





Commission of the
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DIRECTORATE GENERAL
OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS



EC Commission

**General Commission on safety and health
in the iron and steel industry**

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- Principles of
Accident Prevention

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PRINCIPLES OF ACCIDENT PREVENTION

The general commission on work safety in the iron and steel industry, which is an internal advisory body of the European Coal and Steel Community's High Authority, is recommending the following principles of accident prevention which were laid down by its working party on « Organisation of Accident Prevention » for adoption by firms within the Community. The general commission is convinced that the application of these principles is likely to improve the results of accident prevention to a great extent.

It considers that these principles of accident prevention form the basic elements of an efficient policy of accident prevention within a firm. However, it draws attention to the fact that a revision of the distribution of « safety » responsibilities within a firm could, in many cases, arise in applying these principles.

Lastly, it feels that an essential condition of the efficiency of accident prevention measures rests in the firm's management as a whole being fully conscious of the need for a dynamic accident prevention policy

Experience has shown that the establishment of an efficient system of accident prevention requires a certain number of arrangements and practical measures on the part of the firms themselves. The following ten general principles in the opinion of the general commission form the basis of an efficient safety promotion system within a firm.

1. Management at the highest level must consider the promotion of industrial safety and hygiene as an essential part of its duties.
2. It is necessary that it makes this attitude of mind known, preferably in writing, by clearly defined principles to the whole body of staff and workers.
3. Safety and hygiene measures must be incorporated in production operations in such a way they become inseparable. The way this is carried out must be clearly defined for all departments and at all levels.
4. In the matter of accident prevention measures, it is essential that the management of a firm and its various departments should be able to call on the advice of a special safety department under the management's direct authority, although the management must retain ultimate responsibility in this field ⁽¹⁾.
5. All members of the hierarchy, whatever their position, are responsible for accident prevention in the sector for which they hold responsibility and must account to their superiors for their activity in this field. Consequently, in assessing personnel this entails attaching the same importance to qualities relating to accident prevention as to other qualities.
6. All accident prevention activities must be coordinated within an overall programme, which must be punctuated by periodic reports indicating progress made and enabling it to be kept constantly under review.
7. It would be appropriate that the opinion of the workers' representatives on this programme should be invited as their co-operation in every sphere of accident prevention is of the greatest importance.
8. The programme must draw its inspiration not only from analysing accident statistics but also from a fundamental study of the risks inherent in every working sector before accidents occur.
9. Every form of planned action in accident prevention must comprise of various stages: preparation, application, one or more tests on actual performance, assessment and utilisation of results.
10. Alongside the technical and organisational aspects of accident prevention, training in safety matters at all levels of management and for all workers employed is of the highest importance. With this aim in view, the trend must be towards safety training becoming an integral part of vocational training, but insofar as it may not be possible to achieve this, the firm's programme should include additional training in this field.

⁽¹⁾ This principle may need to be modified in smaller firms which do not have a safety department.

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