The train design was the theme for the Year.

Contact

Claus Højlyng, Directorate of the Danish Working Environment Service, tel. 31 18 00 88.

Project participants and associates, if any

DSB, Tåstrup Vejskiltefabrik, Expotrain, Karkossaskilte.

2. Developing and streamlining works' health and safety services

Target group/purpose

To develop and streamline health and safety services in both small and large companies.

Description

Guidance and information on experience and trends to help companies develop, implement and maintain improved health and safety services.

The campaign was based on the experience gained since the introduction of the order on works' health and safety services which came into force in 1978. One of the aims of the campaign was to set a good example to companies, employees and others to motivate them to step up local works' health and safety activities.

A number of topics of international relevance were examined.

Duration

Autumn 1992 to February/March 1993.

Place

The whole country.

Results

Increased awareness of – and knowledge about – the working environment and how to solve the problems.

Future use

The results and experience gained will contribute to current efforts to improve works' health and safety services.

Material available

Folders: 'On track for a good working environment' and 'A good working environment will put production on the right track'.

Contact

Jens Jensen, Directorate of the Danish Working Environment Service, tel. 31 18 00 88.

Project participants and associates, if any

The National Committee: Danish Employers' Confederation, Danish Federation of Trade Unions, Salaried Employees' and Civil Servants' Confederation, Organization of Managerial and Executive Staff in Denmark, Agricultural Council, Danish Maritime Authority, Danish Seafishery Association, Danish Confederation of Professional Associations, Commission of the European Communities, Association of County Councils in Denmark, National Association of Local Authorities in Denmark, Danish Ministry of Labour, Danish Working Environment Fund, Danish Institute of Occupational Health, and Danish Working Environment Service.

3. Companies on track for a better working environment

Target group/purpose

Publication of a book describing the winning companies in the competition *On track for a better working environment*.

The book is intended as an inspiration to others who want to improve health and safety at their workplaces.

Description

In all, 145 companies throughout the country took part in the competition 'On track for a better working environment'. These examples of the best working environments in Denmark have been collected in a book describing each company's activities. There are 45 descriptions – three for each county.

The book, edited by a journalist, is divided into topics selected on the basis of the contributions of the winners. It is available in both Danish and English.

Duration

Publication: February 1993.

Results

The conference highlighted good examples of health and safety at work and many companies used it as an opportunity to demonstrate what they were doing. This type of competition provides an incentive to others to do something about their working environment.

Future use

The idea will be continued in the form of county competitions the winners of which will take part in a notional final. A new topic will be highlighted each year.

Material available

Book: *On track for a better working environment* (in Danish and English).
Folder: 'On track for a better working environment' (Danish).

Contact

Susann Bærentsen, Director of the Danish Working Environment Service, tel. 31 18 00 88.

4. Newspaper

Target group/purpose

To produce a newspaper giving good examples of how to engender commitment and a responsible approach to improvement of the working environment in both large and small companies.

Description

The newspaper was included in an information pack for the local committees to use for the opening of the European Year. It was produced and edited by outside journalists. The ideas for the articles and the decisions about the companies to be described came from a working party consisting of representatives of the Danish Working Environment Service, the Danish Federation of Trade Unions, the Danish Employers' Confederation, the Danish Nurses' Organization, etc.

It was available at exhibitions such as 'Prevent protect', local events and opening events around the country in connection with the working environment train and was partially financed by advertising.

Duration

Published on 1 April 1992.

Place

The whole country.

Results

The newspaper formed a good basis for a whole range of activities during the European Year.

Future use

The idea and concept could also be used for major events in the future.

Material available

Newspaper on the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (in Danish).

Contact

Poul Bang Nielsen, Directorate of the Danish Working Environment Service, tel. 31 18 00 88.

Project participants and associates, if any

Salaried Employees' and Civil Servants' Confederation, Danish Federation of Trade Unions, Danish Employers' Confederation, Danish Working Environment Fund, and Directorate of the Danish Working Environment Service.

5. Works' safety organizations on course

Target group/purpose

To ensure that safety organizations are set up in all companies which are required to do so.

Description

One of the basic purposes of the Danish Working Environment Act is to ensure that occupational health and safety problems are solved through close and systematic cooperation between management and labour in the individual company.

In large companies a safety organization is essential to occupational health and safety at work.

Although this is a statutory requirement for most companies with over nine employees, they do not all comply. A series of studies showed that between 25 and 40% of the companies subject to the requirement had not set up a safety organization according to the rules.

For this reason a campaign was launched in connection with the European Year to ensure that all companies required to do so set up

safety organizations and provided all members of those safety organizations with the statutory training under paragraph 9 of the Act.

On the basis of information from Danmarks Statistik, questionnaires were sent to approximately 30 000 companies, all of which were required to set up a safety organization to deal with occupational health and safety.

The Danish Working Environment Service inspected those companies which did not return a positive response.

Duration

1 April 1992 to 28 February 1993.

Results

Many companies used the opportunity to set up a safety organization voluntarily; 2 500 companies failed to react either to the letter or to the reminder and were inspected by the Danish Working Environment Service instead. These visits of inspection gave rise to 1 000 injunctions requiring safety organizations to be set up and approximately two thirds of these injunctions were issued to companies with between 10 and 20 employees. The injunctions were, on the whole, complied with and only 10 companies were prosecuted.

The Danish Working Environment Service can therefore say that, by the end of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, 30 000 companies covered by the requirement had set up safety organizations.

Future use

The campaign will be followed up in the years to come to ensure the continued development of works' safety organizations.

Material available

Letters and press releases (in Danish).

Contact

Lars Andersen, Directorate of the Danish Working Environment Service,
tel. 31 18 00 88.

II. The public – Information

1. Health and safety at work in Funen

Target group/purpose

To make as many local decision-makers as possible aware of the topics and message of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

Description

The navy cooperated by providing the training ketches *Svanen* and *Thyra* to sail around Funen and put in at a new port every day to draw attention to the European Year and its topics. The town's leading representatives of the two sides of industry were invited to an official welcome on the quayside and on land there was an exhibition on the European Year and on how each individual can create/maintain a better working environment.

In the evening special topics were addressed under the auspices of the trade union movement, the Danish Employers' Confederation and the local authority. Local people and employees of the Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service attended and the topics were selected partly from the general topics of the European Year and partly on the basis of local requests.

Duration and place

31 August 1992: Middelfart
1 September: Assens
2 September: Fåborg
3 September: Nyborg
4 September: Kerterminde
5 September: Odense

Results

Increased press coverage and public awareness.

Future use

Further development of the cooperation established.

Material available

Various types of exhibition material (in Danish and German).

Contact

Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service in the county of Funen:
Hans Ivan Christensen/Peter Orby,
tel. 66 11 89 36.
The navy: Captain H. Gjeddsbøl, the minelayer *Falster*, Holmen.

Project participants and associates, if any

The navy, the social partners, the Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service in the county of Funen, and any trade offices in the relevant towns.

III. Companies and the public – Information

1. Occupational health and safety week in Kalundborg

Target group/purpose

The Regional Inspectorate was to provide information on important occupational

health and safety issues in the local community.

Description

The Danish Working Environment Service acted as catalyst and the local authority, companies, organizations and others concerned took responsibility for the high-level planning of the week's events which included:

exhibition and demonstration of protective equipment for use in the house-building industry;
meeting on ergonomics;
lecture: 'Health and safety at work, then and now';
seminar on the European Community and health and safety at work;
exhibition on health and safety at work;
exhibition of protective equipment;
debate for politicians on sensitive occupational health and safety issues;
occupational health and safety at the electricity power station, Asnæsværket;
lecture on occupational injuries.

Duration

16 to 20 March 1992.

Place

Kalundborg.

Results

Increased press coverage and public awareness.

Future use

Further development of the cooperation established.

Material available

Exhibition material (in Danish).

Contact

Kjeld Bech Jørgensen and Birgit Tamberg, Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working

Environment Service in the county of West Zealand, tel. 53 53 12 07.

Project participants and associates, if any

The local authority, companies, organizations and the Danish Working Environment Service.

IV. Agriculture – Information

1. Roskilde cattle show

Target group/purpose

Information specific to the agricultural sector. General information.

Description

In cooperation with, and at the request of, the Agricultural Council, the Danish Working Environment Service set up an exhibition based on the following aspects of health and safety:

children and young people in dangerous work;
dust from grain and animals;
protective equipment;
straw;
transport of maxi-bales;
protection for tractor drivers.

There was also a stand of more general interest on hazardous substances and materials:

paint/paint codes;
cleaning agents/classified substances.

A 25 × 25 m site and a tent, approximately 120-150 m², were available for these activities. Both were provided free of charge by the Agricultural Council.

The Baltic Orchestra was engaged for 13 June.

Duration

11, 12 and 13 June 1992.

Place

Roskilde cattle show.

Results

Increased press coverage and public awareness.

Future use

Further development of the cooperation established.

Material available

Various types of exhibition material (in Danish).

Contact

Uffe Hansen, Danish Working Environment Service in the county of Storstrøm, tel. 54 85 00 77.

Project participants and associates, if any

Erling Petersen, Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service in the county of West Zealand.
Per Ole Pedersen, Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service in the counties of Roskilde and Bornholm.
Uffe Hansen, Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service in the county of Storstrøm.

V. Fisheries – Examination and prevention

1. Reduction of noise on board fishing vessels

Target group/purpose

To reduce the risk of permanent injury to the crews of fishing vessels as a result of noise.

Description

First of all the sources of noise on board a number of different but typical fishing vessels will be mapped out, measured and classified under realistic operating conditions.

Specific steps will then be taken to reduce the noise, new measurements will be made and the cost of the individual measures will be examined. A report will be drawn up with the new information and this will be given to all owners of fishing vessels. Negotiations on future policy on injunctions will be held with the two sides of industry. Finally, a check will be made to find out whether the injunction policy is being complied with.

The reason for the project is that hearing impairment as a result of noise now accounts for over half of all occupational diseases reported among fishermen. The noise level on board trawlers is generally high and consists of both engine noise from hydraulic machines and impulse noise from the heavy tools used.

Because the vessels are generally very compact the crew is always exposed to a certain amount of noise whether working or resting.

Duration

October 1992 to June 1993.

Place

Denmark.

Results

Not yet available.

Future use

Noise prevention.

Material available

A report is to be drawn up (in Danish).

Contact

Egil Vestergaard, Danish Maritime Authority, tel. 39 27 15 15.

Project participants and associates, if any

Danish Maritime Authority.

VI. Educational institutions – Information

1. Discussion book on health and safety at work

Target group/purpose

To provide material for discussion of individual and joint responsibility for a good working environment and a rewarding job, and to illustrate the connection between working life and other areas of life.

Description

The book is aimed at a wide range of people without any particular previous knowledge but the primary target group is pupils from the eighth year upwards. This includes the oldest pupils of the Danish primary and lower secondary school, technical school pupils and students doing vocational training courses.

The book deals with a variety of subjects viewed from different angles and thus provides a broad and varied picture of health and safety at work. It combines personal accounts with more general observations.

Duration

May 1993.

Results

Good teaching material has been produced for use in Danish primary and lower

secondary schools, technical schools, vocational training courses, study groups, etc.

Future use

For educational and training purposes.

Material available

Book (in Danish).

Contact

Ann Hjørt, Danish Working Environment Fund, tel. 31 20 55 30.

Project participants and associates, if any

Danish Working Environment Fund, Danish Working Environment Service.

VII. Young persons – Educational material

1. 'The working environment at stake', a computer game

Target group/purpose

To exploit the educational potential of the computer game.

Description

The Danish Working Environment Service produced a computer game 'The working environment at stake' for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. The game takes us on an entertaining, challenging and instructive journey through the world of the working environment.

The game consists of five scenarios – a painter's workshop, a building site, a joiner's workshop, a forge/machine shop and an office. Using a mouse you move around the screen correcting the mistakes at the five workplaces and score points as you go. If your answer is wrong you will score negative points.

The game has been sent to all primary and lower secondary schools and technical schools in Denmark with a teacher's guide and a floppy disk. It has been well received by both teachers and pupils and the Danish Working Environment Service hopes that it will help to ensure a safer start to working life for Danish children and young people.

There is also a four-language version of the game for the European Year. It can be played in Danish, English, German and French by anyone who wants to know more about how to ensure health and safety at work.

The four-language version is based on Danish health and safety rules. The Danish Working Environment Service is prepared to make its know-how available for the design of similar computer games in other languages based on different national health and safety regulations. For further information please contact the systems export secretariat of the Danish Working Environment Service.

Additional copies

Additional copies of the four-language version can be ordered from: Arbejdstilsynet, Landskronagade 33-35, DK-2100 Copenhagen, tel. (+45) 31 18 00 88. The price is ECU 25 per copy, excluding postage.

Copyright

'The working environment at stake' was developed by the Danish Working Environment Service in cooperation with DTI/Energiteknologisk. The Danish Working Environment Service owns the copyright for the text and pictures and DTI/Energiteknologisk owns the copyright for the source material and programme concept. All rights are reserved. No part of the game may be reproduced or copied.

Duration

December 1992.

Place

The whole country.

Results

Considerable interest has been shown in the game by educational and training institutions and many are already using it for teaching purposes.

Future use

Further development of the game.

Material available

The game is available on a floppy disk together with instructions (Danish, English, French and German).

Contact

Ida Styhr, Danish Working Environment Service, tel. 31 18 00 88.

Project participants and associates, if any

Danish Technological Institute, Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service in Copenhagen and Frederiksberg.

VIII. The public – A fair

1. 'Prevent/protect' fair

Target group/purpose

To demonstrate the importance of occupational health and safety measures to improved living conditions in Denmark and, by highlighting the theme of the European Year, to show how important it is to spread the message throughout Europe.

Description

'Prevent/protect' was one of the first technical fairs of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work 1992. Small-scale conferences were held covering three aspects of health and safety at

work every day. The theme was problem-solving safety measures and plans of action in areas such as indoor climate, cleaning, substitution, physical and mental stress, the fitting-out of the workplace and noise and vibrations. The days were divided into trade sectors.

The most up-to-date information on all aspects of health and safety at work could be obtained at the exhibition stands. The Danish Working Environment Fund, environmental experts and the Danish Working Environment Service had a joint stand consisting of a 5 x 5 m stage with the audience on three sides. A play (*The peregrine falcon*) was put on every day.

Duration

7 to 10 April 1992.

Place

Fyns Forum, Odense.

Results

Increased press coverage and public awareness.

Future use

Further development of the cooperation established.

Material available

Various types of exhibition material (in Danish).

Contact

Danish Working Environment Fund, tel. 31 20 55 33.

Project participants and associates, if any

Danish Working Environment Fund, Organization of Manufacturers of Personal Protective Equipment/Distributors of Safety Equipment, invited firms, occupational medicine clinics, Occupational Health Service and Regional Inspectorate of the Danish Working Environment Service on Funen.

Germany

Colloquium on machine safeguards: possibilities and problems in the Community and elsewhere

The above colloquium was organized by the international machine safety section of the IVSS.

The target groups were persons and institutions confronted with questions of machine guarding. Also present were representatives of public authorities and social security bodies. Three blocks of themes were dealt with:

1. Principles of EC law governing machine guarding
2. Standardization
3. Product liability and certification.

The following individual themes were presented:

The significance of the EC directives on the abolition of obstacles to trade and on ensuring the free movement of goods (Article 100a) and of the EC directives on the improvement of safety and health protection in the working environment in machine guarding (Article 118a)

Consequences of the different dispositions of the EC Treaty

EC directive on machinery and used machines

Safety in the workplace in operating machinery under EC law

Harmonized standards and their structure for fulfilling the safety objectives laid down in the directives

Basic concepts of the safety of machinery, plant and equipment, general design guidelines

Fundamental demands on the ergonomic design of machines (EN 292)

Safety distances (EN 294)

Requirements to be met by technical protective measures

C standards in the examples of woodworking, textile machinery, food machines, machine tools

Authoritative EC provisions on product liability

Consequences of product liability from the viewpoint of property insurers

Significance of the obligation to provide information, especially operating instructions in the context of product liability

EC certification policy

EC accreditation systems for test and certification bodies

Requirements to be met by a test laboratory.

