

2009 Newsletter

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- **Top Issues**

- President Min-Ki Noh, Busy for Safety Management Sales
 - Meeting Employers All around Korea to Emphasize 'Employer's Role'

President Min-Ki Noh of Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency is visiting employers all around the nation to inspire management about safety consciousness, and he is becoming the talk of the town. President Noh participated in the Occupational Accident Prevention Workshop jointly held with Gyeonggi West Regional Training Center and West Industrial Complex's Leading Management Council in Byeonsan Resort in Jeollabuk-do on the 8th and 9th and emphasized the necessity of safety at a meeting with employers in Gwangju region.

Gwangju Regional Labor Office and KOSHA Gwangju Branch held the Safety and Health Meeting for Management in conjunction with Gwangju / Jeollanam-do Regional Employers Federation on the 15th. President Min-Ki Noh of KOSHA was invited as a special lecturer at this meeting with over 200 members of the Gwangju / Jeollanam-do Regional Employers Federation. He gave a speech entitled 'Challenge and Opportunity of Occupational Safety and Health, and the Role of employer.'

President Min-Ki Noh said, "The reality of occupational safety in Korea is quite gloomy as it is in the 2nd rank for the number of deaths from industrial accidents among OECD nations in spite of the world's 13th national competitive strength." He added, "Like other world-renowned companies that give priority to safety by considering each one of their workers as important human resources, we must also accomplish absolute safety management that does not tolerate even one occupational accident based on the firm belief that the safety and happiness of workers are the very success of a company."

- Opening of the Memorial Hall for the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work
 - KOSHA, Commemorated Successful Congress and Spread of the Intent

A memorial hall to spread the intention of the Seoul Declaration adopted at the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work opened.

KOSHA held the opening ceremony of the Memorial Hall for the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work on the 30th in the presence of the Tripartite Commission officials. The Memorial Hall

for the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work succeeds in expressing the spirit of the Seoul Declaration adopted by the world's safety and health representatives to spread the intention to enhance safety and health through every section of society.

The memorial hall, established on the first floor of KOSHA, is divided into 15 sections and exhibits recordings and related publications along with souvenirs such as the video recording of the congress, the history of the congress and the whole statement of the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work, and pictures. The members of the Korean Commission for the Implementation of the Seoul Declaration comprised of the Tripartite Commission participated in the opening ceremony. The meeting of the Korean Commission for the Implementation of the Seoul Declaration was held after the opening ceremony in order to discuss programs to spread and implement the Seoul Declaration both inside and outside Korea.

President Min-Ki Noh of KOSHA said, "The opening of the Memorial Hall for the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work commemorates the success of the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work and shares in the spirit of the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work globally." He added, "we will make continuous efforts to spread safety culture and reduce occupational accidents to convey the significance and the importance of the Seoul Declaration."

- **Korea's OSH News**

- **Safety Training for 100,000 Irregular Construction Workers**

- Labor of Ministry, Exempts New Employment Training for 2 Years after Safety Training

From June 22, construction safety training will be given to over 100,000 irregular (Fixed term and Part-time employees) construction workers who are often exposed to accidents. A certificate will be given to the workers who receive the 4-hour 'Construction Safety Training.' New employment training that is enforced in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act will be exempted for 2 years.

The Ministry of Labor announced on May 19 that 'Construction Safety Training for Vocational Ability Enhancement' will be executed as above in order to prevent industrial accidents for irregular workers on construction sites who had been neglected in the safety training and also support their employment.

The pilot training program will be provided from the 22nd of next month to the end of the year and it will cover the major contents of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, improvement of safety consciousness, dangerous elements in each operation, safety operation methods, accident case studies, and preventive measures.

The training will take place in 6 regions; Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Gyeonggi-Incheon, Gwangju, and Daejeon and training institutes will be consigned through public subscription to provide systematic safety training. To provide the environment for implementing this program, KOSHA will develop a cooperative system for the provision of construction safety training with training institutes, related construction organizations, employment agencies, and construction companies. It will also hold conferences for CEOs of construction companies, and hold presentation meetings with those involved in the program in each region. President Hyeon-Ok Jeong of Occupational Safety and Health Bureau of the Ministry of Labor said, "Government support for irregular workers in the construction industry is expected to prevent occupational accidents and to increase the employment rate and in turn help the national economy. Up until now irregular workers have been neglected in occupational safety and health programs that has been neglected. By extending construction safety training to all employees the employment capacity of construction workers will be enhanced."

