

2004 Newsletter

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- **OSH Statistics**

- Status of 2003 Industrial accidents, 8 deaths resulting from industrial accident per day.
 - **Number of accidents: 94,924 persons, number of deaths: 2,923 persons...economic loss:12 trillion 400 billion won -**

Last year 2,923 workers lost their lives at work. In other words, 8 workers died every day for one year. In addition, 94,924 workers suffered from occupational accidents or diseases; in short, about 260 workers became ‘patients’ every day.

According to "Status of Industrial Accidents in 2003" announced by the Ministry of Labor on April 22, the number of workers who suffered from occupational accidents or diseases (94,924 persons) and the number of deaths (2,923 persons) increased by 15.9% (13,013 persons) and 12.2% (318 persons) respectively, compared with the previous year. The accident rate (or the ratio of the number of those who suffer from accidents per 100 workers) is 0.90%, up 0.13% compared with the previous year.

The expenses resulting from industrial accidents last year were 12.4 trillion won, which is about 17 times as much as the budget of the Ministry of Labor for the year, 731.7 billion won, being almost equivalent to 10% of the government budget, 120 trillion won. Considering the fact that the construction expenses of Incheon International Airport are about 7.9 trillion won, it can be said that the damage caused by industrial accidents threatens the whole of the Korean economy as well as those who suffered from the industrial accidents. With respect to the status of accident occurrence by size of workplace, in the case of establishments with less than 50 employees, the number of those involved in industrial accidents was 65,594 persons, or 70% of the total; in the case of establishments with 50~299 employees, 16,725 persons; in the case of establishments with 300~999 employees, 5,538 persons; in the case of establishments with 1000 persons or more, 7,067 persons. In terms of types of industry, the manufacturing industry (40,201 persons) and the construction industry (22,680 persons) account for 66% of the total accidents.

With respect to annually increasing accidents, a person concerned from Industrial Safety Division, the Ministry of Labor, says "the government, business owners, and the people all must reflect on

themselves", adding "the main cause of the problem is that the theory of economic growth generally prevails over industrial safety commanding peoples' lives". He also pointed out, "to reduce industrial accidents, a sense of crisis regarding the violation of regulations as such accident is required", adding "legal standards should be observed according to laws and principles".

Choi Eun-hee, director of policy bureau of Labor Health Solidarity, said that a large majority of the injured were irregular workers under no protection of industrial safety. Since the contractors, or actual employers, took no responsibility for industrial accidents that happened to irregular workers including subcontractors, their right to health is actually neglected. "Laws must be revised to the effect that without respect to contractor or subcontractor, the actual employer (contractor) shall assume the responsibility for any occupational accidents," she stressed.

[Status of Industrial Accidents in 2003]

Classification Year 2003

Number of those who suffered from industrial accidents (persons) 94,924

- Number of deaths (persons) 2,923
 - Accident rate(%) 0.90
 - Intensity rate 2.35
 - Frequency rate 3.68
 - Death rate (deaths/10,000 employees) 2.76
 - Economic loss (million won) 12,409,070
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(May 1, 2004 KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter)

- **Main OSH Policy**
 - MOL to strengthen technical support for prevention of accidents in small-sized establishments



This year the Ministry of Labor will strengthen technical support for enhancement of the ability to manage safety & health of small-sized workplaces and focus on the musculoskeletal disorder prevention which is becoming a factor of a labor-management conflict.

Kim Dae-hwan, the Minister of Labor, reported 「Work Plans for 2004」 to President Roh Mu-hyeon at Cheong Wa Dae, the Presidential Mansion, on March 4 and said they would actively promote the 7 Key Tasks to lay substantial groundwork for ‘labor-management relations for social unity’ in the 2nd year of the participatory government.

In the report, the Ministry of Labor said they would expand the clean project for accident prevention and work environment improvement in small enterprises with less than 50 employees (36.5 billion won, 3,732 workplaces -> 50 billion won, 5,000 workplaces) and also increase its patrol inspection of small construction sites to 10,000 sites from 7,000 sites.

Especially, for the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders, the Ministry of Labor will focus on support for the harmful factor investigation into the work doing damage to the musculoskeletal system, which becomes one of the business proprietor’s duties effective from June 2004; for the prevention of occupational diseases, it will promote expansion of factors doing harm to those requiring special medical examination (120 types -> 200 types) and reduction of the general medical checkup implementation cycle (clerical office : 2 -> 1 year).