There was, in addition, a round-table discussion on the subject 'Putting EC law into practice' with representatives of public authorities, machine operators, EC Commission, manufacturers, inspection officers, social partners and social insurance authorities. Closing discussions were held with the participants.

It appeared that the groups affected within the European single market – ranging from producers to users in the factory – will have to receive more targeted information.

A practical guideline was worked out aimed at making the principal EC provisions (directives, standards) in the field of machine guarding more comprehensible, in spite of their complexity, to manufacturers in particular.

To obtain the views in other participating countries on EC law relating to labour and health protection, contacts with foreign experts, especially from the European Economic Area, will have to be strengthened.

As working material, the closing report may be obtained upon request from: Internationale Sektion Maschinensicherheit der IVSS (Internationale Vereinigung für Soziale Sicherheit), Dynamostrasse 7-9, D-68165 Mannheim, tel. 0621 4456 213.

'Lifting, carrying, sitting'

The Federal Association of Accident Insurers in the Public Sector organized a model seminar on the theme 'Lifting, carrying, sitting'. The target groups directly addressed were employers, employees, factory doctors, work safety officers and personnel representatives. The same target groups were additionally approached indirectly by the folders distributed.

A model seminar consists of seminar modules (introduction to the theme, general principles from the areas of anatomy and physiology, aspects of sitting, lifting and carrying, the practice of sitting, lifting and carrying, functional gymnastics). Each module contains sheets. On the basis of the model seminar, multipliers are formed which, in their turn, provide training in the factories on proper sitting, lifting and carrying.

Employees and young people are reached directly by means of a folder. This urges them, on their own initiative, to perform exercises in the workplace. The programme has been taken over by the Health Care and Welfare Industrial Insurance Boards. It can be used in all parts of the Community.

The folders, exercises, sheets and a brochure can be obtained from: Bundesverband der Unfallversicherungsträger der öffentlichen Hand, Fockensteinstrasse 1, D-81539 Munich, tel. 089 62272 0.

EC labour protection policy for more humanized working conditions in salaried occupations

The German Employees' Federation (DAG) organized a convention and working conference on the theme 'EC labour protection policy for more humanized working conditions in salaried occupations'.

The target groups directly reached were works' councils and personnel committees; those indirectly targeted were all office holders in the DAG.

First of all the various political positions were established with regard to the theme 'EC policy on labour protection and the German labour protection system – continuity and change'. Five working groups were then formed to deal with the following subjects:

- (i) Position and repercussions of the incorporation of EC labour protection directives in German law
- (ii) EC labour protection policy and health protection in industry
- (iii) Impact of European regulations on the ergonomic design of workplaces using monitoring screens
- (iv) The break-up of the German standard protection system – a new role for the Occupational Health and Safety Agencies (Berufsgenossenschaften)?
- (iv) Principles and goals of the EC Commission's policy on labour protection.

Practical aids concerned with the protection of the working environment were worked out for works' councils and personnel committees. Further training courses and seminars will be organized.

The report of the proceedings can be requested from: Deutsche Angestellten-Gewerkschaft, Bundesvorstand, Ressort Wirtschaftspolitik, Kanuplatz 1, D-20355 Hamburg, tel. 040/34 91 54 31.

Conference on labour protection in the mining industry

The Industrial Trade Union for the Mining and Energy Industries (IGBE) and the International Mineworkers' Federation organized an international conference on labour protection in the mining industry.

The conference was attended by numerous trade union delegates from the coal and steel industries of 71 countries and by important representatives of employers and from the worlds of politics, research and economics. Among the subjects dealt with were:

- legislation for the protection of mineworkers;
- basic and further training in the field of labour protection;
- labour protection, environment, living conditions and services;
- rehabilitation and retraining in the event of industrial accidents and occupational diseases.

The global action programme for the protection of labour in the mining industry, adopted by the conference, was subsequently adopted by the International Mineworkers' Federation Congress and forwarded to relevant international bodies. The International Labour Organization (ILO) used the document as the basis of an ILO convention on labour protection in the mining industry.

The document may be obtained from: Industriegewerkschaft Bergbau und Energie, Alte Hattinger Strasse 19, D-44789 Bochum, tel. 0234/319319.

Humanization of female labour – joint event organized by the Thüringen and Hessen Länder

The Thüringen and Hessen Länder jointly organized the conference 'Humanization of female labour – Burdens and health protection of women in the workplace'. The target groups especially aimed at were: associations of employees and employers, works' councils, women's delegates, trade supervisory officials, safety officers, statutory accident insurers, industrial medical officers, etc.

The choice of subjects and the objects of the conference related to the special problems of the protection of female labour under the conditions of united Germany and the prospective creation of unified European legislation on labour protection. From the viewpoint of the new federal States (*Länder*), particular attention was paid to the problems involved in building up labour protection administrations in Thüringen. In the process of the economic restructuring of Thüringen, and due to the employment adjustments taking place in the market economy, women in Thüringen were particularly affected by unemployment. In the many and various measures designed to provide women with equal opportunities in the labour market, the humanization of female labour, that is to say the elimination of burdens, undue demands and discriminating limitations in employment, played a prominent role.

It was established that health must be more than the absence of sickness; it also comprises mental and social well-being. For that reason, the right of female employees to the preservation of their health calls for a labour protection policy which puts prevention and the promotion of health before therapy and after-care.

The proceedings of the conference may be requested from the Thüringen Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Werner-Seelenbinder-Strasse 14, D-99096 Erfurt.

Congress on labour protection – a topical issue

In October 1992, the Professional Association for Labour Security (FASI) organized a congress entitled 'Labour protection – a topical issue'. The congress was opened under the motto 'Europe – a perspective for everyone'.

Under the heading 'Labour protection as a task for management', the congress dealt with special problems of small and medium-sized enterprises, but attention was also devoted to new workplace and other organizational models of health and safety arrangements that can find application everywhere. Other themes were:

Economic efficiency and labour protection
Plant safety
Hazardous substances
Environmental technology
Health protection.

In parallel with expert seminars, specialists in industrial medicine from Eastern and Western Europe exchanged experiences at the international symposium on industrial medicine in East European countries. Special seminars for safety officers dealt with subjects such as the role of safety officers in factories, in the public service and on construction and assembly sites, health hazards due to noise and dangerous substances, and the motivation for wearing personal protective clothing.

The congress events were particularly interesting for factory safety officers from the new federal *Länder*, since they provided up-to-date information on technical and legal standards and practical possibilities for taking them over.

During the congress all institutions connected with German labour protection enquired at the 'safety – meeting point' desk about the current status of occupational health and safety in Germany. The centre point of this exhibition was the joint stand of the Commission of the European Communities and the German Liaison Committee. Europe was the predominant theme of the entire congress. The tasks, goals and perspectives of European policy on labour protection were comprehensively dealt with.

Contact: FASI, Albert-Schweitzer-Allee 33, D-65203 Wiesbaden, tel. 06 11/600400.

Occupational training action 'Young people want to live safely'

As part of the annual information campaign 'Young people want to live safely', an action was organized in the European Year under the motto of 'Gemeinsam gegen Lärm' (A common front against noise) which called upon the 700 000 students at 587 vocational training schools throughout Germany. The aim of the action was to inform and motivate all students of vocational training colleges on the subject of more safety at the workplace in the context of 'Noise and the combating of noise'.

Among the participants at the opening event were representatives of vocational schools and school authorities, together with staff of the trade cooperatives and the trade supervisory body. Talks were delivered about

the development and objectives of the action, getting the message over to the schools and support from the ministries.

The vocational school action made it possible to reach small and medium-sized enterprises on the subject of safety and health protection at the workplace, target groups which are otherwise difficult to involve.

Knowledge and awareness of labour protection should form part of the vocational training of qualified people today. The action 'Noise and the combating of noise' was an example that drew the attention of young people in the vocational schools to hazards at the workplace.

The action 'Young people want to live safely' was also established for the first time in the new federal *Länder*. The emphasis was placed on motivation, the recognition of hazards, the avoidance of noise and self-protection against noise.

The 'Young people want to live safely' action is particularly suited to the entire European area.

The following materials were produced for the 1992 action:

one teaching draft for vocational school teachers;
one wall news poster giving basic information;
one special worksheet for vocational school students; and
one video film with more detailed information.

Contact: Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften, Zentralstelle für Unfallverhütung und Arbeitsmedizin, D-53754 Sankt Augustin, tel. 02242 23101 (Mr Stürk).

Action weeks:**– Health risks in seaport cargo handling****– Safety and health protection in the hospital workplace**

The Hamburg Labour, Health and Social Welfare Authority (BAGS) and the German Trade Union Federation organized an action week for health protection in the port cargo handling area, where the work involves lifting and carrying, vibration and dust. Particular target groups were works' councils, port workers, safety officers, staff engaged in industrial medicine, trade supervisory officials, trade unionists and employers' representatives.

Numerous lectures, practical demonstrations, a multimedia programme and exhibitions made these target groups aware of the problems of health protection in the workplace.

The action concluded with a demand for standard labour protection regulations which are clear and understandable to the workforce.

The week of action for safety and health protection in the hospital workplace was organized by the same authorities. It appealed, in particular, to nursing and cleaning staff.

The subjects dealt with were:

danger to the health of operating and nursing staff from narcotic gases in anaesthesia;
hazards to cleaning staff in the hospital;
cytostatics – preparation and use of a hazardous substance;
the hospital as a workplace – the effects of shiftwork.

Transferable models of working time organization in hospitals were proposed.

Contact: BAGS, Amt für Arbeitsschutz, Adolph-Schönfelder-Straße 5, D-22083 Hamburg, tel. 040/29188-3949.

Awareness development in labour protection – Awareness development through exhibitions

The Federal Institute for Occupational Health and Safety organized a two-day conference on the abovementioned themes.

The conference was targeted at persons engaged in the field of occupational health and safety, exhibition organizers, psychologists and educationalists.

The discussions turned around the ways in which exhibitions can be used as a means of developing awareness of health and safety problems. The following subjects were dealt with:

Occupational health and safety in museums – a new conception? Since when, what for?

Possibilities and limitations of demonstrating occupational health and safety problems in museums

Technology and labour changes

Technology and labour in an integral museum concept

History of technical exhibitions and museums

Exhibitions in the modern world

What is safety awareness?

The links between the various instruments for transposing awareness development into preventive labour and health protection

Health promotion and preventive measures based on the example of the Federal Central Office for Health Education

Making children and teenagers aware of safety

Contributions on making children and teenagers aware of safety by means of teaching in museums

Cawado: A computer game as a learning tool for young people.

The German labour protection exhibition (DSA) was brought to the notice of the relevant target groups as a new communication instrument. An exchange of information took place between the target groups, between which there is otherwise hardly any cooperation. The results can be transposed to exhibitions of all kinds.

The proceedings of the conference can be obtained on tape from: Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz, Friedrich-Henkel-Weg 1-25, D-44149 Dortmund, tel. 231 9071-0.

Establishment of a list of hazardous substances

The hazardous substances list produced by the Occupational Health and Safety Institute of the Central Association of Industrial Occupational Health and Safety Agencies (BIA report 1/93, 'Hazardous substances list') contains, alongside the names of the substances, the data relevant to health and safety protection and refers to State regulations and those issued by the relevant agencies. The specific data on these substances and the references to regulations are meant, in particular, to inform employers, factory safety officers, the occupational health and safety agencies and State supervisory departments, industrial medical staff and officials carrying out tests and inspections of workplaces in connection with occupational health and safety.

The list contains the following items:

identity of substance (CAS No, Einecs);
classification (carcinogenic, affecting
inherited characteristics, hazardous to
procreation);
properties (skin resorptive, sensitizing);
limit values in air;
short-time values;
particle fraction;
danger factor
limit values in biological material;
references to test procedures, precautionary
investigations in industrial medicine, and
relevant regulations and literature.

In the text of the BIA report the individual
items are commented upon, and there are
supplementary notes concerning the limit
values and classifications.

Small and medium-sized firms, as well as
large companies and supervisory authorities,
will find the information they need in the BIA
report, and a survey of the current status of
the rules and regulations.

The BIA report 1/93, 'Hazardous substances
list', may be obtained from: Hauptverband
der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften,
Abt. Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, D-53754 Sankt
Augustin, tel. 02241 231435.

Greece

Safety and health in industry

Organizer

Dow Hellas.

Type of activity

Safety training.

Target group

Company employees.

Material available

Posters.

Brief description of the programme

The company organized monthly classes of two and four hours and also a five-day 'Safety week' with four hours of talks each day.

During these activities accidents which had occurred in the company or elsewhere were analysed, the properties of chemical substances used in the company explained and lessons in first aid given. The talks were on the following topics:

1. Rules for safe working in the machine-shop.
2. Rules for safe working at heights.
3. Rules for safe working with heat.
4. Rules for safe access to tanks.
5. Use, checking and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment.
6. Use of masks as protection against chemical dusts and gases.
7. Effects of industrial noise on hearing, and protective measures.
8. Programming and organization of work with a view to preventing accidents.
9. First aid in the event of fractures, burns caused by heat or chemicals.
10. Lessons to be learned from actual or near accidents in industry.

Evaluation

a. How evaluated: Number of reports from the personnel about near accidents.

b. Main results: Heightened awareness of the likelihood of accidents.

c. Possible future uses: Ongoing training in topics which were examined and periodical showing of the slides.

Safety and health at work

Organizer

Ministry of Labour.

Type of activity

Publication of a book.

Target group

Workers at all workplaces.

Material available

Book.

Brief description of the programme

Publication of a book entitled *Safety and health at work*. It is to be used as a means of informing and training workers and their representatives in all branches of vocational activity. It is written in an easily readable style, in simple language and with many illustrations. The contents cover major themes such as safety, chemical hazards, well-being, noise, etc. It has 120 pages and 10 000 copies were printed.

Evaluation

a. How evaluated:

1. The range of topics covered by the book.
2. The number of workers who would be directly influenced by the book.

b. Main results: Very positive as regards informing and training workers in all branches of activity, especially after harmonization with the framework directive and individual directives.

c. Possible future uses: As a training manual in seminars for the training of workers and workers' representatives.

Occupational diseases of workers in ship-repair yards

Organizer

Association of workers in the Crete dockyard.

Type of activity

Two-day exhibition of protective equipment and apparatus.

Target group

Dockyard workers.

Material available

Printed matter, posters.

Brief description of the programme

Organization of a two-day event to provide information for workers, employers, government and scientific bodies and to enable them to exchange views. Distribution of printed matter to workers. Organization of an exhibition of personal protective equipment, of apparatus for the measurement of harmful agents, and of books and other printed matter dealing with safety and health at work.

Evaluation

a. How evaluated: The extensive participation of workers and of representatives of management, government bodies and other bodies.

b. Main results: Provision of information on Greek and Community legislation aimed at ensuring the proper use of personal protective equipment and apparatus for the measurement of harmful agents.

c. Possible future uses: Repeat of the activity and its extension to other workplaces.

Album of posters produced by the personnel of EKO

Organizer

EKO Ltd (petrochemical company).

Type of activity

Poster competitions and publication of an album.

Target group

Visitors, VIPs, workers.

Material available

Posters produced by the workforce.

Brief description of the programme

The objective of the programme is to publish an album of 32 prize-winning posters produced by EKO workers who took part in the safety competitions which the company organizes each year.

Evaluation

a. How evaluated: The chief criterion is that all the workers in the EKO Group should be encouraged to see safety and health at work as a primary concern in their everyday activities.

b. Main results: A thousand copies of the album will be distributed in order to make people more aware of the efforts being made by everyone (company and personnel) to improve safety and health at work.

c. Possible future uses: The album is a handbook promoting a higher level of safety in everyday work and activities.

Events promoting health and safety at work

Organizer

Athens Polytechnic.

Type of activity

Seminars, talks, photographic exhibitions.

Target group

Polytechnic students.

Material available

Printed material.