- Safety Measures Against Rainy and Hot Seasons on Construction Sites
 - Ministry of Labor and KOSHA, Announced 2009 Safety and Health Guideline

The guideline for supporting the establishment of occupational accident prevention measures in the early stages of construction sites has been released as the rainy season is expected earlier this year due to climate changes. The Ministry of Labor and KOSHA announced the 2009 Safety and Health Guidelines which contain summer accident statistics and methods for dealing with situations in order to prevent construction site accidents in the rainy and hot seasons. The Ministry of Labor official said that in recent years the rainy season had started early or changed suddenly due to global warming. Accordingly it is essential that each construction site should set up their own safety measures and make great efforts to prevent accidents by fully utilizing the 'Safety and Health Guideline for Rainy and Hot Seasons on Construction Sites.' According to statistics, the injuries and deaths in construction accidents have increased in the last 2 years, and the accidents that took place in summer between June and August were responsible for 26.8% of the entire accidents with most of the accidents taking place in July.

In the rainy and hot seasons, construction workers are exposed to dangers due to localized torrential downpours as well as landslides, the collapse of mold and puncheon, electric shocks and dangers due to sultriness such as suffocation, and other health deteriorating elements.

Safety measures against localized torrential downpours include securing and storing materials to prevent emergency flood damage, identification of the current status of underground utilities, maintaining mutual-assistance systems with related organizations, securing the safety of temporarily installed roads for construction, and preliminary inspections of facilities around the site to prevent flood damage.

To prevent accidental suffocation, it is necessary to make sure that oxygen density is at least 18% before pumping water out of a space closed and left alone for a long time. This includes tanks, culverts, manholes, drains or pits where ventilation facilities such as local exhaust ventilators should be installed. In addition an escape passage for emergencies should be secured and safety training should be provided for workers prior to their handling organic solvents.

- **Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Covering 120,000 Construction Machine Operators from July**
- Ministry of Labor, Announced Enforcement Decree Benefiting Workers in 27 Occupations

120,000 construction machine operators in 27 occupation categories such as owner/drivers of dump trucks, excavators, and bulldozers who experience high exposure to risk of occupational accidents without being covered by the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance will benefit from the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance as early as July. The Ministry of Labor announced the revision of 'Enforcement Decree of Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance' mainly emphasizing the above.

Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance had not been applied to owner/driver construction machine operators. As they were categorized as self-employed business owners they had not been protected from occupational accidents however the latest revision has added owner/driver construction machine operators to the category of SMEs employers subjected to the benefit of the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance and they can now receive insurance benefits when they voluntarily subscribe for the insurance. Ministry of Labor officials said, "The revision of the Enforcement Decree of Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance will provide benefits to about 120,000 construction machine operators."

This revision expands the coverage of Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance to include construction machine operators who are exposed to accidents but could not voluntarily subscribe for the insurance in the category of voluntary subscribers. In detail, the revised bill added 'Person engaged in construction machine business without employing workers' to the definition of a SME employer.

Also according to the revised bill, the Occupational Safety and Health Policy Review Committee has been abolished. Its function, which was to establish the basic plan for the occupational safety and health operations and to comprehensively review and adjust the major policies related with central administrative organizations, has been transferred to the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Review Committee and its name has been changed to 'Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act and Prevention Review Committee.' The committee will comprehensively review the prevention and compensation system of occupational accidents.

- All Regional Labor Offices Step Forward to Prevent Occupational Accidents with Public Prosecutor's Office
 - Full Scale Joint Inspection with Regional Ministries in Seoul, Daejeon, and Chungju

According to Labor Ministry policy, the Labor Ministry and Public Prosecutor's Office Joint Occupational Accident Prevention Inspection was held throughout all Regional Ministries of Labor in May.

Seoul Regional Labor Office held the joint inspection in 30 or less companies including construction companies from the 4th to the 29th. The companies inspected this time include companies that recorded deaths and general accidents last year. Companies considered were those with hazardous work environments or potential for occupational disease through exposure to excessive chemical standards in last year's work environment measurements, company construction sites with a high accident rate, companies with high potential for accidents among companies that incurred the enmity of the people through petition, lawsuit, and complaints, and construction sites where asbestos was disorganized and eliminated.

The joint inspection team which comprises of officers of the Public Prosecutor's Office, 2 labor inspectors of the Ministry of Labor, and staffs of KOSHA operates under the supervision of the prosecutor in charge of occupational safety. It will contribute to the reduction of occupational accidents through effective management.

