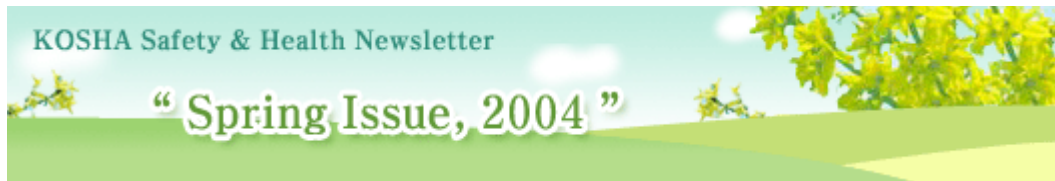


2004 Newsletter

HOME > > In Focus > Newsletter > 2004 Newsletter



- **Main OSH Policy**

- A harmful material prohibition and approval system to be significantly expanded starting this year.

Ministry of Labor integrates the hazard warning system on chemical product containers and packages into a warning mark system

Starting this year, the range of products to be covered under the harmful material prohibition and approval system in accordance with the Industrial Safety and Health Act will be expanded significantly. The hazard marks that were previously attached to the containers and packages of chemical products will be integrated into a warning mark system.

The Ministry of Labor amended the Industrial Safety and Health Act significantly in June last year. The amendment has expanded the number of harmful materials subject to prohibition to 68 types from the current 8, and the number of materials subject to approval to 14 types from the current 8. There will be a grace period of 6 months prior to enforcement of the amended Act.

Based on the amended Act, the manufacture, import, transfer, manufacture, or use of the 68 types of harmful materials that might cause cancer or other lethal harm to workers will be totally prohibited.

If a person desires to manufacture or use any of the 14 types of hazardous materials because their prohibition might incur adverse effects on an industry, said person should obtain an approval from the Minister of Labor after appropriate protective facilities are provided.

In the meantime, the system of marking on the containers or packages of 107 types of harmful materials prescribed under the Act will be abolished. Accordingly, the warning marks prescribed under Article 431 of the same Act should be indicated in marking these harmful materials.

"Major items of chemical products distributed in the nation will be classified and evaluated under the harmful factor control system. Based on the results of such classification and evaluation, subject materials will be classified and controlled as harmful materials subject to prohibition or approval. The harmful factor control system will remain as a current task of establishing related

announcement or operating a related committee," said an official from the Ministry of Labor. "Currently, the U.N. is in the process of establishing an integrated international standard for classifying chemical materials and marking warnings. Once this integrated standard is announced, the Industrial Safety and Health Act should be amended as soon as possible," added the official.

(KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter, Jan. 15, 2004)

- A Special Act on Safety Management on Mass-use Facilities under study.



There have been numerous types of mass-use facility businesses opening recently. To ensure the safety of these facilities, the government plans to establish a tentatively called Special Act on Safety Management on Mass-use Facilities that controls all facilities belonging to mass-use facilities.

The Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs revealed on February 10, 2004 that the government will establish this act to control the safety of the new types of businesses (examinees' lodging houses) that pose safety threats to residents.

On January 12, there was a fire on My-room examinees' lodging house located in Suwon City, Gyeonggi Province with 8 casualties. The Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs conducted an investigation into this fire and disclosed that because the only requirement to run such business is to register with the local authority, most operators of such facilities are careless in installing safety facilities.

According to the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, this act will enable the authorities to proactively respond to the rapidly increasing new types of businesses.

The Ministry last month conducted an emergency safety inspection of 46 examinees' lodging houses scattered throughout the nation. The results showed that 14 establishments have violated 26 items or 1 out of 3 had safety concerns.

These facilities did not install any escape guide lamps, fire-extinguishers, and had emergency exits closed.

"These newly opened establishments, including those called "....Room" are being introduced at a fast rate. We feel it necessary to make it compulsory for the operators of such open establishments to install safety facilities that comply with approval conditions," said an official from the Ministry.

"We plan to establish a law covering all types of facilities because we cannot predict what types of business will be introduced in the future."

(Safety News, Feb. 21, 2004)

- **Update in KOREA**

- This year marks the launch of a full-fledged safety culture.

The Ministry of Government Administration & Home Affairs to develop a mascot for safety culture campaign and launch national events

The Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs has set this year as the inaugural year of a full-fledged safety culture. In connection with this, the Ministry will introduce a symbol and mascot for the safety culture campaign, through which safety awareness will be promoted in publicity activities.

The Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs on January 27 held the 8th Private-Government Safety Management Council at the central government office. Discussions included accident management plans for this year, means of promoting national safety awareness, and utilizing the safety culture campaign symbol and mascot. Special efforts are planned to improve the emergency exit location and utilization and other forms of cooperation between the private sector and the government for the public's safety.

Participants at this meeting included Officer Kwon, Head of the Headquarters of Civil Defense & Disaster Management, professors from Seoul National University of Technology, researchers at KOSHA, professors from Yongin and Hansung Universities and the President of the Children's Safety Management Association.

At this meeting, the Ministry of Government Administration & Home Affairs introduced the symbol, mascot, logo, and emblem of the safety culture campaign developed by the Ministry last year. The Ministry revealed its policy for promoting national safety consciousness through events using these items.

"We will set this year as the inaugural year of full-fledged safety culture and launch safety culture campaigns," said Officer Kwon. "All of us gathered here today to seek private sector-government cooperation should make efforts to achieve these goals."

Safety culture campaign symbol and mascot

Safety culture campaign symbol and mascot



The symbol and the mascot symbolizing the safety culture campaign will be used in various safety events held by the government and private organizations.

The Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs announced that it had manufactured the symbol and the mascot to effectively launch a practical movement this year relating to the establishing of a safety culture.

Designed in the shape of a ring made by fingers, the newly designated symbol represents affirmativeness and OK. By combining the eye meaning "Let's be cautious" and the smiling face, it expresses the intention of all for a safe community.

The Ministry explains that the mascot designed in the shape of a simplified eyesight and the smell meaning "Always be vigilant." Based on this, the mascot is distinctive compared with other mascots through the changing of the free curves and the cubic style so visual communication is soft and smooth.

(Safety News, Feb. 7, 2004)

- Emphasis is on achieving an accident rate of 0.78% this year.

Ministry of Labor establishes the Occupational Safety and Health plan for 2004

The Ministry of Labor has drawn up the Occupational Safety and Health plan for 2004. According to the plan, the target accident rate for the year is 0.78%, a 10% decrease from a year earlier, an accident index of approximately 85,000, and the number of work-related fatalities to be approximately 2,600.

The Industrial Safety Bureau of the Ministry of Labor on January 19 established detailed strategies for accomplishing these targets. The Ministry will provide support in reducing the number of

accidents and in other deserving areas, and to the workplace owning safety management capability (intention) such as the large business groups, placing strongest emphasis on controlling work-related diseases (e.g., musculoskeletal and cerebrovascular diseases). To reduce the number of accidents and to reinforce ineffective areas, administrative and/or judicial actions will be reinforced for workplaces experiencing many accidents, paying particular attention on providing support to small workplaces in improving facilities and in developing technologies that improve worker and workplace safety.

The plan calls for forecasting monthly projects based on the above policy, and for the establishment of the 2nd 5-year accident-prevention program to more effectively prevent accidents. The monthly Occupational Safety and Health-centered projects for this year and inspection schedule are as follows:

Major inspection schedule

Monthly projects	Time
° Survey of safety and health in the shipbuilding industry	° During March through June
° Construction site patrol inspections	° Monthly (excluding Feb, May, June, and Nov)
° Construction site inspection of the small-medium contractors with weak safety management	° May
° Total inspection of building sites during hazardous periods	° Feb23 ~ March 13
° Construction site inspection of the small-medium contractors with weak safety management	° June 7 ~ July 2;
- Inspection during the thawing, monsoon, and windy seasons	November 8 ~ Dec 4
° Guidance to and inspection of the working environment inspection agencies and special medical examination agencies.	° February

Semiannual projects

Semiannual projects	Time
° Management and inspection of chemical product handling workplaces	° Semiannually
° Regular inspection of the disaster control sites (Grade: D)	° Semiannually

Semiannual projects

Semiannual projects	Time
◦ Inspection of the status of safety and health on irregular workers	◦ Semiannually
◦ Special inspection of the workplaces with large numbers of presses and lifts	(January during the first half) ◦ First half and second half