Brief description of the programme

The events promoting health and safety at work were organized in the Athens Polytechnic. They were attended by the students of the Polytechnic, mainly by those from the infrastructural works department of the School of Technological Applications. The aim of the events was to make the students more aware of the issues involved and to provide them with information on EC legislation and activities concerning the improvement of working conditions. The events comprised:

(1) Three two-day seminars, organized on a number of occasions, dealing with Greek and Community legislation, harmonization, terminology and definitions, occupational risk, cost of prevention and substitution, sources of occupational risks, safety systems, hazardous types of work and situations.

(2) Two talks on safety management, and on fire and protective measures.

(3) Video shows.

(4) A photographic exhibition which lasted three months.

Evaluation

a. How evaluated: The large number of students attending the events but, even more important, the keen interest shown.

b. Main results: Heightening of awareness, dissemination to third-level students of information about health and safety at work.

c. Possible future uses: Organization of the programme in other third-level teaching establishments.

A campaign to bring home to employers, workers and the general public the importance of protecting health at work

Organizer

Industrial Association of Thessaly and Central Greece.

Type of activity

Information campaign.

Target group

Representatives of industry and industrial undertakings. Senior staff from the industrial sector, members of factory safety and health committees. Workers, safety engineers, occupational physicians, educational institutions, the mass media.

Material available

Periodicals, fact-sheets, talks, reports, slides, press releases.

Brief description of the programme

The objective of the programme was to bring home to employers, workers and the general public the importance of protecting health at work. The awareness campaign covered the organization of:

I. A public meeting in Volos aimed at:

(a) highlighting the current position of Community and national legislation and institutions with regard to health and safety; (b) conveying the extent of the improvement in working conditions produced by investment, expenditure and studies and their influence on man as an individual and on society as a whole; (c) publicizing the results of the campaign of one-day conferences in the principal towns of the prefectures of Fthiotis, Karditsa, Trikala and Fokis.

II. Publicizing the means available for the protection of health at work.

Evaluation

- a. How evaluated: Number present at the events.
- b. Main results: Heightened awareness of employers, workers and the general public
- c. Possible future uses: Organization of the campaign each year to provide up-to-date information and increase awareness of the issues involved.

Handbook for safety training on shipsOrganizer

Institute for Marine Studies and Research.

Type of activity

Compilation and publication of a handbook.

Target group

Seafarers.

Material available

Printed material.

Brief description of the programme

Publication of a book entitled *Safety handbook for fishing vessels*. It has 360 pages and has illustrations to make it easier for fishermen who do not have enough time to read the text. It analyses all the topics in which fishermen need to be trained in order to bring about a significant reduction in the number of accidents occurring at sea or in harbour; 5 000 copies have been distributed so that all fishermen may have it on them as an essential piece of equipment. The text is in Greek and also in English since crews include foreign members.

Evaluation

- a. How evaluated: The specificity of the topic treated in the handbook.
- b. Main results: Provision of information for fishermen and seafarers and heightening of their awareness of the issues involved.

- c. Possible future uses: Re-publication and general distribution of the handbook to fishermen and seafarers.

Information for farmers on protective measures to be applied during the use of pesticides and agricultural machineryOrganizer

'Our Lady the Lover of Mankind' Centre in Ormilias, Khalkidiki.

Type of activity

Provision of information.

Target group

The farming community.

Material available

Leaflets, posters, video.

Brief description of the programme

The aim of the programme was, building on the good relations between the Centre and the local population: (a) to provide information for Greek farmers living in Central Macedonia on the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, (b) to inform them of the risks they run when using pesticides and agricultural machinery, and (c) to stress the importance of protective measures both with regard to exposure to pesticides and occupational accidents. The means used to achieve these aims were (a) publication of an information leaflet which was distributed to 50 000 farming households, (b) production of a video cassette dealing with protective measures during work with pesticides and screening of the video in farmers' social centres and (c) production of a poster and talks by experts in 'Our Lady the Lover of Mankind' Centre.

Evaluation

- a. How evaluated: Questionnaire on the frequency of application of protective measures during spraying.
- b. Main results: Increased application of protective measures.
- c. Possible future uses: More regular screening of the video and wider distribution of the leaflets throughout Greece with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Trade union training programme for health and safety at work

Type of activity

Training.

Target audience

Trade union representatives with specific responsibility for prevention.

Description

The project consists of developing training material for an 'expert programme for occupational health' on three levels:

1. Basic
2. Expert
3. Specialist (specific production sectors).

Prospects for use

Wide use (by the target audience).

Material available

Teaching materials have been designed (in preparation).

Contact

Instituto Sindical de Estudios
Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT)
c/Azcona, 53 – Madrid

Conference on occupational diseases for trade union representatives and health-care professionals

Type of activity

Discussion and exchange of information and experience.

Target audience

Workers' representatives and health-care professionals.

Description

Analysis of causes for the sub-register of occupational diseases and awareness of the experiences of alternative national and European registers.

Prospects for use

Wide use (by the target audience).

Material available

Analytical manual and information on the diagnosis of occupational diseases.

Contact

Comisiones Obreras
c/ Fernández de la Hoz, 12
E-28010 Madrid

Safety programme for small and medium-sized enterprises

Type of activity

Educational and operational assistance for administering risk prevention in SMEs.

Target audience

Small and medium-sized enterprises.

Description

Safety programme for SMEs based on the development of activities aimed at controlling risks, allowing for practical application in smaller undertakings to obtain the optimum degree of prevention of vocational risks (using the same structure).

Prospects for use

Valid for SMEs.

Material available

Written and audiovisual.

Contact

Asociación para la Prevención de Accidentes
c/Echaide, 4
San Sebastian

'Haz tu propia seguridad en 1992' (A safety game)

Type of activity

Awareness-raising.

Target audience

Workers, family members and relatives.

Description

Design and publication of an educational game on safe behaviour patterns at the workplace and in the home.

Prospects for use

Wide use (by the target audience).

Material available

Game.

Contact

Comisión Autónoma de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo de Industrias Químicas y Afines
c/Hermosilla, 31
E-28001 Madrid

Project Cepren

Type of activity

Planning and implementation of specific measures on an industrial estate.

Target audience

Workers and owners of SMEs.

Description

Experiment bringing together entrepreneurs and workers from a group of industries, with technical support from the administration and the mutual protection system, to improve working conditions and provide a system of

organization which incorporates prevention of occupational hazards into the culture of small and medium-sized enterprises in a specific geographical area.

Assessment

(method of assessment – results)

An initial assessment of the risks for entrepreneurs and workers has been carried out; and once this is completed, and suitable measurements taken, the implementation phase will begin. Almost all workers and entrepreneurs have also undergone training in order to enable them to tackle the subsequent implementation phase autonomously.

Prospects for use

Suitable for any geographical grouping of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Material available

Programme.
Video.

Contact

Gabinete Técnico Provincial de Zaragoza
Instituto Nacional de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo

Computer program for risk assessment

Type of activity

Analysis and assessment of working conditions.

Target audience

Occupational health and safety technicians and/or specialists.

Description

Comprises five programs: Trends in noise exposure; Working conditions in hospitals;

Work: prioritization of risk factors by activity sector; Ear protectors; Accident investigation, intended to assess working conditions in different environments.

Assessment

(method of assessment – results)

The five programs and manuals have been produced and will be published shortly.

Prospects for use

Manifold.

Material available

Diskette and instruction manual for each program.

Contact

Centro Nacional de Condiciones de Trabajo de Barcelona
Instituto Nacional de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo

Guides to EC regulations

Type of activity

Awareness-raising.

Target audience

Workers, entrepreneurs, technicians and the general public.

Description

Brochures setting out and commenting on Community legislation concerning working conditions. There are currently seven guides; the final two summarize the directives in force and in preparation concerning safety and health at work and product safety, with an analytical structure.

Prospects for use

As reference works for the target audience.

Material available

Seven guides published.

Contact

Instituto Nacional de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo

Educational publication for schools: ERGA-TBO

Type of activity

Awareness-raising – educational.

Target audience

Primary school pupils.

Description

Distribution in primary education centres of five editions of the publication ERGA-TBO, with the aim of ascertaining the degree of acceptance, interest and motivation of pupils in the technical aspects of health and safety at work.

Assessment

(method of assessment – results)

An assessment is being carried out following the end of the pilot experiment, with the aim of deciding whether to extend it.

Prospects for use

In all primary education establishments.

Material available

ERGA-TBO (five editions of a magazine).

Contact

Centro Nacional de Condiciones de Trabajo de Barcelona
Instituto Nacional de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo

France

International Work and Health Forum, Paris, 8 and 9 September 1992

Target

Anyone involved in preventing occupational risks and improving working conditions in France and the rest of Europe, including management, workforce representatives, occupational physicians, safety engineers and technicians, research workers, employers' associations and trade unions, and government representatives.

Description

This international forum, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Vocational Training and the National Health Insurance Organization, was the central event of the European Year in France.

Two topics of discussion were selected for the two days, namely, risk assessment and the new health and safety situation stemming from the Community directives.

Eight workshops addressed the different approaches to the two topics:

- (i) The first of these gave the people responsible for risk assessment an opportunity to evaluate, on the basis of available evidence and experience, the respective roles of those concerned with health and safety (management, employees' representatives on health and safety committees, occupational physicians, external bodies), as well as their scope for action, the difficulties they encounter and the various solutions adopted.
- (ii) The workshop on evaluation methods provided an opportunity to take stock of the different approaches to risk assessment, taking into account the experience of experts (occupational physicians, ergonomists, technicians, management and workforce representatives). Discussions were enhanced

by the contributions of representatives of national institutions or other Member States which had been concerned with this topic for several years.

(iii) Risk assessment in construction and civil engineering was treated separately, as one of the sectors where the accident risk is the greatest and most diverse. This workshop provided an opportunity to compare the experiences of French and other European companies.

(iv) The development of new forms of work (temporary employment, firms working on other firms' sites) has led to new and often serious risks. The workshop on this subject provided a forum for the presentation of preventive measures based on the experience of firms, and it was stressed that one solution was the exchange of information between different firms working on the same site.

(v) The workshop on machinery and PPE (personal protective equipment) looked at the new situation resulting from Community legislation. The participants (designers, users and workforce representatives) were thus able to communicate their policies, problems and questions.

(vi) The forum on the risks associated with handling operations discussed the different methods of accident prevention and took stock of the effects of the Community directive on activities involving significant exposure to accident risks.

(vii) The workshop on the needs of small and medium-sized businesses analysed their specific constraints (inability to employ safety experts etc.) and looked at the forms in which information should be provided by the institutions.

(viii) The last workshop provided an opportunity for the presentation of recent safety training experiments and for reflection on the best ways and means of making

students and workers more aware of occupational risks.

The forum also included a presentation of the main results of a 1992 Ministry of Labour survey on public awareness of matters connected with working conditions.

With specific reference to European policy on health and safety at work, it would appear that one member of the workforce in five is aware of Community legislation in this field; 76% consider themselves uninformed or insufficiently informed about Community activities and would like this situation to be remedied; two out of three people think that Community harmonization would bring progress in the field of health and safety.

These few figures confirm – if confirmation is necessary – that the French are still relatively unaware of Community health and safety measures. This was why one of the tasks of the European Year was to correct this information deficit.

Evaluation

1 200 persons participated in discussions, which were widely reported in the press.

Future plans

The forum will be repeated every two years, the next one being in 1994.

Material available

Forum proceedings.

Contact address

Ministère du travail, de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle
Direction des relations du travail
S/Direction des conditions de travail
Cellule d'information et de coordination
1, place de Fontenoy
F-75350 Paris 07 SP.

Albert Thomas awards

Target

Companies.

Description

Introduced by the Ministry of Labour in 1990, the objective of these awards is to recognize companies with dynamic health and safety policies. The idea is to show that improving working conditions and preventing occupational risks are not irreconcilable with economic competitiveness.

In 1992, as part of the European Year, the presentation of these awards was organized by the Ministry of Labour and the National and Regional Health Insurance Organizations.

Evaluation

More than 600 firms from all over France participated in the competition: 92 received regional awards, and at national level an independent jury chaired by Mr Jouven, president of the governing council of ANACT (the National Agency for the Improvement of Working Conditions) and City Bank France, selected from among them the six national Albert Thomas awards:

(i) *Large construction/civil engineering company category*

Entreprise SADE

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region

The jury gave a special mention to **Transmanche construction** (Channel Tunnel construction company).

(ii) *Small construction/civil engineering company category*

Menuiserie Roger (craft-trade business with three employees)
Maubeuge (Nord)

The jury also made special mention of **Philippe Degouy**, a roofing company with 10 employees in Champagne-Ardenne.

(iii) *Large industrial concern category*

Entreprise Legrand (electrical appliance manufacturer)
Limousin

(iv) *Industrial SME category*

Entreprise Freudenberg (synthetic fibre manufacturer)
Alsace

(v) *Large service company category*

Entreprise Dectra (waste disposal)
Champagne-Ardenne

(vi) *Services SME category*

Clinique Clementville
Languedoc-Roussillon

A special mention was made of Sudfer, a non-ferrous metal and scrap recycling company in Aquitaine.

Future plans

Regional and national awards will again be presented in 1994.

Contact address

Ministère du travail, de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle
Direction des relations du travail
S/Direction des conditions de travail
Cellule d'information et de coordination
1, place de Fontenoy
F-75350 Paris 07 SP.

Video festival 'Voire et vivre l'entreprise' (Seeing and experiencing the enterprise): European symposia on internal communications, 7 to 9 April 1992

Target

The audiovisual industry and company communications experts.

Description

As part of the fifth Le Creusot Information Festival, round tables and discussions on safety, training and information were organized over a three-day period, in parallel with a video festival, in the prestigious setting of the Château de la Verrerie. In 1992 – for the first time – a day was devoted specifically to health and safety at work as part of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

Evaluation

Approximately 1 000 persons attended part or all of the festival, and awards were given to the following films:

(i) *Grand prix 'Voir et vivre l'entreprise'*
Title: *La mort des autres* (Death of others)
Sponsor: INRS
Producer: Cadrage
Director: David Delrieux

(ii) *Jury's special award*
Title: *Le Journal de l'Année* (Journal of the Year)
Sponsor: MATRA
Producer: CAPA Entreprise
Directors: Claude Degoutte and Patricia Corphie

(iii) *Safety award*
Title: *Attention peinture* (Wet paint)
Sponsor: SNCF – Direction du Personnel
Producer: SNCF St Ouen, Service communication
Director: Etienne Mortini

(iv) *Training award*
Title: *Le masque/Le jeu de la vérité* (The mask/the game of truth)
Sponsor: INRS
Producer: AB Films
Director: Claude Lallemand

(v) *Video magazine award*
Title: *Clap sud-est No 4*
Sponsor: Crédit agricole du Sud-Est

Producer: Crédit agricole du Sud-Est
Directors: Marie Pascale Perrimbert/Alain Gagnon

(vi) *Humour award*

Title: *Une journée d'enfer* (A day in hell)
Sponsor: BNP Paris
Producer: Travelling Avant
Director: Gérard Gianni

(vii) *Musical creativity award*

Title: *La formation en cinq actes* (Training in five acts)
Sponsor: France Loisirs
Producer: Tracks Lyon
Director: Livier Xuerf
Composer: Pierre-Yves Lenik

Future plans

In future an award will be given each year to a video on safety at work.

Material available

Thematic catalogue of films presented.

Contact address

Madame Simone Ferreux
Festival vidéo de communication du Creusot
BP 121
F-71203 Le Creusot.

**Science and Safety Forum,
Strasbourg, 9 to 11 December
1992**

Target

Persons concerned with hygiene, health and safety problems (management, research workers, workforce representatives, etc.) in the various areas of basic and applied research (public and private).

Description

This European forum provided an opportunity to take stock of the specific safety

and medical surveillance methods used in the different countries, to compare the results obtained in respect of worker protection, and to identify the sectors where the risks are not yet completely under control and where joint studies are therefore necessary. The questions of safety training during university courses and on starting research work were of course covered, together with all other subjects likely to affect the impact of research on the environment.

Evaluation

More than 360 scientists and other persons responsible for safety, representing research institutions and industrial concerns, met at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Four workshops were held, and discussions included a comparison of the methods used to combat risks in different European countries and set out in proposals for harmonization submitted to the competent authorities. The other subjects examined were health and safety regulations, how to deal with unforeseen risks in safety research, definition of work areas, impact on the environment, workforce training, communications, and information for the general public.