Daejeon Regional Labor Office will also perform an intensive inspection of 32 manufacturing companies and construction sites with hazardous safety management to determine whether they have observed the Occupational Safety and Health Act from the 6th to the 29th. Director of the Regional Labor Office, Yun-Bae Kim, said, "This joint inspection will take place without notice to check the status of safety and health management in usual times" and added, "The joint inspection will help companies to establish the culture for giving importance to human life and safety."

Also, Chungju Regional Labor Office is going to have intensive inspections from May the 1st to the 29th to determine whether safety measures directly related to occupational accidents such as falling, being caught, electric shock, collapse, explosion and fire, and negligence of protective gears have been adhered to. Employers that violate the Occupational Safety and Health Act, will be accountable to the Regional Labor Office which will take judicial action, impose fines, suspend operations, and suspend use in order to create a law-abiding consciousness and arouse attention to safety.

- Provided Regulation Details to Inspect Asbestos before Building Removal
 - Ministry of Labor, Announced the Revised Bill for Enforcement Decree and Regulation of Occupational Safety and Health Act

Enforcement Regulation details for preliminary inspection systems for asbestos, such as the subject of asbestos analysis and analyzing agency designation were established in relation to the removal and demolition of buildings. The Ministry of Labor announced the revised bill for the Enforcement Decree and Regulation of Occupational Safety and Health Act reflecting the above on the 2nd.

According to the revised bill, the asbestos content shall be inspected through a professional inspection agency before the removal or demolition of a building whose total floor area is 50m² or greater or a facility where the total area of substances or materials such as insulation materials, lagging materials, spray materials, and fireproofing materials used to build the facility is 15m² or greater or the total volume of which is 1m³ or greater. If architectural drawings verify the lack of asbestos, the asbestos inspection can be omitted. The conditions and procedures for registration were established to order to increase the professionalism of the asbestos inspection agency as well as removers and demolishers - inspection agencies and removers must have the manpower, facilities, and equipments designated by the Ministry of Labor Ordinance to be officially registered.

Among construction sites subjected to submit the Hazard and Danger Prevention Plan, sites with 3 or more safety managers they have to include 1 Certified Professional Engineer for Construction Safety.

They can also appoint the person who acquired the Engineer's license for Construction Safety and who has performed construction safety operations for 10 or more years. Alternatively they can appoint a person who acquired the Technician for Construction Safety license and has performed construction safety operations for at least 13 years. This measure has been taken in order to prevent large accidents due to insufficient professionalism and the inexperience of the safety manager on the construction site.

By developing the basis of support for the examination expenses and through the measurement of the work environment in small businesses, Special Health Examination Expenses will be supported in full for 110,000 workers in small companies with less than 10 employees. The revision also includes alleviation of restrictions such as easing manpower restrictions for safety management service institution and efficiency oriented operation limits and simplifying the report procedure for safety and health managers.

The revised bill announced that opinions of interested parties and experts will be collected until the 22nd. The data will be promulgated and effectuated in August through the Office of Legislation's review and Cabinet Council's resolution.

- 'Semiconductor Company Occupational Health Risk Evaluation'
- Voluntary Evaluation in the Premise with Support of Consultant Group Comprised of Experts

The "Occupational Health Risk Evaluation" for semiconductor industries will be performed from June to September 2009. This evaluation is a part of the follow-up on the "Epidemiological Survey on Semiconductor Industry" performed in 2008. The 6 plants of 3 companies that reported the largest number of lymph and blood forming organ diseases (Samsung Electronics, HYNIX, Amkor Technology) will autonomously perform the evaluations under the supervision of a consulting group (advisors' group) comprised of occupational health experts.

The risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was examined in the epidemiological survey of 2008, but it suggested the need for in-depth studies due to the short follow-up period and limitations in categorizing duty and process. Consequently they decided to reevaluate the danger level by accumulating and supplementing the existing cohort of KOSHA and perform in-depth analytic epidemiological studies including patient-control group study between 2009~2019.

The in-depth studies consume such a long period of time that the workplace health management strengthening plan was prepared and executed to prevent any hazards or danger that may occur before the studies are completed.

