

With SAPA* Rollout:

* Serious Accidents Punishment Act

Consulting Services on Occupational Health & Safety Management Offered Free of Charge



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- On January 25, the Ministry of Employment and Labor(MOEL) and Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency(KOSHA) announced a program that offers free consulting services to manufacturers and other enterprises(with a workforce of 50-299 employees), construction companies excluded,* that are subject to the Serious Accidents Punishment Act(SAPA).

* KOSHA experts offer direct consulting services to the construction industry.

- In this consulting program, seasoned experts in the occupational health and safety field visit a client company at least four times over 3-4 months to ascertain the status of the personnel, facilities, and internal risk factors, providing support that is focused on seven key factors* for effective health and safety management.

* The seven key factors: ① top management leadership; ② worker participation; ③ risk factor identification; ④ risk factor elimination and control; ⑤ emergency action plan; ⑥ outsourced health & safety management, including by contract or on commission; and ⑦ companywide health & safety assessment and improvement.

› Importantly, the consultants help the enterprises during these onsite visits to build health & safety management systems. They sit down for face-to-face discussions with the company CEO, focusing on measures to prepare for SAPA and elevate leadership on health & safety issues.

- Enterprises that wish to receive these consulting services are to submit their request by February 15 to the organizations providing the consulting, the KOSHA regional headquarters, or the Korean Federation of SMEs.*

* Note: That is, the reception office at the consulting organizations, KOSHA regional HQ, or KBIZ.

› 1,000 company recipients will be selected first during this application period, and an additional 1,000 or so will be selected during the second round of application submissions, which begins from March 2.

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› Should many enterprises apply, the selection priority will be placed on those that have experienced a fatal accident within the past decade and are at high risk and on those that are relatively smaller operations(50-150 employees).

* Priority, in descending order: ❶ companies at high risk, having experienced a fatal accident during the past decade; ❷ medium-sized enterprise(50-150 employees); ❸ enterprises that run their own safety management programs, without assistance from professional health & safety organizations.

- MOEL and KOSHA will cohost monthly meetings with local operating committees, consisting of members from regional employment and labor offices and regional KOSHA headquarters, as well as experts from the private sector. They share best practices and disseminate them to each local region in a bid to establish healthy environment for safety management.

- Director Kwon Gi-seob, from the Occupational Health & Safety Office, stated:

› “Ahead of the SAPA implementation, the government continues to develop and distribute materials that companies need, including leaflets on the SAPA, guidebooks on health and safety management systems and discretionary monitoring tables for each industry, helping to eliminate any uncertainties and difficulties companies are facing.”

› He added: “I hope that companies requiring these consulting services will apply, since the program is aimed at helping smaller at-risk companies incorporate health and safety systems into their corporate management.”