Future plans

This major event received extensive media coverage, which should give rise to further contemplation at all levels and help to boost awareness, not only in research, but also in other closely related sectors.

Material available

Programme and communications proceedings to be published.

Contact address

CNRS
Inspection générale d'hygiène et de sécurité
Strasbourg
tel. 88 28 63 21.

**Symposium on measures taken
by local and regional authorities
in the field of health and safety at
work, organized by the
municipality of Lyon, 24 and 25
February 1993**

Target

Local and regional authority decision-makers and competent staff of partner companies.

Description

Local and regional authorities are both employers and awarders of contracts. They therefore have a dual responsibility towards their employees and, as awarding authorities, towards the firms which help them to carry out their duties.

This European symposium provided a forum for:

discussion of health and safety practices in the context of the awarding of contracts and delegated or subcontracted management;

discussion on health and safety from the point of view of the risks at work to the workforce employed by local and regional authorities;

creation of a European network of 'health and safety at work' experts working for local and regional authorities;

boosting the importance of the health and safety role of local and regional authorities;

increasing the awareness of elected office-bearers and officials.

The aim was to design a programme of technical meetings on various subjects for which local and regional authorities are responsible (hygiene, water, drainage, roads, grassed areas, culture, schools, fire-service, etc.).

Evaluation

This event resulted in the launching of a movement to develop health and safety at work within the local and regional authorities. The large number of requests for information received from all sides (unions, elected representatives, management, occupational physicians, health and safety experts, etc.) bears witness to the interest and needs in this field.

Future plans

Preparation of a charter.

Material available

Symposium proceedings to be published.

Contact address

Mr Victor Fortino
Le Grand Lyon
20, rue du Lac – BP 3103
F-69399 Lyon Cedex 03.

36-16 CAPEB (Confederation of Craft Industries and Small Building Firms) – Telematics-based health and safety information service

Target

Building trades.

Description

Professional telematics service to authorize access for building trade craftsmen to various databases, particularly a field containing health and safety information.

This takes the form of a set of 10 questions for the purposes of:

- replying to questions on binding rules for the prevention of occupational risks;
- testing knowledge on this subject;
- providing information on European directives in this field;

presenting the body responsible for health and safety in construction and civil engineering.

Evaluation

The number and geographic spread of companies in the building sector and the necessary differences in the skills and qualifications of the heads of firms tend to hinder the dissemination of information.

CAPEB has recognized telematics as an efficient means of communicating with craftsmen, in that its universal and permanent availability allows them to access the information needed, from their own premises, at any time.

Future plans

The 'health and safety' field created as part of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work has often been referred to in the journal *Le bâtiment artisanal* and has been advertised in the specialized press.

An information leaflet has been sent to CAPEB's regional federations which have disseminated it to their members and, in some cases, non-members as part of a wider mailshot.

Material available

The objective of the health and safety field of 36-16 CAPEB is not so much to offer an exhaustive legal database on the legislation and regulations concerned with preventing occupational risks as to provide a tool designed to make the building trade craftsmen consulting it more aware of the importance of the subject and the benefits of giving it their sustained attention. The field has been conceived with pragmatism, efficiency and ergonomics in mind, and in an attempt to reconcile the constraints of simple telematics consultation with the importance of the subject.

The permanence and ongoing updating of this service make it an excellent source of information for small craft-trade businesses in the building industry.

Contact address

Mr Denis Joly
Confédération de l'artisanat et des petites entreprises du bâtiment
46, avenue d'Ivry
BP No 53
F-75625 Paris Cedex 13
Tel.: 45 82 40 00
Fax: 45 82 49 10.

Sea-fishing safety training

Target

Officers and crew; management, social staff, instructors, health staff.

Description

Fourteen sessions (six in 1992 and four each in 1993 and 1994) each lasting five days and covering:

- an analysis method for industrial accidents (cause tree);
- incorporation of safety aspects into the design or conversion of vessels and installations;
- presentation of legislation and regulations; ergonomics and standardization: basic data for adaptation of workstations to man; health and safety procedures.

Evaluation

Analysis of training by trainees (at the end of the six sessions in 1992):
57% very satisfied, 43% satisfied.

Future plans

The purpose of this training is to enable those who, in their daily work, are confronted with

the occupational risks involved in sea-fishing, to contribute towards improving the health and safety of seamen in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Ministry and the National Association for Disabled Seamen.

Material available

Training is based primarily on the work done by the research laboratory of the Lorient Institute of Health and Safety at Sea (films, slides, practical exercises).

Contact address

Mr G. Hanno
Directeur de l'Institut maritime de prévention pour l'amélioration de la santé et de la sécurité au travail
34, rue Chaigneau
F-56100 Lorient.

Information on European directives within a company: Snecma (National Aviation Motor Design and Construction Company)

Target

Workforce (production, quality, maintenance, working methods, safety, occupational medical service, health and safety committee) employed by the Snecma Group and its subcontractors.

Description

The objective was to provide information on the principles and contents of European directives in order to improve prevention of industrial accidents, occupational diseases and pollution, while reconciling prevention quality with that of Snecma's aeronautical and space equipment.

Evaluation

1. Constitution of multidisciplinary working groups to analyse the important areas of regulation affecting companies: the European Year and Community directives; tobacco, alcohol and drugs at work; obligation to provide information on chemical products; back pain; external enterprises; work equipment; environmental protection and industrial activities.
2. Working group discussion leadership by safety engineers and occupational physicians.
3. Presentation of the results achieved to the main parties concerned with health and safety at a one-day symposium.
4. Dissemination of information through regular internal publications aimed at the workforce.
5. Compilation of a company health and safety code.

This measure directly reached 400 persons and 15 companies or establishments (Snecma Group or subcontractors).

Material available

Internal publications, health and safety code.

Contact address

Société nationale d'étude et de construction de moteurs d'aviation
Direction générale
Service central sécurité, conditions de travail, environnement.

Ireland

Construction Euro-safety award scheme

Project organizer

Construction Industry Federation
Federation House
Canal Road
Dublin 6
Ireland
tel. (01) 977487; fax (01) 966953
in association with the Health and Safety Authority.

Project manager

Peter McCabe, FIITD, Dipl SM, Director
Business Development.

Project type

A national construction safety award scheme.

Objectives

- (a) To achieve and highlight good safety standards on construction projects;
- (b) To raise industry awareness (employers/employees) of site hazards.

Target group

Project managers, contractors, subcontractors and workers on projects; 7 000 workers covered by scheme and 470 subcontractors.

Features of scheme

1. Project team established (CIF/HSA).
2. Meetings with a group from Northern Ireland involved in a similar project.
3. Project was publicized in industry including launch of project by Mr Brian Cowen TD, Minister for Labour.

4. Entry requirements included submission of safety statements.

5. Projects accepted were issued with special European Year flag.

6. Projects audited on an alternating basis by CIF and HSA safety specialists.

7. Each project audited minimum of four times using special safety audit forms.

8. Project managers informed of progress over the six-month period of scheme.

9. Safety auditors meet to consider results and establish winners in selected categories.

10. Prestigious award ceremony in Dublin on 15 March 1993.

Materials available

Scheme details
Audit system
Results
Copy press coverage
Photos
Video of presentation.

Main results

A highly successful project with CIF and HSA jointly involved. Maximum publicity achieved. Has raised awareness among clients, directors of companies, site managers, subcontractors and workers. This is a model which should become a truly European/transnational competition.

Outcome

Nine projects were awarded certificates of excellence and a specially commissioned trophy. Eight projects were awarded certificates of merit. Each site manager was presented with an engraved crystal trophy.

Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists

Project organizer:

Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists (ISCP).

Project title

Euro-teaching pack for those involved in lifting and handling training.

Description

This project, through the means of slides and tapes, forms a teaching aid for everyone involved in lifting and handling training at work with particular emphasis on the health-care services.

Materials available

1. Euro-teaching pack in manual handling

The pack contains:

- (i) 101 slides in three groups:

Group 1: Back care – preparation and principles, 40 slides; common core group covering anatomy, biomechanics, flexibility and basic lifting principles

Group 2: Lifting and handling in general; 29 slides covering general occupational lifting

Group 3: Lifting and handling patients; 32 slides covering patient lifting and handling

- (ii) Full script and tape commentary on slides
- (iii) Training guidelines
- (iv) Comments on legal issues
- (v) Reading list.

2. ISCP Euro-slide pack in manual handling

The pack contains:

- (i) 70 slides in two groups:

Group 1: Back care – preparation and principles, 40 slides; common core group

covering anatomy, biomechanics, flexibility and basic lifting principles

Group 2: Lifting and handling in general; 29 slides covering general occupational lifting

(ii) Full script and tape commentary on slides

These would be suitable for distribution to other EC countries. The slides are immediately understandable. The test and accompanying tapes need only translation and reproduction.

The Irish Sea Fisheries Board (BIM)

Project organizer

The Irish Sea Fisheries Board (BIM).

Project title

Safety on board fishing vessels.

Description

This project comprises a video and information pack which highlights the major hazards for employees on board fishing vessels. The video lists the hazards common to different classes of fishing vessel.

The video tells the story of a day at sea for a fishing crew. We are shown incidents where serious injury could have resulted. Safe and unsafe practices on board the fishing boat are outlined. There is an accident on board which is dramatic and it shows how easily these accidents can occur and how readily they could be avoided. Also shown are employers who have suffered from accidents on fishing boats and there is an interview with a widow who lost her husband at sea.

Materials available

Video – duration 15 minutes;
Information pack comprising safety statement for fishing industry;
Information posters;
Training manual on health and safety in the fishing industry.

Graphic illustration of safe/unsafe practices for those with learning difficulties

Project organizer

National Irish Safety Organization, 10 Hogan Place, Dublin 2
tel 353-1 6620399; fax 353-1 6620397

The National Irish Safety Organization (NISO) is a voluntary non-profit-making organization promoting and developing awareness in occupational safety, health and hygiene.

Categories entered

All.

Title

Graphic illustration of safe/unsafe practices for those with learning difficulties

Trainees

The above innovative project was initially developed this year as a result of the lack of safety material for those suffering from reading/learning difficulties. It was clear that the project would be of further use as it overcomes the language barrier and is therefore applicable internationally.

The project covers all seven categories, as we intend it to be used in schools as initial training and in businesses for in-service training.

We would anticipate that the attractively presented project will expand into the area of water, road and general safety as well as all aspects of occupational safety.

Training objectives

The main aim is to educate and increase awareness in safety, health and hygiene in the workplace especially to persons with learning/reading difficulties, those not speaking/reading the language of the country and finally to increase awareness

among the public at large who will absorb the message easier with diagrams rather than words.

Teaching methods used

The project is innovative in the sense that it is a self-teaching project but can also be used in schools by teachers and students and also in businesses to alert employees to safe occupational practices. It can be used as a self-teaching project for those working in agriculture, construction or the fishing industry or for those who do not get a proper formal education.

Training content

The training is visual in nature and is an ongoing process. It can be extended into general use.

Assessment systems used

The project has been tried on dyslexics and they have seen it to be a valuable contribution towards increasing occupational safety.

NISO will continually obtain feedback from the project so as to evaluate existing users of the project and to determine other further uses of this ongoing project.

Farming – a way of life

Project organizer

Irish Farmers Association (IFA).

Project title

Farming – a way of life.

Description

Farming – a way of life is a 22-minute video and teachers' manual produced by the Irish Farmers' Association for use in primary schools.

Its aim is to reduce substantially the number of accidents to children on farms. The video highlights the principal causes of accidents on farms as follows:

- Falls from heights
- Chemicals
- Slurry pits
- Tractors and machinery
- Electricity
- Animals

Its target audience is fifth and sixth-year children at national schools but it also has a relevance to all primary school children, post-primary students as well as their parents.

Materials available

The IFA are continuing to promote and encourage its use in schools and are advising members of the farming community of the importance of getting a copy for their own use. It will have an impact for many years to come.

This video and teaching manual has relevance on a wider European scale. The message contained in the video is clear and would only require dubbing or the inclusion of subtitles.

Research on the assessment of the risk resulting from exposure to noise at work in the building industry

Organizer

The Joint Committee for the Prevention of Accidents, Industrial Hygiene and the Working Environment for Turin and its province.

Type of measure

Research.

Target group

Workers and employers in the building industry.

Description

Research with a view to drawing up a scientific methodology for the global mapping of 'noise' for the whole of the construction sector.

Evaluation/results

The workers and workplaces requiring protection were identified so as to provide employers with useful reference tools for the implementation of the necessary preventive and protective measures provided for by Decree-Law No 277 of 15 August 1991 which implements the EC directive. The dissemination of information on occupational hazards and their prevention was promoted and the understanding of the problems of safety at work was improved, in particular in small and medium-sized companies.

Prospects for use

Dissemination of information: The results are distributed free of charge to all trade unions in this sector, building schools and local-level joint committees throughout the country, as well as to the public bodies responsible for surveillance. The mini-guide on prevention is sent free of charge to all workers in the sector through the abovementioned organizations.

Usable material

Loose-leaf binder containing:

final report on the research into parts;
handbook of instrument surveys, mapping of the noise agent, mapping and spectral analysis and personal protective equipment on loose leaves;
software prepared for the mapping of noise;
slide-rule produced to make it easier to calculate the level of personal exposure $L_{pe}(dB(A))$;
information brochure on risk prevention for workers, covering the risks resulting from exposure to noise, asbestos and metallic lead, containing the general standards of Decree-Law No 277/91, the risks from noise, protection measures, health monitoring, protection from lead and asbestos.

Contact person

Dr Fiammotto, c/o Comitato Paritetico Territoriale per la prevenzione degli infortuni, l'igiene e l'ambiente di lavoro di Torino e provincia, strada del Dosso, 100, I-00135 Turin; tel. 011/340045; fax 011/3400242.

Integrated system for improving the safety and health of railway equipment workers

Organizer

Cooperativa Lavori Ferroviari (railway cooperative).

Type of measure

Establishment of safety clubs: training courses; drafting of health and hygiene plans; meeting.

Target group

Workers and employers in the building and railways sector.

Description

The project is divided into three measures:

1. 'Human resources' which is divided into two stages: information and training. The first phase involves the development of a manual on prevention in the area of railway equipment, which will be designed for dissemination to workers, and of another manual on the management of the 'safety and hygiene plans in the area of railway equipment', which is of a more technical nature and designed for company managers. The training stage, designed for both foremen and workers, will lead to the establishment of 'safety clubs' with the aim of monitoring and improving safety conditions.
2. 'Innovation', involves the study and application of technological and organizational innovations in order to bring work systems into line with safety criteria.
3. 'Communication' – this includes the organization of a meeting for the presentation of various experiences in the area of safety in the railway work sector at national and European level.

Evaluation/results

A major awareness and training programme was conducted involving all the workers of CLF; forms were produced for the drafting of safety and hygiene plans which may be used by all railway workers (approximately 200 000); safety improvement groups (safety clubs) were formed, thereby making it possible to pool the experience of workers concerning hazards.

Prospects for use

The results will continue to produce benefits in years to come by adding a further dimension to health and safety plans and through the activities of the improvement groups and the Safety Committee.

Usable material

Manual on prevention in the area of railway equipment, designed for all workers;

teaching cards produced by the improvement groups (safety clubs) setting out safety and hygiene plans;

minutes of the meeting on 'occupational safety at railway equipment sites' held in Rome on 31 March 1993;

invitations and advertisements for the meeting.

Contact person

Dr Testoni, c/o Cooperativa Lavori Ferroviari, via della Cooperazione, 100, I-40129 Bologna; tel. 051/323424; fax 051/324135.

National conference 'Safety at work in Europe and the experiment conducted at ENEL' and safety campaign (the project was not jointly funded, although it was allowed to use the logo)

Organizer

ENEL (Italian National Electrical Energy Agency).

Type of measure

Safety campaign.

Target group

Workers in the electrical sector and maintenance firms (approximately 300 000 workers).