For the promotion of joint labor-management accident prevention activities, the Ministry of Labor will also promote ? activation of the industrial safety & health committee ? financial support for a joint labor-management musculoskeletal disorder prevention program (300 workplaces), etc. In

addition, it will systematically promote the middle-/long-ranged industrial safety & health policy by making the 2nd 「Industrial Accident Prevention 5-Year Plan ('05~'09)」 .

(March 4, 2004, Safety & Health News Letter)

- Government to reduce child safety-related accidents by 10% every year

The government will reduce child safety-related accidents by 10% every year. Prime Minister Ko Geon said on May 5 that the government would reduce child safety-related accidents by 10% every year to half the current level by 2007.

The prime minister, at the commemoration event in celebration of 82nd Children's Day held in Little Angeles Art Hall in the morning, said "the participatory government is doing its best to improve Korea's child safety to the level of advanced countries".

The prime minister pointed out that "above all, children must be protected from all dangers on the most preferential basis; however, there are still many factors threatening child safety in our environment, and the number of annual safety-related deaths per 100,000 children is 12.6 persons, highest level among the OECD countries".

The prime minister also emphasized that "the participatory government is doing its best to improve child safety to the level of advanced countries and has promoted comprehensive plans covering school zone improvement and strengthening of playground facility inspection, etc. since the previous year when 'the first year of child safety' was declared, and plans to child safety-related accidents by 10% every year to half the current level by 2007".

On the other hand, the prime minister, at the Cabinet meeting held on May 4, instructed related ministries to thoroughly manage the 58 key tasks selected after declaration of the first year of child safety by President (May 5, 2003, Children's Day) for 'Promotion of child protection·cultivation and safety plan'. The government will newly establish a child policy mediation committee chaired by the prime minister in July, which will have overall charge of child policies.

(May 15, 2004, KOSHA Safety & Health News Letter)

- **Update in KOREA**

- "Right to not die but work" -KFCITU, 'Industrial Safety Day' campaign

Korea Federation of Construction Industry Trade Unions (President Lee Yong-sik) will begin a campaign on April 26 to conduct industrial safety related training and on-the-spot safety checkup under the theme of "the right to not die but work with trade union" in construction sites whose

local construction trade union has made a collective agreement on the occasion of Month (April) of expelling industrial accidents from construction sites and the day of workers involved industrial accidents (April 28).

KFCITU said on April 20 that it plans to wage the campaign from April 26 to May 30 by posting posters in construction sites with a collective agreement and giving publicity; conducting an on-the-spot safety checkup based on the KFCITU safety checkup list; providing training related to industrial safety as part of on-the-spot safety training. In addition, it will collect demands related to industrial safety during on-the-spot training and request the relevant contractor to solve the problems.

At each workplace, safety checkup will be conducted jointly by labor and management through joint labor-management council, or jointly by labor and government by giving notice to the competent Labor Office.

All workplaces with a collective agreement are to be checked for safety, and the results of safety checkup will be collected and announced through an assembly of each local Labor Office, etc. after requesting an interview with the Minister of Labor for demanding improvement in industrial safety. workplaces found to be with a serious problem with the actual condition of safety will be demanded to conduct a special safety checkup.

In the case of enterprise unions attached to KFCITU, union members will conduct a safety checkup as much as possible, and enterprise unions will take charge of posting on-the-spot publicity materials, etc. so that both local unions and enterprise unions can wage a joint campaign.

KFCITU will have the honorary industrial safety supervisor guarantee the participation of the labor delegate during the campaign and will also demand opening to the public of the details of industrial safety management expenses.

(Apr. 21, 2004, Daily Labor News)

- "FKTU" begins to conduct investigation of actual condition of musculoskeletal disorder
 - In early June, questionnaire survey to be conducted... a 'center for accusing workplaces failing to conduct an investigation of harmful factors of musculoskeletal disorders' is also to be operated

Federation of Korean Trade Unions will begin investigating the actual condition of musculoskeletal disorders. At the beginning of June, FK TU will conduct a questionnaire survey with respect to local unions and give a medical checkup to union members showing serious symptoms.

FKTU will urge each workplace to allow application for medical treatment of musculoskeletal disorders resulting from an industrial accident, demand for a close investigation into harmful factors, and a musculoskeletal disorder prevention program. In addition, FKTU will accuse workplaces which fail to conduct an investigation of harmful factors to the Ministry of Labor.