According to said measures, semiconductor companies were asked to voluntarily perform provisional occupational health inspection in their workplaces concerning major hazards such as chemical substance and radiation handling processes. Especially, 3 companies including Samsung Electronics were asked to perform occupational health risk evaluation with the supervision of experts and establish and push forward the improvement plan according to the results.

Also, KOSHA is providing precision measurements of arsine and radiation to evaluate major hazards elements. On April 1, KOSHA held a meeting with the employers of semiconductor businesses and urged them to strengthen autonomous workplace health management. The risk evaluation is the safety and health management activity based on labor-management autonomy, but the semiconductor manufacturing process involves such complex processes and uses a variety of chemical substances that KOSHA has asked the companies to consult with experts in evaluating the occupational health risks this time.

The consultant group will provide consultations for finding hazardous and dangerous elements that can be present in the semiconductor manufacturing process and will evaluate the health management system. The group led by professor Do-Myeong Baek of the School of Public Health of Seoul National University includes 10 or more occupational health experts of Korea (occupational medicine expert, occupational hygiene expert, occupational toxicology expert, and occupational ventilation expert, etc.). The consultant group will provide consultations for risk evaluation in 5 professional fields including occupational toxicology, exposure assessment, ventilation facilities,

training, and health management. For the hazard and dangerous elements derived from risk evaluation results, the workplace will improve such elements by establishing their own improvement plan, and the Ministry of Labor will inspect the progress of improvement in the future.

The consultant group will also suggest the long-term "Workplace Health Management System Improvement Plan" for companies to continuously evaluate risks and to autonomously perform health management improvement activities

- Work Environment Improvement for Tire Manufacturing Industry Including Hankook Tire
 - Also Promoting Long Term Study for Evaluation of Carbon Black and Rubber Fume Hazards

The Ministry of Labor saw the need for improving work environment management concerning high heat and rubber fumes in the tire manufacturing industries in an epidemiological survey of Hankook Tire in 2007 and 2008 and announced that they will prepare and enforce measures to strengthen health management in tire manufacturing industries along with follow-up studies. Primarily, the owners of tire manufacturing companies with 100 or more employees will have to learn about matters requiring intensive management concerning the protection of workers' health during June 2009 to strengthen health management. Since the epidemiological survey showed a close relationship between the total dust density and the rubber fume density, tire industries will be recommended and guided to reduce the total dust density to 0.6mg/m³ or lower which is the rubber fume exposure standard of England.

The tire manufacturing process involves the risk of developing cerebrocardiovascular diseases through high heat. Tire companies will be guided to assess the cerebro cardiovascular disease risks to all workers and to manage the health of workers categorized into the high risk group and to make sure that night duty workers do not continue to work the following morning after their shift. From July, Hankook Tire, Kumho Tire, and Nexen Tire have been guided to establish and promote their own work environment improvement and health management plan covering the matters pointed out in the epidemiological survey. The status of the self-improvement will be evaluated and if the company needs further improvements, the overall inspection on occupational safety and health will be performed in the second half of the year. Administrative measures will be strictly applied for any violation.

For companies dealing with the continuing controversy on the impact to health of carbon black and rubber fumes from 2010 there will be a review of the level of control such as setting the standard of exposure according to results.

In relation to this, the Ministry of Labor held a meeting with the employers of tire companies

including Hankook Tire, Kumho Tire, and Nexen Tire between June 17~18, 2009 and urged them to make the utmost efforts to succeed by cooperating with the given measures.

- **KOSHA News**

- KOSHA-Korea Petrochemical Industry Association, MOU for Chemical Accident Prevention
 - Cooperation for the Prevention of Serious and Large Industrial Accidents and Workers' Occupational Accidents

KOSHA and Korea Petrochemical Industry Association are working together protect workers by preventing accidents such as fires and explosions of chemical plants. In particular realistic cooperation is needed between the two organizations and regular meetings to advance safety and health is expected to have a great ripple effect. KOSHA and Korea Petrochemical Industry Association are signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the prevention of chemical accidents.

The major content of the MOU provides for the two organizations to help each other to prevent serious and large accidents such as fire and explosions and to protect workers from other occupational accidents such as being rolled, being trapped, or falling. According to the MOU, the two organizations will hold joint seminars for preventing chemical accidents, develop and spread safety training materials and technical data, support the development of a safety and health management system, hold regular meetings to advance the safety and health system, and support safety inspections upon the request by members.