Description

Two audiovisuals on: (i) 'noise' (Decree-Law No 277, Chapter IV, of 15.8.1991); (ii) 'asbestos' (Decree-Law No 277 of 15.8.1991, Chapter III); colour; duration 20 minutes; the two audiovisuals describe the risks of exposure to noise and asbestos, as well as the prevention measures laid down in

Decree-Law No 277 and the behavioural requirements for workers.

A 'safety manual' with text and drawings setting out the prevention measures on: workplaces, protection equipment, signals, work equipment, work on electrical installations, mechanical and laboratory work, civilian work, lifting, transportation and storage, vehicle and boat guide, office work, fire extinguishing and prevention, first aid.

Evaluation/results

The use of the audiovisuals and the manual make it possible to provide a large number of consistently top-level identical training courses.

Prospects for use

Possibility of using the audiovisuals and the manual in other sectors as well.

Usable material

The audiovisuals and manual described above.

Contact person

Mr Comini, c/o ENEL, Direzione Segretariato Generale, Unità Centrale Sicurezza e Igiene del Lavoro, via Taliamento, 9, I-00198 Rome; tel. 06/85092616; fax 06/85095712.

Atlas of occupational accidents in Italy (a project which is not jointly funded, but which is allowed to use the logo)

Organizer

Ediesse Ltd - INCA (Institute sponsored by the CGIL trade union)

Type of measure

Research.

Target group

Trade union organizations, entrepreneurs, the sections of the public administration concerned, those interested in the subject.

Description

The atlas analyses the data on occupational accidents supplied by the Italian National Institution for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL), which provides a 'geographical representation' of the phenomenon in terms of distribution throughout the country and their incidence in the various sectors of work and production. In particular, the atlas is divided into three sections:

an introduction providing an overview of accidents in Italy;

a 'glossary' giving translations of the terms used by INAIL to classify the production system (INAIL processing) in terms used by the trade union for its own organizational requirements (the categories of workers and the respective national collective employment agreements);

a major section analysing accidents in the various production sectors of the various collective agreements.

Evaluation/results

The main objective of the atlas is to provide useful information for carrying out analyses and evaluations of the density and geographical and sectoral distribution of accidents in Italy, on the seriousness of the consequences and, above all, on the circumstances of the occurrence of accidents.

Prospects for use

The atlas is a tool which may be used to carry out measures for attaining specific prevention objectives and ensuring safe conditions at work.

Usable material

The atlas described above.

Contact person

Dr Laudati, c/o Ediesse, via dei Frentani, 4/A,
I-00185 Rome; tel. 06/44870231;
fax 06/4469007.

Analysis of the health and safety conditions of the working environments in a group of companies involved in catering and baking work

Organizer

ISCOM (Study and Documentation Institute for Commerce, Tourism and the Services).

Type of measure

Research.

Target group

Research carried out on a sample of catering and baking concerns with a view to characterizing the production cycle and the organization of work, the degree of conformity of their environment and operations with legal rules, the compliance with the requisite minimum safety rules, the presence of any physical or chemical pollutants, and the incidence of occupational accidents and diseases in the previous five-year period. The study was carried out on a sample of 31 companies in this sector: 58% of them were bakeries and 42% restaurants. They are situated in various regions of Italy. The data obtained show that approximately one third of the workers interviewed had suffered an occupational accident and that the interworking of various factors such as temperature, humidity and dust will, over time, have a harmful effect on those exposed. However, the main discovery of the survey is the general absence of knowledge about, or indifference to, the problems in these areas.

Evaluation/results

A detailed study was carried out on the working and environmental conditions in small and medium-sized companies operating in these sectors, with a verification of the current conditions and an evaluation of the impact of Community legislation from the socioeconomic viewpoint. The general objective was to determine the degree of discomfort at work and to assess the costs of an improvement of working conditions.

Prospects for use

The results of the study will be distributed to the federations of the sectors concerned, which will then disseminate them to the individual companies concerned.

Usable material

Research report setting out the degree of conformity of working environment and operations to legal rules; conformity with minimum safety standards; the incidence of occupational accidents and diseases in the previous five-year period.

Contact person

Dr Mochi, c/o ISCOM, piazza G.G. Belli, 2,
I-00135 Rome; tel. 06/5898044;
fax 06/5800112.

Noise in cement works and the associated mines and quarries

Organizer

IGEAM Ltd.

Type of measure

Research.

Target group

Workers and employers in cement production and the associated extractive industries (15 cement works and more than 100 associated plants).

Description

A study conducted at 15 cement works and a further 100 associated plants of the cement industry with a view to producing environmental maps of noise and assessing workers' exposure to noise, as well as collecting data and conducting technical analyses. Two series of data were produced for each production plant or site: the equivalent ambient noise levels (leq) and the individual daily exposure levels (leq/d). In addition, the study sets out the 'percentage effect' of remaining individual positions on the total level of daily exposure to noise of each operator. The calculation of the percentage effect makes it possible for protection against the dangers of noise to be tailored to individual workers.

Evaluation/results

The establishment of noise-hazard maps in cement works and associated mines and quarries; the development of a survey strategy in keeping with existing standards which is able to produce results in the minimum amount of time. A model was developed making it possible to detect the positions which make the greatest contribution to individual noise exposure levels; to identify the working positions in which workers require hearing protection; and to have the information needed to assess the benefits which may be obtained from measures designed to reduce the noise level or exposure times.

Prospects for use

Dissemination of the results and the study methodologies with a view to establishing more rational environments in which less noisy machines are used or in which the effect of noise emissions from a given machine is reduced.

Usable material

A research report;

a book summarizing in graphic form the contents of the research report, with more extensive conclusions;

a poster summarizing certain of the results obtained.

Contact person

Mr Ripanucci, c/o IGEAM, piazzale Enrico
Dunant, 15, I-00152 Rome;
tel. 06/58237769; fax 06/58237772.

Training on the European legislation for protecting the health of workers: new instruments for negotiation

Organizer

CGIL, CISL, UIL (trade unions).

Type of measure

Research and training courses.

Target group

Trade union representatives and, indirectly, workers in all sectors of production.

Description

Three studies were carried out for the purposes of verifying the effects of the implementation of European rules on the negotiation, verification and monitoring instruments which may be used by the two sides of industry and the institutions with reference to:

- (i) the framework directive of June 1989;
- (ii) the introduction of limit values for physical, chemical and biological agents into our legislation;
- (iii) normalization.

The results of the three studies constitute the basis of the training courses which focus primarily on the implementation of Community directives.

Evaluation/results

The training of 72 trade union representatives, who can then go on to spread the information received to trade union structures or workers throughout Italy; distribution of the spaces and the legislative and negotiating instruments available to workers and their representatives for improving working conditions.

Prospects for use

Dissemination of information to workers on the subjects in question;
repetition of the training measures at local level;
the development of instruments capable of useful suggestions for negotiation and for the establishment of new industrial relations.

Usable material

Study documentation: (i) 'Participating in prevention'; (ii) 'Critical analysis of the limit values for physical and chemical agents at Community level'; (iii) 'Technical harmonization and normalization'.
Teaching material for the training courses.

Contact person

Gabriella Galli, c/o UIL, via Lucullo, 6, I-00187 Rome; tel. 06/4753262;
fax 06/4753208.

Health education and information project on the use of pesticides in agriculture

Organizer

Italian Social Medicine Institute.

Target group

Workers and employers in the agricultural sector.

Description

An in-depth analysis was carried out of the

data on the characteristics of plant-protection products and on the legislation in force concerning pesticides; training courses were provided for instructors working in the various situations concerned, in which farmers have to obtain a permit in order to be able to purchase pesticides; teaching materials were produced for the instructors and reference material for agricultural workers in order to provide them with basic knowledge on the prevention of hazards from pesticides.

Evaluation/results

A model was developed for the protection of the health of workers exposed to the hazards resulting from the use of pesticides; a training programme was developed for a new core of instructors who will go on to produce a multiplier effect on the farmers who have to obtain the permit.

Prospects for use

The prevention model produced will be exported and made available upon request; a monitoring and surveillance system is being set up to assess the genuine effectiveness of prevention measures.

Usable material

Teaching manual for agricultural workers entitled *Pesticides: how to use them and protect yourself* (Italian, English, French);
teaching video for instructors on the same subject (Italian, English);
technical glossary on this subject;
a summary of legislation on plant protection products;
a database containing chemical and toxicological data, proposals and rules for the rationalization of the use of pesticides.

Contact person

Prof. Beretta Anguissola, c/o Istituto Italiano di Medicina Sociale, via P. S. Mancini, 28, I-00196 Rome; tel. 06/3225956;
fax 06/3225956.

Luxembourg

Projects submitted by the ABS (Association for Well-being and Safety at Work)

The Association incorporates employers', workers' and public organizations and aims to develop and promote integrated health and safety training.

ABS representative

Mrs Mariette Scholtus
President
26, rue de la Gare
L-8710 Boevange/Attert

Training and information for workers in SMEs in the construction sector

AAI (Accident Insurance Association – Industry Section)

In charge of project

Mr Jean-Paul Demuth
12, route d'Esch
L-2976 Luxembourg

The AAI organized a mobile information campaign in the form of a van equipped with educational materials for SMEs and construction sites. It contained a visual display unit, a video-recorder, technical notes, brochures and directives. Films and slides could be projected showing legally acceptable working conditions; there was equipment for measuring noise levels and also containment equipment for dangerous products.

An AAI engineer would take the van to a given construction site and obtain video footage of working conditions *in situ*. The film was then shown to those responsible for the site and the project manager, and any inadequacies identified were evaluated. During these visits

the AAI engineer would also go through the relevant regulations and distribute brochures and technical notes.

The AAI also had a brochure entitled 'Safety guidelines' translated into Portuguese (in Luxembourg 80% of construction workers are Portuguese).

Evaluation

The information and inspection visits to building sites were carried out on three afternoons a week between October 1992 and March 1993. Some 80 heads of firms and site managers were contacted.

Positive results were achieved. Safety conditions have improved considerably, particularly the risk of falls. By the end of 1992 the number of accidents per 100-worker unit in the construction sector had dropped by some 5%.

The AAI intends to continue the project after the end of 1993.

Introductory training course for staff representatives and safety officers

OGB-L and LCGB trade unions

In charge of project

Mr John Castegnaro
OGB-L
BP 149
L-4002 Esch/Alzette
Mr Léon Drucker
LCGB
BP 1208
L-1351 Luxembourg

As part of the European Year, the Lëtzebuerger Chrëschtliche Gewerkschaftsbond (LCGB) and the Onofhängege Gewerkschaftsbond Lëtzebuerg (OGB-L) organized joint or separate seminars to

increase awareness among staff representatives and in particular safety officers in firms about problems relating to:

safety;
hygiene;
health at work.

These study days were held between April 1992 and February 1993 at the Chambre de Travail's Training Centre at 12 rue du Château, Remich.

Courses covered:

the role of the safety officer
accident prevention
handling dangerous substances
organizing occupational safety, hygiene and health in firms
prevention techniques: cause tree
the importance of safety, hygiene and health at work.

Eight training courses were organized involving some 130 participants. At the closing conference on 11 February 1993, the two trade unions evaluated the training courses held during the European Year.

Occupational safety: motivating and increasing awareness among future heads of firms

Chamber of Trade

In charge of project

Mr Gustave Eiden
Chambre des Metiers
41, rue Glesener
L-1631 Luxembourg

Organization of conferences and training courses with the aim of encouraging future heads of firms and their colleagues to take an interest in accident prevention.
Duration: Two to three months starting in February 1992.

There were four courses and conferences:

1. Personnel administration (management of human resources, ergonomics on the shop floor, in offices, etc.) and presentation of the economic aspects of occupational safety using a computer game designed to increase awareness about safety factors in firms.
Number of participants: 20-25

2. Economic aspects of occupational safety.
Number of participants: 20-25

3. Conference on occupational safety.
Number of participants: 70-80

4. Conference on the legal consequences of occupational accidents.
Number of participants: 70-80

Training in safety, hygiene and health at work for white- and blue-collar workers

ARBED SA

In charge of project

Mr Roger Lammar
ARBED SA
BP 142
L-4002 Esch/Alzette

In order to reduce accidents and back disorders, the manual handling courses organized by ARBED were adapted to take account of current knowledge and EC directives on the subject:

the prevention of osteoarticular disorders in relation to workplace design;

observation and correction of unsuitable movements and posture at the workplace;

refresher course in handling and safety guidelines;

promotion of a healthy lifestyle and physical education for staff.

Timetable

First quarter 1992:

1. Study of current problems with back pain in all sectors of the four ARBED plants.

2. Study of the current infrastructure and operation of the manual handling school.

Second and third quarters 1992:

3. Production of a questionnaire to evaluate the links between back pain and workplace design.

4. Pilot study in one sector to:

(a) develop a questionnaire on all personal factors linked to back pain;

(b) develop a special back-strengthening programme including looking at diet and producing a brochure containing physical exercises to be done at home;

(c) apply the manual handling programme in practice, monitoring individual posture using a video-camera.

Fourth quarter 1992 and first quarter 1993:

5. Incorporation of results in the handling training programme.

A video was produced and separate documentation provided (brochures, file of educational material). A copy together with a detailed report were presented at the closing conference in Copenhagen.

Ergonomic and safety considerations for the employees of contractors working on the Du Pont site

Du Pont de Nemours SA

In charge of project

Mr Adrien Schrobiltgen
Du Pont Engineering SA
L-2984 Luxembourg

Information and training for blue- and white-collar workers working for contractors on the Du Pont site, through conferences, documentation and a publicity campaign (promotional articles, posters).

The project was organized as part of the European Year and ran from May to July 1992. The main theme was the prevention of occupational accidents. In addition to firms working on site, firms working under contract for Du Pont were also covered. The campaign is estimated to have reached some 1 200 workers. It resulted in improved training for Du Pont workers in this field and an improvement in the incidence of occupational accidents amongst those concerned.

Tripartite training in safety, hygiene and health at work for customs officers

Customs project

In charge of project

Mrs Mariette Scholtus
President
Association for Well-being and Safety at Work
26, rue de la Gare
L-8710 Boevange/Attert

Original project providing vocational retraining for 120 Luxembourg customs officers following the establishment of the single market. The training was organized on a tripartite basis, involving representatives of the trade unions and employers' organizations in addition to the customs officers and civil servants from the Labour and Mines Inspectorate.

The project involved a series of some 42 seminars covering 12 subjects, organized over a total of 86 working days. On average

58 people were trained in each subject, the general field covered being the application of laws and directives on occupational safety.

The courses covered the following themes:

administrative, legislative and psychosocial aspects;

the selection of high-risk firms;

construction sites;

checking classified equipment;

computer training;

monitoring working hours for drivers.

The project was organized as part of the European Year and ran from the end of 1992 through the first three months of 1993. As far as the legislative, administrative and psychosocial aspects were concerned, the main problems were the involvement of two administrations with different traditions, the special policing implications and the health and safety training required for employers and workers.

The practical training focused on problems relating to monitoring the hours spent at the wheel by lorry and bus drivers, inspecting dangerous plant such as hydrocarbon tanks (LPG) and lifting machinery (lifts and cranes), and large-scale inspections of mobile construction and civil engineering sites. The various legal bases (EC directives), technical directives and work programmes were put onto the government's computer system.

The structures set up and the tripartite training provided for the customs officers concerned meant that health and safety training and monitoring are now established on a wider-reaching and more solid basis than ever before in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Ecology in the office

Oeko-Fonds Foundation

In charge of project

Mrs Adri Van Westerop
Chemical Engineer
Fondation Oeko-Fonds
6, rue Vauban
L-2663 Luxembourg

The Oeko-Fonds Foundation developed a project on environment protection in offices involving a guide (currently available only in German) and exhibitions, particularly on recycling paper. The aim was to inform and increase awareness among office workers, those responsible for buying office supplies and the producers of office supplies and equipment. The guide and the exhibitions provided information on healthy workplace design and gave a list of suppliers of environmentally-friendly equipment.

The aim of the exhibition on recycled paper was to encourage the services sector to use this product, and a clear improvement was noted in the course of the Year.