Cho Gi-hong, a committeeman of Industrial Safety Division, FKTU, said "this is a serious matter because workers whose disease was diagnosed as a musculoskeletal disorder increased by 148.1% compared with the previous year," adding "when new officers are appointed, we will immediately investigate the actual condition at the beginning of the following month, starting with vulnerable types of work such as metal, chemical, mining, etc."

Committeeman Cho said "according to law, the business proprietor shall conduct an investigation of harmful June", pointing out "even if business proprietors make ill use of the fact that they have no duty to report and do not conduct the investigation, there is no way for the government to identify them." Further, he added "it is impossible to prevent the diseases occurring at workplaces only with the limited scope of 11 operations doing damage to the musculoskeletal system announced by the Ministry of Labor. Therefore, the scope of the work should be expanded through this investigation."

On the other hand, FKTU will operate a 'center for accusing workplaces that fail to conduct an investigation of harmful factors of musculoskeletal disorders' and accuse workplaces that have not conducted an investigation of harmful factors of musculoskeletal disorders by the end of June to the Ministry of Labor. The business proprietors who have not conducted an investigation of harmful factors of musculoskeletal disorders shall be sentenced to 5 year-or-less imprisonment or a fine not exceeding 50 million won in accordance with the Industrial Safety & Health Act.

(Daily Labor News, May 20, 2004)

- Warning signal for child inline skating! - accidents resulting from wheeled playthings increased by 180% compared with the previous year

It is reported that wheeled playthings such as inline skates, kickboards, and wheeled shoes, etc. are the most leading cause of child safety-related accidents. As a result of analysis of child (less than 14 years old) safety-related accidents for 3 years and 3 months since 2001, Korea Consumer Protection Board announced that the accidents resulting from roller skates, kickboards, and inline skates account for the largest number among the total 585 child accidents.

Accidents resulting from wheeled playthings are on the increase every year. The number of occurrence in the previous year increased by 180.4% compared with 2002. And in terms of accident danger, male children are 1.9 times as large as female children.

Among the wheeled playthings, accidents resulting from inline skates account for the largest number (219 cases, 37.4%), followed by bicycles (35.6%), kickboards (20.5%), and wheeled shoes (3.8%). In terms of accident occurrence frequency, July is the highest (15.2%), followed by June (14.8%), May (12.4%), and March (7.1%).

Choi Eun-sil, a deputy department manager of Korea Consumer Protection Board, said "since there are no appropriate places where children can use such playthings except roads and parking lots, it is highly likely that they will be involved in a fatal accident. Therefore, what is most urgent is to expand space providing children with a safe playground."



(Daily Labor News, May 20, 2004)

- Free Lumbago School for Workers Involved in an Industrial Accident is opened

Korea Labor Welfare Corporation (President Bang Yong-seok) has additionally opened "Year 2004 Lumbago School for Workers Involved in an Industrial Accident" in Workers Accident Medical Corporation Changwon Hospital and Daejeon Jungang Hospital.

At school, workers involved in an industrial accident will learn daily life action and working action for preventing lumbago and practice gymnastic exercises strengthening the backbone to prevent

recurrence of lumbago and regain psychological self-confidence. The school has been implemented since 2002 as part of a rehabilitation program under the 5-year plan for rehabilitation project by the Ministry of Labor.



Trainees include workers involved in an industrial accident suffering from a lumbar sprain or herniation of intervertebral disk etc., workers with occupational lumbago continued for 6 weeks or more without a special trauma, workers having lumbago for 6 weeks or more with no need for an operation, or workers who still feel lumbago 6 weeks even after an operation; all of them must be capable of taking exercise or practice gymnastics.

Instructors consisting of neurosurgeons, rehabilitation medicine doctors, and physical therapists, etc. teach theories and practice covering the cause of lumbago and treatment method, exercise treatment, and daily life action and working action for preventing lumbago, etc. for 2~3 weeks. School fee is free, and stress measurement test and DITI (Digital Infrared Thermal Imaging) test are also given free of charge. In 2002~2003, a total of 119 persons attended the school in Workers Accident Medical Corporation, Incheon Choongang General Hospital to depend their understanding on lumbago and cultivate the ability to adapt.