The two parties will also make joint efforts to prevent 3 typical accidents in the field such as tripping, being rolled and trapped, and falling and instigated studies on new safety and health technologies for petro chemical plants along with industry case studies. The joint seminar will be held around October, and the support for safety training and the establishment of safety and health management system, the joint development of technical data, and safety inspection will be advanced by surveying the demand of members in the beginning of each month.

President Min-Ki Noh said, "Accidents in the petrochemical industry such as fire and explosion brings enormous loss of human lives and damage to society and economy" and added, "I hope this joint agreement comes to fruition to protect workers in the field and contribute to national economic advancement."

- OSHRI, Internationally Recognized Asbestos Analysis Technology
 - 'Excellent' Rating from US National Institute of Standards and Technology's NVLAP

The Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute's technology for analyzing asbestos using electron microscope is internationally recognized.

The Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute of KOSHA announced on the 14th that it had secured international recognition through achieving excellent results in the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) performed by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

NVLAP of NIST tests the skill in analyzing asbestos and provides international certification for asbestos analysis skill and procedure. In testing for asbestos analysis skills, the asbestos samples are sent to professional asbestos analysis agencies in America and other regions of the world where accuracy is determined based on the analytical results of the agencies.

Over 80 electron microscope asbestos analysis agencies participated in this evaluation and KOSHA's research institute received total 0.00 point for errors which is far less than the qualification standard for errors which is 2.00 or less. KOSHA's research institute established the asbestos analysis method using the electron microscope for the first time in Korea. It has been using the method to make precise analyses of asbestos to determine the risk occupational diseases. Director Jeon-Seon Yang of Center for Chemical Safety and Health, OSHRI said "Acquiring the accreditation on asbestos analysis skills has proved our technological strength for asbestos analysis using the electron microscope internationally and the improved accuracy and reliability of the analysis has yielded even greater results."

US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is an organization under the US Department of Commerce and it develops technical standards and measurement standards for industries and scientific circles in America and the world. The Korean Agency for Technology and Standards plays similar role in Korea.

- KOSHA and National Forestry Cooperatives Federation, Concluded MOU for Occupational Accident Prevention - Supports Technology and Training for Preventing Accidents through Joint Campaign

A MOU for preventing accidents in the field from power saw cutting, hover mower blade cutting, and falls during pruning was signed.

KOSHA and National Forestry Cooperatives Federation signed the MOU for preventing these occupational accidents in the main office of National Forestry Cooperatives Federation on the 24th. The major content of the agreement is that KOSHA and National Forestry Cooperatives Federation which carries out public service programs related to forestry will help each other to prevent forestry accidents.

For this, KOSHA and National Forestry Cooperatives Federation will promote joint accident prevention activities such as the distribution of technical data about preventing accidents in each

type of forestry, supporting safety training, promoting a joint campaign to reduce forestry related accidents by half, and by inspecting safety. The technical support will be provided to work sites through 142 regional members of National Forestry Cooperatives Federation.

KOSHA and National Forestry Cooperatives Federation will also promote a variety of activities to prevent occupational accidents through the production of forestry related videos and providing occupational safety and health related information. According to occupational accident statistics, the number of victims of forestry related occupational accidents in recent 3 years has increased from 1,154 in 2006, 1,339 in 2007, and 1,671 in 2008. On average, 1,300 people had accidents in each year. President Min-Ki Noh of KOSHA said, "I hope this MOU becomes a great turning point in preventing forestry related accidents and I ask you for continuous and systematic promotion of safety activities centering on forestry cooperatives."

Following the "Hub" strategy, KOSHA is promoting a variety of programs by focusing its resources amongst organizations for accident prevention, academic circles, local governments, groups of employers, and labor unions.

- **Cooperation for Preventing Chemical Hazard to Health for Partners of Semiconductor Manufacturer**
- KOSHA and HYNIX Semiconductor Signed MOU

One of the largest manufacturing industries of Korea, HYNIX Semiconductor, is developing a cooperative system to prevent acute chemical poisoning of the workers of its partners. KOSHA and HYNIX Semiconductor signed MOU to support health prevention from chemical hazards in HYNIX Semiconductor and partners in the main office of HYNIX Semiconductor in Icheon, Gyeonggi-do, on the 23rd.

President Min-Ki Noh of KOSHA and C.E.O. Yong-Gap Kim of HYNIX Semiconductor joined the ceremony and the major content of the MOU is that the two parties will help each other to prevent chemical hazards to health in partner companies through a system where KOSHA provides chemical substance management level evaluation methods and HYNIX Semiconductor manage its partners. In other words, KOSHA will evaluate the chemical substance management level of the partners and HYNIX Semiconductor will use the evaluation results to promote related activities such as the improvement of work environment.