Contacts were developed with the trade unions (ALEBA) through the OGB-L and the LCGB. Contacts with the banking sector resulted in various projects currently in hand, designed to improve purchasing systems; the staff delegation at the Banque Générale de Luxembourg asked the Foundation to advise on ecological aspects of office design in the bank's new building. Negotiations are also currently being held with the Ministry of Housing for an Oeko-Fonds expert to advise on ecological improvements. It is hoped that this type of project will result in appropriate ecological factors being taken into account in workplace design for the benefit of the health and well-being of workers.

Campaign to combat cancer in firms using a roadshow and a film on carcinogens

Ministry of Health

In charge of project

Dr Simone Batal-Steil
Ministry of Health
22, rue Goethe
L-1637 Luxembourg

The Ministry of Health organized a mobile exhibition in a roadshow bus. It visited various major companies, where white- and blue-collar workers were able to consult documentation and brochures and watch a film on carcinogens at work.

The project was designed to make those concerned more aware of the dangers of carcinogens. The target groups were heads of firms, safety officers, health professionals, medical and social centres, hospitals and schools.

One of the most positive results was that various firms made provision for the problem in their internal rules.

The film produced for the project was also shown on Luxembourg television, on the magazine programme 'Hei Elei', and could serve as a model for any similar projects organized on the subject in the European Community.

The Netherlands

Small and medium-sized enterprises/Expobiel

Type of project

Information; national campaign.

Target group

Shopfloor employees in small and medium-sized enterprises.

Description

Employers and employees in the small and medium-sized enterprise sector often have little or no opportunity to attend specific courses or national events such as trade fairs and symposiums. The object of the mobile exhibition was therefore to bring information to the target group. The development and implementation of this campaign represented a joint initiative of various organizations active in the field of working conditions and health care.

The mobile informative trade fair was officially opened on 28 September 1992 by Mr de Vries, the Minister for Social Affairs and Employment in the Netherlands, and travelled around the country for 20 weeks. The exhibition was supported by a large-scale publicity campaign. A press release was issued at the official opening, articles were published in local and regional newspapers, in some cases reports were broadcast by regional radio, the participating organizations issued publications, and approaches were made to firms by telephone, describing what the exhibition was about and where it was to be found.

An information bulletin entitled 'Europe at work' was issued for the exhibition, giving information on, or a presentation by, the participating organizations. This was distributed to firms in the region where the Expobiel was due to arrive, together with a brochure and theme poster about the

European Year. The bulletin was also available to all Expobiel visitors.

The Expobiel is a mobile exhibition unit consisting of an articulated trailer over which a balloon-type tent is erected. There were various stands with informative material and demonstration equipment, including computer programs. Each stand was manned by employees of the exhibiting organizations, who were there to provide further particulars or general information. The aim was to receive visitors as far as possible in groups, but interested individuals were of course also welcome.

For each group of visitors an introductory presentation was given, after which a video introduction specifically made for this campaign was shown. On the video-tape the Minister for Social Affairs and Employment speaks some words of welcome, outlines the background to the exhibition and refers in general to the problems of working conditions, sickness absenteeism and disability for work. Visitors could then inspect the individual stands. The informative material dealt with such subjects as ergonomics, noise and vibrations, carcinogenic substances, stress, health programmes for firms, living habits, smoking, use of alcohol, working conditions in practice and initiatives in the framework of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. Specific themes were the prevention of sickness absenteeism and disability, and the employment of handicapped workers. The exhibition was visited by thousands of employees.

Financial contributions came from the Funds for Disabled Workers, the Queen Wilhelmina Fund (Dutch Cancer Control)/Europe against cancer and the General Civil Pension Fund. Other organizations involved included the Labour Inspectorate, the Netherlands Institute for Working Conditions, Integral Cancer

Centres, the Social Security Administration Board, the Dutch Heart Foundation, Alcohol Consultancy Nederland, the Public Health Foundation and Smoking, etc.

Contact

Directorate-General for Labour
PO Box 90804 – 2509 LV 's-Gravenhage
Department PAB – Mr J. Tavenier,
tel. (070) 333 54 52.

Fisheries

Type of project

Information and schooling; production of information/instructional video.

Target group

Fisheries sector; employers, employees and school children.

Description

Project 'Documentary film on safe working conditions on board Dutch fishing vessels'.

Trawling is the principal fishing method in the Netherlands. Although present-day trawlers are modern and electronically sophisticated fishing vessels, they still have some shortcomings in the areas of safety, working conditions and environment.

The number of people turned down for employment in the fisheries industry on health grounds is high. Accidents frequently occur and there are more accidents on board fishing vessels than there are industrial accidents on shore, for example in the building industry. Typical accidents are falling and slipping, becoming crushed between swinging and sliding loads, and being struck by a swinging or breaking cable.

Existing informative and teaching material is out of date and does not adequately deal with the changes and new developments that have taken place in recent years; this applies in particular to the application of new technologies and changes in working methods.

The present film aims at providing an up-to-date picture of work and conditions on board fishing vessels. The objects of the project are to promote the dissemination of knowledge and information in the industry and to integrate health and safety aspects at the workplace in training programmes and school curricula. This constitutes an extension of existing schooling facilities for employees.

The preparation, making of a film script, filming on location and putting together the video all take place on the basis of material originating from investigations carried out by the State Institute for Fisheries Research (RIVO) together with Delft University.

Having recently obtained supplementary resources from trade organizations (the Industrial Board for Fish and Fish Products and the Shipping Inspectorate), RIVO is able to hire professionals to produce a film of better quality than was originally planned. Furthermore, thanks to the contribution from the European Commission and the additional sponsoring, an English version of the video can be made, which will be sent to the Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs and to other EC bodies concerned with safety in the fishing industry.

The project is broad in scope; information will be sent to some 600 small and medium-sized enterprises and 5 000 employees, as well as to the interested organizations and fishery schools. The video will be made available to all concerned.

Contact

RIVO-DLO, Rijksinstituut voor Visserij
Onderzoek
Haringkade 1, PO Box 68 – 1970 AE
IJmuiden
Mr F. A. Veenstra, tel. (02550) 646 46;
fax (02550) 646 44

Technical and vocational education

Type of project

Training; making an interactive computer game.

Target group

- (1) Pupils of secondary technical and secondary vocational schools
- (2) Business and industry
- (3) Pupils of lower technical and individual technical schools

Description

Project 'Safety, not a game to lose'.

The aim is to produce an effective training/instructional programme to promote safety in schools and workplaces. A CD-i (compact disc interactive) programme has been chosen because it enables a safety programme to be produced that is both multimedial (moving and still pictures, sound) and interactive.

The video game is devoted to safety rules and safety awareness, and contains some 15 categories of working situations including a hospital, building site, various types of laboratory, wood and metalworking, horticulture, garage, etc. The EC directives on safety, hygiene and health at work are translated into safety rules for the various sectors of industry.

An important aspect of the programme is that background information can be called up for every practical situation.

The player of the programme assumes the role of employee in various hazardous working situations. The player has to react to them in an appropriate way by taking the right safety measures at the right moment. If the unsafe situation is repeatedly indicated, pictures are shown of the consequences of failing to respond to it properly.

The game element in the programme is an additional stimulus for the participant in the course to complete the safety programme; the score depends on the number of chances the participant needs to point to the unsafe situation, and this can also be linked with a time factor. The programme also includes surprise and varying reactions designed to draw and hold the participant's attention.

The programme is easy to operate, both by individuals and in class, and has a variable learning time (averaging 20 to 30 minutes for each work situation). At the end of the programme the participants will have acquired:

- a better ability to recognize risky situations;
- a better understanding of the possible consequences of failing to observe safety measures;
- a better understanding of how to minimize risks at work;
- the ability to respond more alertly to dangerous situations.

The implementation of this project has been delayed owing to the lack of co-financiers; the Ministry of Education and Sciences (O&W) has meanwhile met this deficiency. The original plan was to target the project at four sectors of industry. Thanks to the input from O&W the package or target group has been considerably expanded. Safety experts and vocational education representatives are involved in the development of the

project, and pilot schools will test the training programme.

Completion date mid-November 1993.

Contact

Mediavision BV
PO Box 441 – 1250 AK Laren (NH)
Mr E. L. Harenberg, tel. (02153) 126 37;
fax (02153)897 67

Furniture and joinery factories

Type of project

Information and instruction; making and dissemination of an ARBO (working conditions) manual.

Target group

Employers and employees in the timber and furniture industry.

Description

In the framework of the sectoral approach of the Directorate-General for Labour, market surveys are being carried out on the basis of which, in cooperation with representatives of employers and employees in the relevant sector, a strategy is developed for improving working conditions in a particular sector. Promoting the provision of information about working conditions, and increasing knowledge and skills in this area, always constitutes a major theme of this activity.

The basis for the present initiative was formed during discussions between social partners which took place in the context of the industrial strategy for the timber and furniture industry.

Under the auspices of the Central Federation of Furniture Manufacturers and the Dutch Federation of Joineries, a manual on working conditions has been developed. These federations are thus providing their members

with an instrument which will enable them to organize safety, health and well-being within their industries in a structured manner.

In the course of the preparatory work the scope of the manual has been enlarged; apart from being a practical handbook for setting up a system concerned with proper working conditions, it has now also acquired the character of a textbook which can serve as the basis for courses on working conditions in particular sectors of industry. It can also be used as a work of reference. The publication includes practical information on safety requirements for machines and the equipment of workplaces and factory premises, on risks and problem situations in working conditions, and deals with:

concepts and backgrounds of working conditions and risk prevention;
legislation; liability for working conditions and the legal basis of individual safety measures;
organizational aspects, including a step-by-step method of setting up a system providing for proper working conditions.

The manual was brought out in November 1992 (800 copies). Meanwhile, it has served as the basis for many courses, and the demand for it is so great that stocks have run out. A second printing is under consideration.

Contacts

For the manual:
Depot Milieubeheer
PO Box 565 – 3200 AM Spijkensisse
Ms M. Mulder, tel. (01880) 197 88

Trade organizations involved:

Centrale Bond van Meubelfabrikanten
Nederlandse Bond van Timmerfabrikanten
Mr Douma

Seaports

Type of project

Information; production and distribution of two videos.

Target group

Employers and employees in seaports.

Description

Work in seaports traditionally involves many arduous conditions, including work that requires great physical effort, is noisy, dirty and smelly, and is at the mercy of weather conditions.

Technological and organizational renewal, and more intensive care for safety and health at work, have undoubtedly brought improvement. Disability absence in the seaports has halved in the past 10 years, but working conditions are still by no means optimum and the risks of injury and accidents are still relatively high.

The creation of the Health, Safety and Welfare Committee for the Port of Rotterdam and the Working Conditions Committee for Amsterdam, on both of which employers' and employees' organizations are equally represented, constituted a major step on the road towards improved working conditions.

1. Some years ago, in the framework of the sectoral approach of the Labour Inspectorate, a start was made with a sectoral strategy for seaports. Among the aspects receiving attention are the provision of information and advice. In this context a video called 'Haven blues' was produced; the presentation of the film marked the beginning of a large-scale information campaign in the seaports aimed at improving working conditions.

The initiative for the video came from the Rotterdam Health, Safety and Welfare

Committee and the Amsterdam Working Conditions Committee; support for the project came from the Labour Inspectorate and the HaBiVi Industrial Insurance Board.

The leading role in the film was played by Jules Deelder (a popular musician nicknamed the 'night burgomaster of Rotterdam'). He takes the viewer to see various types of work in the ports, showing the specific conditions under which the work is done, holds short conversations with employees and refers in general terms to existing legislation.

About 10 000 copies of the video-tape have been produced and a copy will go to all port employees.

2. Another video concerned with seaports, and made in pursuance of the sectoral strategy, deals with a specific theme, namely the use of alcohol. The video, entitled 'Alcohol? Much too dangerous', was produced in 1992. It contains conversations and interviews with employees and staff officials on the use of alcohol at work.

The film is part of an information campaign in the seaports, organized by the Stichting Alcohol Consultancy Nederland, which included the circulation of folders and posters. The video was submitted for showing at the film festival in Thessaloniki, was nominated and received an honourable mention. An English subtitled version has since been made.

Contacts

'Haven blues'

Havenwerkgeversvereniging SV2

PO Box 4222 – 3006 AE Rotterdam

Mr L. F. J. Jansen, tel. (010) 402 03 99

'Alcohol? Veels te gevaarlijk'

Alcon, Stichting Alcohol Consultancy Nederland

Utrechtseweg 135 – 3702 AC Zeist

Mr W. Bouwer, tel. (03404) 186 24;
fax (03404) 225 71

Asphalt road construction/EAPA

Type of project

Information and instruction; development, publication and distribution of a brochure.

Target group

Construction industry/European asphalt industry.

Description

Some 3 000 small and medium-sized firms and over 100 large undertakings in Europe are engaged in the field of asphalt road construction. EAPA is the European organization for this industry and has its head office in the Netherlands. Within the EAPA, a committee has been formed consisting of delegates of the European associations that are members of EAPA, which is concerned with the health and safety of employees. One of the objects of this committee is to give visual expression to working conditions and where necessary to develop initiatives for improvement. Clear-cut information and instruction on work and working conditions are seen as one of the means of bringing about positive changes.

This prompted the submission, in the framework of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, of a project entitled 'Experts give advice'. The idea was to produce a brochure bringing together international knowledge in this area and to distribute it at European level.

Although no contribution was forthcoming for this multinational project, the EAPA nevertheless worked out the initiative. The result, a brochure in English, French and German, was presented at the Euroasfalt Congress in December 1992. The Dutch

brochure, entitled 'Veiligheid en gezondheid in de asfaltwegenbouw', for the distribution of which a contribution from the European Commission was granted at a later stage, appeared in 1993.

The brochure is intended as a guide for managements with a view to fostering good working conditions. It deals with policy aspects, responsibilities, training and instruction in the area of working conditions. In addition various aspects of the work are elucidated and practical information is provided on, for example, the use and storage of materials, labelling, means of protection and measures designed to reduce exposure to asphalt smoke and vapours. Finally, recommendations are provided in the form of a list of points for attention, aimed at guiding firms along the road towards an effective system of ensuring proper safety conditions.

A video about working in asphalt road construction has been produced on the initiative of the VWB Asfalt (Association for the Promotion of Working in Asphalt); entitled 'Road under construction', it was submitted to the festival in Thessaloniki. The video gives an impression of the daily conditions under which road construction takes place. The film has proved very useful as a means of stimulating discussion on the improvement of working conditions, as VWB Asfalt has observed at meetings it has organized with employees in the industry.

Contacts

EAPA (European Asphalt Pavement Association)

VBW Asfalt (Vereniging tot Bevordering van Werken in Asfalt)

PO Box 68 – 3620 AB Breukelen

EAPA: Mr M. von Devivere,
tel. (03462) 668 68

VBW Asfalt: Mr H. Roos,
tel. (03462) 626 44;

fax (03462) 635 05

Higher vocational education

Type of project

Training; development and implementation of ARBO training modules.

Target group

- (1) Students of engineering, health care and social work who, after graduation, want to work in a job concerned with working conditions.
- (2) Higher vocational education graduates.
- (3) Industry (management and health and safety officers).

Description

The Leidse Hogeschool and the Technische Hogeschool Rijswijk have jointly initiated the introduction of working conditions as a graduation subject for students of engineering, health care or social welfare. A project proposal to this effect has been accepted by the European Commission.

The graduation subject covers:

Legislation on working conditions; social context and European regulations;

Methodology (inventarization, testing, analysis and solution);

Safety (during technical production processes);

Health (work and health, ergonomics, physical load);

Well-being (stress factors);

Business administration (working conditions in labour organizations, social and communicative skills).

The added value of the initiative lies partly in the integration of diverse subjects of study and in the business administration angle of approach.

Owing to complexity and capacity problems, the objective had not yet been achieved at the time this information was drawn up.

In the period from the beginning of this year to mid-1993 teaching material has been developed and training courses set up for lecturers to provide them primarily with general knowledge of the subject matter, with the cooperation of the Amsterdam Labour Inspectorate.

The project was implemented in phases, and the first course of six months began at the start of the new academic year in September 1993; this will be additional to the normal syllabus and is designed for graduates of higher vocational education.