(April 14, 2004, WISH)

- 2 Persons responsible for collapse of the site of Bucheon LG department store are arrested

Mr. Choi [], head of the site on LG Construction Co., Ltd., contractor, and Mr. Ji [], head of the site on Sungsoo Frontier Co., Ltd., subcontractor, were arrested on May 5 for the accident of collapse of LG department store steel frames, which caused about 20 casualties on April 19. According to the police, they are on suspicion of negligence of supervision of outer-wall tile removal work at the site. They had hundreds of 30kg granitic tiles piled up on a scaffold set up 10~20m above the ground, and the scaffold was collapsed at around 10:30 p.m. on April 19. Due to the collapse, 20 workers fell to the ground, leaving 3 persons dead and 17 persons injured.

The Ministry of Labor directed each accident site to stop work and make a safety diagnosis. It is also reported that the Ministry of Labor plans to request the relevant local autonomous entities to

impose prohibition of business on LG Construction and Sungsoo Frontier sooner or later and, through consultation with the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, organize a joint inspection team to strictly crack down on workplaces whose safety and health are poorly managed both in the first half and the second half of the year. Especially, workplaces Title : to the joint inspection include Δ enterprise that has caused a major accident Δ workplace where the same type accident has recurred Δ workplace dangerous in terms of safety and health Δ workplace whose workers have submitted a civil petition, etc.



A legal basis will be made to the effect that if a major accident occurs due to the business proprietor's poor safety & health management, aggravated punishment is inflicted.

On the other hand, enterprises showing excellent safety & health activities will be exempted from all kinds of inspections and guaranteed an autonomous safety & health activity. If necessary, they will be given technical support and training for work environment improvement.

(May 5, 2004,Wish)

- vents in memory of 1st anniversary of Daegu Subway Tragedy are held

Various events were held on Feb. 18 throughout the nation in memory of the deceased on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of Daegu Subway Tragedy, which shocked the nation last year. Daegu City held an event cherishing the memory of the deceased on the road at the Jungang-no Station with about 2,000 men of society including Kang Dong-seok, Minister of Construction & Transportation in attendance. The event was begun with a performance paying tribute to the memory of the victims, followed by a silent prayer, and insense burning and flower giving, etc. In a memorial address read by Minister Kang on his behalf, Prime Minister Ko Geon said, "the government will put the whole mind to build a safe nation by giving the first consideration to safety in all government sectors and systematically improving national safety management". Cho Hye-nyeon, Mayor of Daegu City, said "we are all to blame for Daegu Subway Tragedy, an accident which must never be repeated."

On the same day, Daegu Citizens Coalition for Safety held a seminar wishing for safety at Daegu Jungang Library and a photo exhibition at the meeting plaza in the National Loan Redemption Park in Daegu City to inspire a sense of safety.

On Feb. 17, Kyungpook National University Disaster Prevention Research Institute held an international symposium under the theme of 'Lessons and Tasks of Daegu Subway Fire Tragedy' at the international conference hall, Daegu Exhibition Convention Center.

(Feb. 19, 2004, Wish)

- **Update in KOSHA**

- Various Industrial Safety & Health Emphasis Week (July.1~7) events are held

Industrial Safety & Health Emphasis Week events will be held from June 29 to July 2 throughout the nation including Seoul COEX to prevent accidents by inspiring a sense of safety on the occasion of the most sizzling period during a year.



To begin with, from June 29 to July 2, [22nd International Safety·Fire-Fighting·Security Industrial Exhibition] will be held at the COEX. Not only domestic companies but also 10 advanced countries including Japan, Germany, and the U.S. will exhibit protective gear, safety equipment, fire-fighting apparatus, and security equipment, etc., along with Korean safety equipment, at the exhibition.

On June 30, [Safety Korea International Symposium] will be jointly held by KOSHA and EU Chamber of Commerce at Grand Ballroom on the 4th floor of the COEX. While the needs for health and safety are on the increase, the symposium is held to early open an age of the national income of \$20,000 by reducing social losses through improvement in the quality of life and prevention of safety-related accidents. Ambassadors and persons concerned from EU countries, the Ministry of Labor, Minister of Government Administration & Home Affairs, and from the Ministry of Labor, safety-related civic group members, and persons in charge of safety & health in companies, etc. will be present at the symposium. Especially, the symposium will compare and analyze the actual conditions of safety culture of 4 sectors (school, life, public, industry) of Korea and EU and seek to

formulate improvement plans and development directions.