For efficiency of evaluation, KOSHA chose the chain evaluation method where KOSHA will evaluate 100 or more primary partners of HYNIX Semiconductor. Primary partners will evaluate secondary partners, and secondary partners will evaluate tertiary partners. Especially the evaluation will focus on the matters with high potential for occupational diseases such as chemical substances, work environment, and workers' health management based on a classification system. If funding is

required to improve partner's work environment, KOSHA will provide support in connection with its funding support programs as much as possible. KOSHA will also provide technical data, program, and training related to the prevention of hazards to health due to chemical poisoning.

- Establishment of Gyeongsangnam-do Regional Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Managers' Council
 - Cooperation for Preventing Occupational Accidents by Networking with Labor Ministry and KOSHA

To prevent accidents in the shipbuilding industry, the safety and health managers of shipbuilding industries in Gyeongsangnam-do region built a network with the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA. KOSHA's Gyeongnam Training Center established the Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Managers' Council with the managers of S&H department of shipbuilding and preparing companies with 100 or more employees in Gyeongsangnam-do. The inaugural meeting was also held on April 16th.

Gyeongnam Training Center officials explained that the council was committed to finding ways to make improvements for the prevention of occupational accidents in the shipbuilding industry. The industry plays a central role in the Korean economy and the current occupational accident rate which has not been improved for years demonstrates that the existing prevention programs are no longer effective. The council will make utmost efforts to reduce occupational accidents by sharing information and policies through the network with the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA.

The council will also develop a framework to listen to the voices of workers and through regular council meetings will actively help them to cope with changes in the environment. At the foundation meeting, members of the council had discussions on the topic, 'Changes in External Environment and Role of Safety and Health Managers.'

Director of Gyeongnam Training Center said, "Unlike general worksites, it is difficult to manage safety and health in the shipbuilding industry. It requires a systematic approach." He added, "The industry shall make efforts to realize an advanced safety management by introducing safety and health management systems such as the KOSHA 18001 Certification." The Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Department Managers' Council is comprised of 34 companies including STX Heavy Industries and Korea Yanase.

- Full Support for Special Health Examination Expenses for Companies with Less Than 10 Employees
 - KOSHA, Receives Applications until the 30th

Free health examination will be provided to workers in small sized workplaces with less than 10 employees. KOSHA announced on the 15th that it will support the 'Special Health Examination' expenses to protect the health of workers in small sized workplaces against occupational diseases such as the damage to health due to chemical hazards, pneumoconiosis and hearing difficulties.

Employees of companies (with less than 10 employees) that subscribe to Industrial accident compensation insurance and who handle hazardous substances, have a hazardous work environment due to dust and noise, can have a health examination for free. When the employer of the company applies for online support KOSHA examines its eligibility for the special health examination support and notifies the applicant. The company can have its employees examined in the special health examination institute designated by the Ministry of Labor.

After the examination, the examination institute can submit results to KOSHA along with the payment request and KOSHA will check the results and provide the payment. 'Support for Special Health Examination Expenses' will reduce the financial burden of small companies with hazardous work environments and face the difficulties of maintaining systematic health management for workers to protect workers who are exposed to occupational accidents.

KOSHA expects that about 110,000 workers will benefit from the program this year and will develop a database with the health examination results to use in developing policies for protecting the health of workers in small workplaces.

- **Statistics**

- Sharp Increase in Nonconformance Rate in Protective Gear Inspection This Year
 - 33.9% Performance Deficiency... 68.6% of Safety Belt Disqualified

The nonconformance rate of protective gear inspected by KOSHA appeared to increase sharply this year. In the instance of safety belts, 7 out of 10 belts submitted to the agency were disqualified. Center for Safety Certification and Assessment of Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute of KOSHA announced that 33.9% of protective gear submitted to the center for inspection from January to March this year failed to meet the standards and were disqualified. Of special significance was the 68.6% defect rate of safety belts. Last year, the nonconformance rate of entire protective gear was 23.0% and that of the safety belt was 45.8%.

Speaking about the sharp increase in the nonconformance rate, KOSHA officials said, "The reason the nonconformance rate has increased so drastically is that the inspection standards for protective gear has become stricter due to the Safety Certification System introduced in 2009. Manufacturers that did not welcome the change in the system requested inspections without testing their products at the end of last year."