Somewhat later the ARBO package will be integrated into the regular curriculum: a substrate of the course will be included, for example, in the courses on mechanical engineering, physiotherapy, business administration, etc. The modules will be adapted to the individual disciplines (in the physiotherapy course, for example, less attention will be needed to the health aspect, but particular emphasis will have to be placed on the safety aspect).

Two supplementary initiatives are in the pipeline:

a graduation course in working conditions, with a specialization in the fourth year; the development of a course in cooperation with the Employment Authorities/the Industrial Training Centre and the Chamber of Commerce.

Contacts

Leidse Hogeschool
Endegeesterwatering 2 – 2333 CG Leiden
Mr A. Ypma, tel. (071) 17 11 21,
fax (071) 15 40 41

Tecnische Hogeschool Rijswijk
Mr van Kuik, tel. (070) 340 15 00

Health care/LOK

Type of project

Instruction and information; cytostatics manual.

Target group

Employers and employees in the health-care sector.

Description

Cytostatics are drugs used in the chemotherapeutical treatment of cancer. By the nature of their active mechanisms, the substances are extremely hazardous to those who handle them in the course of their work. Many of the cytostatics used in the Netherlands are themselves highly carcinogenic, some of them more so than asbestos. The substances are therefore included in the list of carcinogenic substances published by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. Nursing staff and others employed in health-care institutions are very worried about their own health in the event of coming into contact with these drugs. It seems scarcely feasible to ban these drugs, as in the case of asbestos, because they are indispensable in the treatment of cancer.

The 'Cytostatics Directive' is an initiative from the health-care sector and may be regarded as a supplement to working conditions requirements relating to working with carcinogenic substances which has been drawn up and is being supported by workers in the field. The Directorate-General for Labour has cooperated in checking the rules and measures against the relevant regulations, taking into account the implementation of the EEC Directive 90/394 concerning protection against occupational exposure to carcinogenic substances. Use of the manual also forms part of the 'Intramural health-care' strategy of the Directorate-General for Labour.

The manual consists of six parts in which the following subjects are dealt with:

1. General introduction: the harmful effects of cytostatics, statutory framework and measures, responsibilities of various persons and bodies, and waste disposal regulations.
2. Preparation: detailed instructions on the safe preparation of cytostatics in various forms of presentation.
3. Administering the drugs: includes worksheets on the handling of drips (infusions), the fitting of systems for administering the drugs and administration methods.
4. Calamities: neutralizing and disposing of cytostatics after spilling or breakage are dealt with, and also contamination of skin and clothing, extravasation and accidents with injections or hypodermics.
5. Monographs: information concerning the daily use of cytostatics registered in the Netherlands, dealing among other things with deliveries, reconstruction, storage life, speed of administration and specific measures in the case of extravasation and other accidents.
6. Annexes giving information on work hygiene policy, monitoring methods and the project for a folder on cytostatics.

The comprehensive manual also contains extensive information for employers concerning the necessary technical provisions to ensure safe working with cytostatics.

The manual was presented during the 'Europe against cancer' week in October 1992, on which occasion a folder was brought out.

Contact

LOK (Landelijk Overlegorgaan Integrale Kankercentra)
PO Box 19001 – 3501 DA Utrecht
Mr A. I. Haartsen, tel. (030) 34 37 80;
fax (030) 34 36 32

Portugal

Promotion of the European Year and improvements in working conditions

Type of project

Extensive series of measures designed to encourage firms, organizations, etc. to promote improvements in safety, hygiene and health conditions at work, and to increase awareness among young people and the working population about appropriate attitudes and behaviour with regard to industrial safety.

Target group

Employers, workers and their representative organizations; experts and young vocational trainees; the general public.

Description

The project began with the drafting of a flexible, general-interest 'national programme', which was presented at a press conference.

National exhibition on the themes of the European Year, shown at the European Community's opening conference and, in whole or in part, in various regions of the country.

Production of various publicity and information materials¹ made available to all project organizers.

Production of a national monthly news-sheet *Ano Europeu Notícias* giving details of all the activities organized every month, with their organizers, locations and themes, and of any materials produced by the National Liaison Committee or other bodies.

The news-sheet had a major impact nationwide and generated many other activities.

¹ Posters, stickers, monographs, folders, badges, watches, guides, stamps, pamphlets, videos, etc.

Posters of various sizes were produced and displayed all over the country, with the help of the various local authorities, on 'mupis' and urban billboards, and were also used by project organizers.

Production of advertising spots and slogans which were broadcast for several weeks on both television channels and national and local radio.

The materials produced were intended for all sectors and covered the themes and target groups of the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

The project also included three international conferences held in the cities of Porto, Ponta Delgada and Funchal on the subjects of 'Health and safety at work: A factor in social and economic cohesion', 'Prevention of occupational risks in agriculture: Developments and trends' and 'Health and safety in SMEs'.

Evaluation

Positive aspects include the materials produced, the number of firms and other bodies actively involved, the projects carried out, the number of activities organized throughout the year and the impetus created, with new initiatives carrying on after the end of the European Year.

Future uses

The materials produced range from stickers to videos and monographs. They include teaching and information materials suitable for use in other projects and activities, which could also serve as models for designing other materials of the same type.

Materials available

Monographs, brochures, videos, leaflets, calendars, posters, paperweights and commemorative tiles showing the logo, and other materials mentioned earlier.

Organizer

National Liaison Committee for the European Year
Secretariat: Av. da República, 84-5.º
P-1600 Lisbon
Tel.: (01) 7973032/3/4
Fax: (01) 7930515

Live safely, work safely

Type of project

Campaign to promote training and education in prevention in schools and training colleges on the mainland and in the autonomous region of the Azores.

Target group

Teachers and pupils at various levels of secondary education and vocational training.

Description

Various measures organized in schools and training colleges designed, firstly, to make teachers aware of the need to integrate health and safety in their teaching programmes and, secondly, to encourage pupils at various levels to adopt a healthy lifestyle and, in the future, safe working practices on a daily basis.

The project also involved local bodies (parish councils, town councils, local authorities and firms) together with the regional health authorities, regional employment administration services and other official bodies.

Activities included discussions and debates, exhibitions, competitions for schools and visits to firms as an introduction to everyday life at work (videos were subsequently produced by the pupils themselves); posters and other printed materials; stage

productions and interviews calling for greater inventiveness from those involved.

The project covered over 900 teachers and 15 000 pupils in some 340 schools.

Evaluation

Positive aspects include the number of schools and colleges, teachers and pupils involved, together with all the materials produced by the pupils, including videos, photographs and paintings.

Future uses

The project could have a multiplier effect: an analysis of the materials produced indicates that they could be used to develop teaching materials for pupils.

Materials available

Posters, videos, photographs and paintings.

Organizer

Direcção-Geral da Saúde
Alameda D. Afonso Henriques, 45
P-1900 Lisbon
Tel.: (01) 8475515
Fax: (01) 8476639

Gabinete de Prevenção de Riscos
Profissionais de Região Autónoma dos
Açores
Largo do Camões, 3
P-9500 Ponta Delgada
Tel.: (096) 22080
Fax: (096) 23357

Noise and vibration at work: Prevention and protection

Type of project

Information and awareness campaign involving two television spots, a television film and radio spots.

Target group

Workers, employers, young trainees and the general public.

Description

Large-scale mass-media project covering the whole country, including the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira.

The project has developed a certain dynamism, in that the television spots and film have been recorded on VHS cassettes and are still being shown to the target group. The materials produced could also be reused at any time in other different campaigns or projects in Portugal or elsewhere (a French version is available).

The campaign was designed and developed around the highly topical theme of noise and vibration at work.

Evaluation

The campaign was intended:

- (i) to inform and increase awareness among workers, employers, young people and the general public about the risks arising from exposure to noise and vibration, how to prevent them, and the health problems they can cause;
- (ii) to draw attention to the need to comply with the regulations in force and their effects on production, productivity and quality in the context of systematic improvements in working conditions (a positive aspect of this campaign);
- (iii) to have a multiplier effect, as mentioned earlier, since the materials produced could be used as an educational tool in broader measures.

Future uses

The materials produced are suitable for widespread use on television and radio as part of awareness campaigns and training programmes organized by employers' and

workers' organizations, and in schools at all levels of education.

Materials available

Television videos and radio cassettes.

Organizer

Caixa Nacional de Seguros de Doenças
Profissionais
Av. da República, 25-R/c Esq.º
P-1094 Lisbon Codex
Tel.: (01) 547153
Fax: (01) 3522748

Greater safety for a better future in the fishing sector

Type of project

Campaign to disseminate knowledge and to encourage interest in occupational health and safety in the fishing sector.

Target group

Workers and trade union representatives in the sector and young vocational trainees.

Description

A series of 25 measures related to the theme 'health and safety in relation to productivity and well-being for workers in the fishing sector', which covered a significant number of workers and young people (some 2 500). The measures were organized on a local basis in almost all the fishing regions of the country,¹ and drew the target group's attention to the importance of occupational health and safety as a guarantee of a better future for fishermen.

The main aim of the project was to make fishermen more aware of the risks involved in every activity, and how to prevent them. It

¹ Viana do Castelo, Matosinhos, Póvoa de Varzim, Aveiro, Ilhavo, Figueira da Foz, Nazaré, Peniche, Ericeira, Cascais, Lisboa, Setúbal, Sines, Sagres, Lagos, Portimão, Quarteiro, Olhão, Tavira and Vila Real de Santo António.

promoted discussion and analysis and provided information and training materials on relevant questions, producing a 'Conclusions' document which is useful for assessing improvements in living and working conditions in the fishing sector.

Evaluation

Positive aspects include the large number of participants throughout the country; involvement of vocational training structures in the sector; analysis and discussion of the existing situation and formulation of a series of recommendations and proposals designed to improve the living and working conditions on fishing vessels and in onshore support services.

Future uses

The final report with its conclusions and recommendations summarizing the results of all the various measures may be suitable for use not only by the trade unions, but by all other bodies associated with the fishing sector. The method used was clearly the key element in achieving the results obtained, based as it was on the experiences of participants as professional fishermen.

Materials available

A series of three brochures, produced by Sindepescas, could be used for other projects and even for other target groups. The brochure *Safety, hygiene and health at work in the agri-foodstuffs and fish transport sectors* (ed. IEFP/EPP and Forpescas), which was used in this project, is an illustrated brochure which uses very striking and direct language and pictures and would be suitable for use in other countries.

Organizer

Sindepescas – Sindicato Democrático das Pescas
Rua da Esperança, 37-1.º
P-1200 Lisbon
Tel.: (01) 3961726
Fax: (01) 674370

Improving safety, hygiene and health conditions in the chemical industry

Type of project

Projects to promote the European Year and to provide information and increase awareness about accident prevention in the chemical industry.

Target group

Mainly workers and trade union representatives in the sector.

Description

The project involved a series of 39 meetings organized mainly for chemical workers at 27 locations¹ with a large population working in the chemicals sector. It also promoted the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, producing a number of useful and popular items bearing the logo (key-rings, ball-point pens, calendars, etc.) which were widely distributed; a special bibliography was also published.

At the meetings, information was disseminated on national and Community legislation, with an accompanying brochure.

Evaluation

All the materials produced were positive factors: those promoting the European Year and the special bibliography produced by the Fequifa, which includes a practical guide to health and safety in the chemical industry, brochures entitled *National and Community regulations on dangerous chemicals*.

¹ Porto, Setúbal, Famalicão, Estorreja, Figueira da Foz, Lisboa, Alhandra, Santa Tirso, Alverca, Portolegre, Pontye de Sár, Vila Velha de Ródão, Leiria, Marinha Grande, Torres Novas, Barreiro, São João da Madeira, Mem Martins, Almada, Amara, Faro, Costanheira de Ribotejo, Queluz, Aveiro, Odivelas, Sines and Sacavém.

substances, The prevention of illnesses and accidents in the chemical industry and Regulations governing the work of the Health and Safety Committees.

This was another project which showed great dynamism on the part of the organizer and workers in the sector.

Future uses

The approach adopted and the documents and other materials produced could be used for many different types of information and training campaigns.

Materials available

A 7 × 6 cm calendar in a metal frame so that it can be mounted at any workstation or in vehicles; two types of key-ring with the European Year logo; 33 × 11 cm desk diaries; ball-point pens; brochures (listed above).

Organizer

Fequifa – Federação dos Sindicatos da Química, Farmacêutica, Petróleo e Gás
Rua Filipe Folque, 22-5.º
P-1000 Lisbon
Tel.: (01) 3152816/8
Fax: (01) 533277

Know what you're doing... do it safely

Type of project

Information and awareness campaign involving a mobile exhibition in a Portuguese railway carriage, and other materials.

Target group

Railway workers and their families, trade union delegates, young trainees and the general public.

Description

Comprehensive and innovative project involving symposia, a mobile exhibition and the production of other materials, carried out throughout the country; it involved the use of Portuguese railway tracks and 32 main stations.¹ It succeeded in reaching a significant number of workers and others in the target group.

Evaluation

Positive aspects include the involvement of Portuguese railways in the project, the active participation of schools and other local bodies wherever the exhibition was displayed, the active interest shown by the regional press and radio and the widespread use of the materials produced in other sectors, particularly the brochure 'Know what you're doing... do it safely'.

Future uses

The approach could easily be used for other large-scale information and publicity campaigns.

Materials available

Video report on the project and brochure on 'Know what you're doing... do it safely' which could also be very useful.

Organizer

SINFA – Sindicato Nacional dos Ferroviários e Afins
Largo das Olaias, 19-2.º Esq.º
P-1100 Lisbon
Tel.: (01) 8864885-871642
Fax: (01) 8864885

¹ Entroncamento, Pombal, Famalicão, Viana do Castelo, Braga, Vila Franca de Xira, Coimbra, Pampilhosa, Mangualde, Guarda, Covilhã, Castelo Branco, Lagos, Faro, Tunes, Pinhal Novo, Évora, Lisboa, Cascais, Barreiro, Cacém, Torres Vedras, Caldas da Rainha, Leiria, Figueira da Foz, Aveiro, Espinho, Marco de Canaveses, Régua, Tua, Ermesinde and Porto.

Planning and investing in safety

Type of project

Training and information campaign involving a video, a seminar and a competition.

Target group

Employers, experts and workers at all levels of the civil engineering and public works sector.

Description

A sequence of measures targeting the civil engineering sector, beginning with the production of a video, followed by a seminar examining questions relevant to the sector and ending with a safety competition.

The project was of a rather unusual nature in that it covered both theory and practice, demonstrating the economic and social importance of including health and safety considerations in workplace design and plans for construction projects.

Evaluation

Positive aspects include the sequential nature of the project, and the fact that it was targeted in particular at those most directly responsible in the civil engineering sector. A further factor was the production of a high-quality video suitable for widespread use, which came first in the category 'Construction and public works companies/activities' in the competition for 'Education and training products on the prevention of occupational risks' organized by ISSA (International Social Security Association).

Future uses

The project could be used in awareness and training campaigns in all sectors.

Material available

A 20-minute, high-quality VHS video with an accompanying manual, suitable for use in information and training projects at national level, in other Portuguese-speaking countries and elsewhere. Versions in French and English will shortly be available.

Organizer

Aecops – Associação de Empresas de Construção e Obras Públicas do Sul
Rua António Enes, 9-5.º
P-1000 Lisbon
Tel.: (01) 533193/4/5/6
Fax: (01) 3562816
Telex: 124533 AECOPS P

Safety for children in rural areas

Type of project

Educational campaign to highlight the day-to-day risks faced by children in rural areas living and playing where adults work.

Target group

Infant teachers, families and children in rural areas.

Description

The whole project was based around the book *Rosa e Acácio*, which led to the production of other teaching materials: original songs, slides of illustrations from the book, pictures for activity periods and a video.

A series of plays was organized at five locations around the country for a total of some 1 500 children, featuring scenes from working life in the country. These led to the production of the book and two original songs and were a clear indication of the importance of the subject. In order to maximize the multiplier effect of the project, each activity session was preceded by special

sessions with teachers and instructors to show them how to organize this type of activity, regarded as extremely important in their own schools, using the teaching materials already available for this purpose. It should also be pointed out that in all the sessions the children were actively involved in the games on stage and in the accompanying music.

