

General Contractors Increase Involvement in Enhancing Subcontractors' Workplace Safety and Health Programs!

- **Agreement Signed for Safety Companion Project Enhancing Safety and Health Collaboration between General Contractors and Subcontractors**
 - The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA, President Ahn Jong-ju) and the Korea Foundation for Cooperation of Large & Small Business, Rural Affairs (KOFCA, Secretary-General Kim Yeong-hwan) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to ensure smooth operations of the Safety Companion Project (for safety and health collaboration between general contractors and subcontractors). This ceremony was held at the KOFCA's conference room in Jung-gu, Seoul on February 2, at 3 p.m.
 - The Safety Companion Project aims to support the improvement of hazardous processes in small and medium-sized manufacturing plants to ensure fundamental safety and alleviate the gap in safety and health management standards between large and small companies, or between general contractors and subcontractors, by providing partial financial support for the costs associated with making hazardous processes safer. A budget of KRW 322 billion is allocated for this project, targeting a total of 4,025 companies in 2024.

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- The project is twofold: First, it aims to close the safety and health gap between large and small businesses, particularly in manufacturing. Second, it facilitates safety and health collaboration between general contractors and subcontractors. For the former, the project targets manufacturing businesses with fewer than fifty regular employees, small businesses as defined by the Framework Act on Small and Medium Enterprises (excluding in-house subcontractors), businesses engaged in essential manufacturing processes, and the top six high-risk industries. The latter initiative, launched this year, promotes a partnership between main contractors and the government to boost the capabilities of subcontractors in preventing industrial accidents. This is achieved by providing joint support for a portion of their investments in safety and health measures.
- KOSHA and KOFA have announced a collaborative initiative to improve hazardous processes at various workplaces. Both organizations will pool their resources to provide joint support for this endeavor. According to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the plan includes vigorous promotion and backing of this project, offering consulting and other safety and health activity support to participating businesses. Furthermore, the agreement describes preferential treatment for participating general contractors during KOFA's corporate evaluation activities, in line with their commitment to enhancing workplace safety and health standards.
- KOSHA President Ahn Jong-ju stated: "I expect this agreement will serve as a catalyst for general contractors to take a more engaged role in strengthening the safety and health capabilities of subcontractors. KOSHA will continue to make proactive efforts through the general contractor-subcontractor safety and health collaboration remain committed to supporting subcontractors in need of safety improvements through timely collaboration efforts."