From KOSHA's standpoint, protective gear makers did not fully understand the Safety Certification System. KOSHA held a meeting to discuss how to improve the nonconformance rate of protective gear. At the meeting, KOSHA officials discussed the entire process of production covering design

through to production, testing, and quality control with the manufacturers and looked for the ways to reduce the nonconformance rate of protective gear.

Also, Director Jaejong Jeong of Center for Safety Certification and Assessment, OSHRI presented 'Current Progress of Safety Certification System' and Manager Dae-Sik Park of Product Inspection Team explained 'New Safety Certification Test Categories and Nonconformance Status Analysis Data.'

KOSHA has enforced the Safety Certification System since January this year, and the system reviews the conformance of design and production of protective gear and dangerous machinery to the Safety Certification Standard and gives the KCs mark to the conforming products.

- **Special Events**

- Safety and Health Management System, Obligation than Option
 - KOSHA, Holds International Seminar to Tell About Best Practices of Advanced Nations

A chance to take a look at best practices around the world for enhancing corporate competitiveness through the establishment of safety and health systems.

KOSHA is holding an international seminar for activating safety and health management on May 10th. The object of the seminar was to create interest in safety and health management certification from domestic companies and to present best practices in relation to the introduction of certification related systems of advanced nations such as Japan, Denmark, and France. In this seminar, Technical Advisor Ishida Masatoshi of Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA), Country Chief Executive Ulrek Dan Frorup (Denmark) of BV, the international certification institute, talked about the effect of the certification of safety and health management systems in Japan and Europe along with best practices.

Also, Technical Director Merzak Belkhodja of Veolia Water, a French multinational corporation, gave a presentation with examples of how safety and health management systems were applied to a company and their effect. For the domestic area, Hyeok-Myeon Kwon of Safety Technology Department of KOSHA talked about the accident prevention effect in safety and health management certified companies in Korea through the presentation on the reduction of occupational accident due to the introduction of safety and health management system in Korea and best practices.

The accident prevention effect in Korean companies with safety and health management certification was presented as a result of analyzing 336 companies that acquired the safety and health management certificate until 2008. The major content was the decrease in occupational accident rates in those companies by 24% in average, the decrease in Industrial accident compensation

insurance charges, and the enhancement of external acknowledgement and safety and health consciousness.

- **New Publications**

- Korea Occupational Health and Safety Agency - CJ, Joint Development of Occupational Accident Prevention Materials
 - 100 Different Materials Including Video and Operation Manual

KOSHA and the leading food product manufacturer, CJ, are promoting a joint project to develop occupational accident prevention material.

KOSHA and CJ signed the agreement for the joint development of occupational accident prevention material on April 29. According to this agreement, KOSHA and CJ will jointly develop 100 training videos and safety operation manuals designed to prevent occupational accidents that can easily take place in the food product manufacturing industry. The material developed will be used for CJ's accident prevention training and for the safety and health of related industries. The content that the two parties will jointly develop and distribute will include 3 safety operation procedure videos for each section of the food product manufacturing industry, 5 animations depicting each case of accident, 7 safety operation manuals centering on risk assessment, and a checklist for operation and facility. KOSHA and CJ will also share technical advice and information and data required for the joint development and hold accident prevention training and workshops.

According to the policy to expand the distribution of training material applied from last year, KOSHA has been signing joint development agreements since February last year including audio visual materials with GS E&C, Lotte E&C, and Kumho Petrochemical Ulsan Rubber Plant, and construction training materials for Samsung Corporation's construction division. For continuous development and greater distribution of safety and health related materials, KOSHA is operating a taskforce team for media development inside the agency and is planning to develop over 2,000 different safety and health related materials in 3 years to spread to the industries.

- Download Occupational Safety and Health Signs through Internet
 - KOSHA, Provides Resizable File

KOSHA announced on the 21st that they will provide occupational safety and health signs commonly used in the field online. The 40 different occupational safety and health signs KOSHA is giving out this time include 8 prohibition signs, 15 warning signs, 9 indication signs, 7 guide signs, and 1 legend sign with letters such as no-trespassing, no fire, and high-tension electricity warning. The signs provided in the form of a picture file and design-related files can be appropriately resized to suit the place and position where they will be posted. Occupational safety and health signs can be downloaded from 'New Data' section of KOSHA's website (<http://kosha.or.kr>).