Organizer

AMAP – Associação das Mulheres
Agricultoras Portuguesas
Calçada Ribeiro dos Santos, 19-R/c
P-1200 Lisbon
Tel.: 3427703
Fax: 3977309

Evaluation

The project was an entirely new idea in an area where there is a shortage of measures of this type. It was aimed at an ideal target group which is receptive to learning the sort of behaviour likely to promote and protect health and safety in the family and later at work.

The materials produced guarantee that the project will be repeated and the methods used have already led to the setting-up of three local groups of session leaders and organizers who are to provide continuity. It is hoped that the project will meanwhile be extended to other regions. The coverage in the daily and specialized press and the demand for the materials produced are a sure indication of the significance and success of this project.

Future uses

All the teaching materials which were designed and produced are suitable for widespread use throughout the rural community, and the methods used mean that they could easily be applied in other countries.

Materials available

Illustrated book, *Rosa e Acácio*; audio cassette with two original songs; collection of 15 slides of illustrations from the book; seven pictures; video based on the book which could be used instead of an activity session; suitable packaging together with a 45 x 35 cm cloth bag bearing the European Year logo.

United Kingdom

Workplace health and safety week

Target group

Workplaces throughout the country in all sectors.

Description

The week aimed to raise awareness of hazards at work and to encourage practical measures to prevent accidents and ill health. Employers and workers were encouraged to take at least one practical initiative during the week. A free action pack gave general information relating to the themes of the Year, suggestions for action and sources of further information. It was launched by a media personality at a press conference and followed by an eight-page newsletter with further ideas. In Northern Ireland advertising panels in buses also announced the forthcoming week.

The opening event featured a dramatic representation of the number of fatalities in a typical working week. There were major events every day. Most Health and Safety Executive (HSE) area offices held open days and there were over 25 special sectoral initiatives.

Participants in the week included companies, local authorities, hospitals, schools, government departments and HSE. For example, one small company ran management training courses highlighting a different aspect of safety every day; a large oil company organized initiatives for its small contractors; a mini health fair was run at the Houses of Parliament, and hazard-spotting quizzes took place in many companies. There was also a variety of poster competitions for school children and young trainees. The many fun initiatives included amusing rhyme competitions.

Results (how evaluated)

The week helped to maintain the momentum of the Year during the winter period. All 100 000 copies of the action pack were taken up. Every action pack included a questionnaire. People returning the questionnaire received a certificate and the questionnaires were entered in a prize draw. Over 1 500 workplaces replied. Nearly 60% of respondents said their initiative had raised awareness of important health and safety issues and responsibilities in their workplace and over a quarter said their action had resulted in measures to improve working practices or conditions. The response from small organizations was very encouraging.

Possible future use

In all, 98% of respondents to the questionnaire said they would take part in another week and the National Liaison Committee have supported a repeat. HSE is considering running a further week in 1994, taking a specific health and safety campaign as its basic theme. Some organizations which participated also said they would run their own week in future.

Material available

A few remaining copies of the action pack and the newsletter are available from: George Dyson, Health and Safety Executive, International and Environment Branch, Room 436A, Baynards House, Chepston Place, London W2 4TF, tel. (+ 44 71) 243 6418.

Roadshows

Target group

Employers and employees, young people and the public.

Description

EC funding was used to develop seven roadshows and caravans in different parts of

England and Scotland. For example, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, on behalf of five local authorities, organized a roadshow which visited towns throughout West Yorkshire. It aimed to improve health and safety standards and to bring the latest information and advice to local workplaces. The service was completely free.

It consisted of a specially adapted caravan with high-tech equipment for instant information about health, hygiene and workplace safety. Safety literature came from HSE, the local authorities' health departments and various companies. It was staffed by health and safety advisers, occupational health staff and environmental health officers. Several companies sponsored equipment for display/use in the caravan, for example safety boots, respiratory equipment, hearing tests, etc. The project also had the support of local chambers of commerce and trades councils and was publicized in local newspapers. To encourage young visitors to learn as they looked, the roadshow included a competition for school pupils which was sponsored by a local training and enterprise council. The Post Office also sponsored a competition to prioritize risk categories for postal workers.

Results (how evaluated)

The West Yorkshire caravan visited 86 sites including 25 schools/colleges, 29 workplaces, 27 public areas, and five shows/fêtes. Nearly 20 000 people came to see it, including 2 000 school pupils. The flexibility of roadshows to target information and advice and to take it to people at work, in school or while shopping was widely valued. Many roadshows were adapted to the specific needs of local communities, for example in an area with a multiracial community, information was translated into all 10 local community languages. Others asked visitors to fill in questionnaires or

monitored enquiries to help identify the issues where workplaces particularly wanted further information, advice or training.

Possible future use

Once a roadshow has been developed it can always be used again in new locations. And in a number of areas it acted as a catalyst for future cooperation and activity, for example a roadshow in the West Midlands visited the local training and enterprise council and 19 providers of vocational training for young people visited the caravan. This resulted in further occupational health and safety training for managers and assessors thus putting the training providers in a better position to assess the workplace hazards when placing trainees on work experience.

Material available

Further information on the West Yorkshire roadshow is available from: Paul Steed, Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale, Crossley House, Crossley Street, Halifax HX1 1UJ, tel. (+ 44 422) 357257 ext. 3067.

International Conference on Health and Safety Enforcement in Europe

Target group

Representatives of all the bodies responsible for health and safety in Member States; guests from Central and Eastern Europe

Description

Organized jointly by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers and HSE, this was also an initiative for the UK Presidency. It aimed to promote broad consistency of enforcement through discussion about the management and delivery of labour inspection and enforcement. Speakers from virtually all Member States covered a range of issues including planning and organization of inspection, the balance

between the enforcing and advisory roles of inspectors and the use of media networks.

Results (how evaluated)

Feedback from the 225 delegates suggested they very much valued the open and honest exchanges of ideas and information. The main conclusions were:

- (i) recognition that each Member State is individually responsible for the enforcement of EC legislation; but different systems should not mean uneven standards of enforcement. Inspectors need to work together to develop common approaches to common problems;
- (ii) the need for a uniform approach to risk assessment to ensure that inspectors and employers understand that risk assessment is at the heart of EC health and safety legislation. The aim must be to reach a common understanding on what constitutes a serious risk;
- (iii) recognition that each Member State needs to commit sufficient resources to inspection. There must be enough inspectors and they must be properly resourced, using planning systems which target inspection effort according to risk;
- (iv) agreement that the aim of inspection is to secure compliance with the law: that means ensuring all employers have systems for managing and monitoring health and safety. The inspector's role is to provide guidance and appropriate technical information on compliance and to use sanctions when necessary to enforce;
- (v) there was lively debate about the balance between giving guidance and the use of sanctions with a recognition that all inspectorates need a clear enforcement policy.

Possible future use

It is hoped that there will be more conferences of this kind. Meanwhile European labour inspectors are taking the work forward at their regular meetings and in their own countries.

Material available

A full report 'Record of Conference on Health and Safety Enforcement in Europe' is available from: Ms Deborah Jones, The Institution of Environmental Health Officers, Great Guildford Street, London SE1, tel. (+ 44 71) 928 6006.

Competition

Target group

Health service managers.

Description

Injuries and ill-health resulting from manual handling are a major problem in the health-care sector. In November 1992, the Health and Safety Commission's tripartite Health Services Advisory Committee launched a new guidance booklet *Guidance on manual handling of loads in the health services*. It updated previous guidance and was intended to help raise awareness of the manual handling operations regulations of 1992 which came into force on 1 January 1993.

To encourage health service managers to read the guidance, a competition was launched during the workplace health and safety week. It took the form of written case-study scenarios each describing a variety of circumstances which included manual handling. Managers were encouraged to convene teams or groups to tackle one or more of the scenarios and to produce written reports of risks involved, the long-term and short-term measures which could be taken to reduce the risks and three benefits to the organization of implementing these risk reduction methods.

Results (how evaluated)

Over 50 entries were received. The standard of entries was very high, and the judges were particularly impressed by the entries received

from multidisciplinary teams. Considerable lateral thinking had been used in drawing up solutions to the problems described and many groups had used their skills to devise low-cost risk reduction measures. The judges picked two winners who were presented with certificates and UKL 500 towards lifting equipment. Three runners-up also received certificates. The initiative also won an honourable mention for the Copenhagen prize at the closing ceremony of the European Year.

Possible future use

Since the competition, many health service professionals, especially manual handling trainers, have indicated that they intended to use the competition scenarios to help train staff to carry out manual handling risk assessments and devise appropriate reduction measures. In view of this, the Health Services Advisory Committee decided to convert the competition into a manual handling training document, incorporating abridged solutions to the scenarios, so it may be readily used for training in conjunction with the new guidance booklet. It is due to be published in December 1993.

Material available

Further information on the competition and subsequent training publication are available from: Dr Susan Chivers, Health Services National Interest Group, Health and Safety Executive, Inter City House, Mitchell Lane, Bristol BS1 6AN, tel. (+ 44 272) 290681.

Audit scheme

Target group

Small and large companies in the wool industry.

Description

This sectoral initiative was developed by the Confederation of British Wool Textiles for all

its 250 member firms. It received part-funding from the European Community. The main aim of developing the audit scheme was to assist companies in managing their own health and safety performance, to promote an awareness of EC health and safety legislation and to assist employers in complying.

The audit was compiled after an extensive consultation process within the industry and with assistance from the Health and Safety Executive.

The scheme consists of step-by-step guidance on various topics, for example risk assessment, developing a health and safety policy and noise reduction programmes. It is divided into two parts: 500 audit questions and a help section. Corresponding paragraph numbers enable quick and easy reference between the two. The help section gives guidance, if needed, on how the questions should be answered. The audit is made available as part of a one-day training package. Each user will receive information updates free of charge for the first two years.

Results (how evaluated)

By the end of 1992, 100 audit training places had been booked up by firms within the wool textiles and related industries. An initial telephone survey of the user firms has been undertaken. Users will be invited to take part in progress discussion groups which will give an opportunity for the cross-fertilization of ideas and for companies and the Confederation to learn from each other's experiences.

Possible future use

Other industry-based associations will be able to benefit from this approach. Plans are already being developed for similar schemes in other industries, for example knitting and clothing. The wool textiles industry also hope

to launch a computer version of their audit scheme by the end of 1993.

Material available

Copies of the audit scheme brochure are available from: Mr A. J. Womersley, The Confederation of British Wool Textiles Ltd, Merrydale House, Bradford BD4 6SB, tel. (+ 44 274) 652207.

Education and training initiative

Target group

Children in primary schools, especially 9 to 11 year-olds.

Description

In 1990-91, 34 700 non-fatal back injuries to workers were reported in the United Kingdom; of these 470 were reported as major injuries and 34 251 were reported as injuries causing incapacity for normal work for more than three days.

To encourage people to develop and maintain good lifting techniques from childhood, Allied-Lyons (a food, drink and hospitality company) developed a training package on manual handling issues for primary school children. This was an independent initiative, developed as a contribution to the European Year.

The training pack consists of an imaginative video for children which uses child actors, as well as classroom-based notes for teachers. The material was prepared in conjunction with teachers. Its purpose is to encourage young children to continue to use the inherent lifting techniques they have when they are very small and develop them into early adulthood which in turn will mean they will take better care of their backs in later life. The package is designed to help teachers reinforce key messages through a wide

variety of different subjects in the curriculum, for example English, physics, history, physical education, music, etc.

Results (how evaluated)

The package (support material and video) is being evaluated in over 50 schools across the UK (including Northern Ireland and Scotland) by the Schools Health Education Unit. This evaluation fieldwork will be completed in July 1993 and the results of the research will be used to refine the package. The final version will be published in autumn 1993.

Possible future use

The training package will also be useful for teachers in schools for older children. The general approach of trying to instil and develop good lifting habits from a young age is worthy of wider replication.

Material available

The package 'Backs into the future', including video, will be available from: Mr Ernie Jeffrey, The Hiram Walker Group, The Pavilions, Bridgwater Road, Bedminster Down, Bristol BS13 8AN, tel. (+ 44 272) 785000.

Three-day international symposium on safety, hygiene and health in mining

Target group

Wide selection of people in the mining industry especially younger employees still undergoing education, training and work experience for future careers in the industry; workers and supervisors involved in safety committees in mines.

Description

The event marked the 150th anniversary of the first Coalmines Act (1842) as well as the

European Year. It embraced all four main themes of the Year and reviewed new and developing techniques and practices affecting mining throughout the world. Some EC funding was used to support trade union attendance at the conference.

The 250 delegates heard Mr W. Obst, Head of the Safety and Health Commission for Mining and Other Extractive Industries, give an overview of coalmine safety and health in the Community. Other sessions included a review of safety, health and hygiene in mines; mining legislation, training and education, hygiene and health, special risks and hazards in mining; health and safety management; recent major and non-mining disasters; modern approaches and international trends. The sessions recognized the extraordinary change affecting health and safety within the industry, the sophistication and high technology within the present mining industry, the international dimension of mining and the extending influence of European-led health and safety legislation.

Key messages from the event were then disseminated much more widely through British Coal's in-house journal *Coal News*. The workplace health and safety week which immediately followed the symposium also provided an ideal stimulus for turning good ideas into practical action.

Results (how evaluated)

The high standard of technical competence on the part of the authors, and the comprehensive discussions made it a successful event, according to a general consensus among delegates. The edition of *Coal News* containing the report won the EC's FEIEA (Federation of European Industrial Editors' Associations) competition, gaining praise both for content and for the lively way in which the message was put across.

Possible future use

The report of the proceedings, containing contributions from 44 authors, is augmented by extensive contributions from delegates participating in discussions. It is hoped that it will become a standard text for mining students and a reference work for practising mining engineers for many years to come. The idea of coupling a serious technical conference with more popular dissemination of key messages is worthy of replication.

Material available

The proceedings of the symposium have been documented in a technical volume entitled *Safety, hygiene and health in mining*. Copies are available from the Institution of Mining Engineers, Danum House, South Parade, Doncaster DN1 2DY, tel. +(44 302) 320486.

Roof safety campaign

Target group

Over 30 000 people working in 6 000 firms, most with fewer than 10 employees.

Description

Roof work has the highest fatal accident rate in the British construction industry and is the most widespread construction trade. Falls from heights kill more roofers than any other group of employees.

To reach as many of the target audience as possible, a carefully targeted, inspection initiative was planned by the Health and Safety Executive. It had two phases on activity: publicity to raise awareness and enforcement. The safety message was publicized in three ways:

(a) Advertising in the national popular press was chosen as the most effective means of reaching and influencing the target

audience. There were also advertisements in relevant trade journals. There was extensive media coverage on television, radio and in the press.

(b) Publicity was supported with a free information pack.

(c) Fifty-six roof work safety seminars were held throughout the country, before the enforcement phase. They attracted over 3 000 people and everyone had the chance to receive free advice and speak informally to inspectors – many did.

More roof work takes place in the summer than at any other time so the enforcement campaign was run from 7 May to 31 August 1992. A second phase of advertising coincided with the enforcement initiative in June and July.

Results (how evaluated)

By the end of the campaign over 62 000 information packs had been distributed. Market research showed that awareness of hazards of roof work rose from 31 to 62% as a result of the campaign and one in four companies indicated that they had taken action to improve their working practices; 52% of those who had seen the advertisements reported that they had made them more safety conscious. Overall the campaign showed that the standards varied greatly but more sites had good standards than bad.

Possible future use

The campaign demonstrated the benefits of thorough planning, careful targeting and co-ordination of publicity and enforcement efforts. It can be applied specifically to roof work or more generally to improve safety standards in other high-risk areas.

Material available

A full report is available in the United Kingdom from HMSO shops and accredited

agents. The information pack and press advertisements are available from the Health and Safety Executive, Room 424, Stanley Precinct, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3QZ, tel. (+ 44 51) 951 4595 or from the National Construction Industry Group, London South Area Office, Long Lane, London SE1 4PG, tel. (+ 44 71) 407 8911.



European Communities – Commission

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