In addition, during the Emphasis Week, various events such as [Industrial Safety & Health Convention](July 1) where the business proprietors, workers, and persons concerned with safety & health who have contributed to the prevention of industrial accidents are given a prize, [Workers' Health Education Contest](June 29), [Presentation Meeting of Excellent Cases by Industrial Safety & Health Committee](July 1), [Presentation Meeting of Successful Cases of No-Accident Campaign](July 2), and [Seminar on 15 Safety & Health Sectors], etc. are held.

(July 1, 2004, KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter)

- KOSHA set to launch OECD IMS system

- KOSHA to support establishments for preventing musculoskeletal disorder

The manufacturing establishments with 50~300 employees which are incapable of improving the working environment causing musculoskeletal disorders will be given free support within the limit of 30 million won.

In June, Korea Occupation Safety & Health Agency (President Kim Yong-dal) implements the 'Financial Support Project' under which the expenses required for improvement in the working environment of 12 items imposing a heavy burden on workers such as heavy-material conveying equipment will be reimbursed within 50% of the total amount or up to 30 million won without compensation.

Relevant equipment are 12 pieces of equipment necessary for musculoskeletal disorder prevention including travelling carts, heavy-material conveying/loading equipment such as conveyors, airbalance, auxiliary apparatus for conveying heavy materials such as suckers, heavy-material transporting equipment, whose height/angle adjustable worktables and chairs, and automated equipment in the process where lumbago and musculoskeletal disorders may occur.

If the environment improvement expense exceeds the amount of support, a loan can be provided from the industrial accident prevention facility funds at an annual interest of 3%, to be repaid on an installment basis in 7 years with a 3-year grace period

Establishments with less than 50 employees, through the project of supporting the creation of a clean workplace, can be given free support for improving the working environment doing damage to the musculoskeletal system: up to 40 million won in the case of types of work such as casting·plating·leather, and dyeing, etc.; 20 million won in the case of other types of work.

The Ministry of Labor will visit workplaces financially supported at least once a year for post-management purposes and continuously ensure the effectiveness of financial support project through satisfaction level survey.

Workplaces wishing for the support are requested to contact KOSHA regional division or each health support team or instructor.

(March 22, 2004, Wish)

- Persons concerned from General Administration of Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China visit KOSHA

5 persons concerned from General Administration of Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (SEAA) visited KOSHA on June 8, 2004 to pave the way for promotion of Korea-China interchange in the sector of safety management and inspection of specific machinery including cranes.

The group of visitors headed by WU JIN SHENG, Deputy General Director of Bureau of Supervision of Special Equipment of General Administration of Supervision visited Korea to understand Korean laws and systems covering the Korean government's safety supervision method and legal system, safety inspection acceptance judgment criteria, and inspection expenses, etc. After meeting with KOSHA President, they learned about the Korean inspection system and the operations of KOSHA through meeting with persons concerned from KOSHA and discussed future Korea-China-Japan cooperation plans.

※ The institutions visited by the group of visitors : MOCIE Agency for Technology and Standards, Korea Elevator Safety Institute

Especially, the group of visitors paid a visit of inspection on Wednesday, June 9, 2004 to the site (Site of construction of Dongsam-dong APT in Gimhae, Lotte Construction) of crane inspection conducted by KOSHA Busan regional division to study and observe inspection methods and technical support operations methods, etc.



(March 31, 2004, Wish)

- **New OSH Materials**
- KOSHA developed and distributed middle school safety training textbooks

While school safety is attracting public attention, KOSHA (President Kim Yong-Dal) has developed and distributed middle school safety training textbooks that can be used by unit for each curriculum pursuant to the 7th Curriculum to middle schools throughout the nation.

For wider use of the textbooks, Teacher's Manual and Student's Activity Sheet, and CD for Lesson are posted on the KOSHA homepage. The relevant data can be found on: KOSHA homepage -> Safety & Health DB -> Life Safety Information -> School Safety: Middle School Safety Training Program.

[Overview]

1. Textbook name : Safe School, Safe Life

2. Composition of textbooks

■ **Teacher's Manual (290p)**

Chapter 1. General provisions

Chapter 2. Safety training guidance by area

Chapter 3. Appendix

■ **Student's Activity Sheet (60p)**

List of Activity Sheet

List of Answer

■ **CD for Lesson (PowerPoint format)**

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