Other projects

Other projects	Time
	◦ January, April and July
◦ Issuing orders to establish safety and health improvement plan	◦ First half
◦ Inspection of the status of the railroad industry safety management	◦ 3rd and 4th quarter
◦ Inspection of the workplaces vulnerable to fatal accidents	
◦ Inspection of the workplaces using foreign workers	◦ Any time during year
◦ Regular inspection of the defective or defect-prone machines and apparatuses	
◦ Inspection of the designated inspecting agencies	◦ April and October
◦ Provision of guides to and inspection of the prevention of musculoskeletal diseases	◦ February and August ◦ Second half

- The Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention becomes fully operational.
- **Korea National Institute of Health expanded and reorganized**

With the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention launched to more actively cope with changes in the internal and external diseases environment such as the appearance of SARS and AIDS, more advanced and stringent disease control can be expected.

The Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Head: Kim Mun-sik) held an opening ceremony on January 19 with Prime Minister Koh Gun, Minister of Health & Welfare Kim Hwa-joong, National Assembly Health & Welfare Committee member Yoon Yeo-joon and persons related to medical organizations in attendance.

Since the amended disease control act was announced on January 17, the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention was reorganized and expanded for official inauguration to carry out activities to build an advanced disease control system.

The disease control system will be strengthened at government levels to prevent the occurrence of new and particularly debilitating diseases (e.g. SARS, AIDS and malaria). Major organizations include 1 research center, 6 departments, 13 sections, 5 offices, and 13 quarantine offices with 481 persons to be added to the current 175 in the Korea National Institute of Health.

To effectively strengthen the function of disease prevention, the bioterror prevention section, chronic disease investigation section, quarantine control section, AIDS and tuberculosis control section, and vaccination management section will be newly established. In addition, the Korea National Institute of Health will be placed under the control of the headquarters to specialize the function of testing and analyzing diseases.

(KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter, Jan. 31, 2004)

- 'Panic disorder' to be included in occupational diseases.

- Korea National Institute of Health expanded and reorganized

With the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention launched to more actively cope with changes in the internal and external diseases environment such as the appearance of SARS and AIDS, more advanced and stringent disease control can be expected.

The Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Head: Kim Mun-sik) held an opening ceremony on January 19 with Prime Minister Koh Gun, Minister of Health & Welfare Kim Hwa-joong, National Assembly Health & Welfare Committee member Yoon Yeo-joon and persons related to medical organizations in attendance.

Since the amended disease control act was announced on January 17, the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention was reorganized and expanded for official inauguration to carry out activities to build an advanced disease control system.

The disease control system will be strengthened at government levels to prevent the occurrence of new and particularly debilitating diseases (e.g. SARS, AIDS and malaria). Major organizations include 1 research center, 6 departments, 13 sections, 5 offices, and 13 quarantine offices with 481 persons to be added to the current 175 in the Korea National Institute of Health.

To effectively strengthen the function of disease prevention, the bioterror prevention section, chronic disease investigation section, quarantine control section, AIDS and tuberculosis control

section, and vaccination management section will be newly established. In addition, the Korea National Institute of Health will be placed under the control of the headquarters to specialize the function of testing and analyzing diseases.

(KOSHA Safety & Health Newsletter, Jan. 31, 2004)

- **Update in KOSHA**
- KOSHA meets an era of 'International Certification'
 - **Domestic S mark earns overseas recognition for machines, apparatuses, semiconductor equipment and a host of other items**

Accidents at the domestic industrial sites have been steadily rising since last year posing serious safety and health concerns for workers. As of September 2003, the number of industrial casualties were 69,960, a sharp increase by 10,673 or 18.0% from the previous year.

Even the number of deaths stood at 2,154, a year-on-year increase of 268 deaths or 14.2%, while the accident rate increased to 0.65% from 0.57% the year before.

International regulation on safety problems : Under an environment where the industrial safety problems have incurred significant social and economic expenses leading to the loss of labor force, international regulation on industrial safety is being strengthened. EU plans to implement REACH (Registration Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) system starting in 2006 and China has already started implementing the CCC (China Compulsory Certification), a system that has strengthened inspection and certification for industrial products since last August.

"In the future, the safety and health problems will be used as trade barriers among nations, and therefore a safety and health certification system of international level should be established," stressed KOSHA President Kim Yong-dal.

Korea's S Mark system: Since 1997, Korea has been operating an 's Mark' system that comprehensively inspects the quality control levels of industrial machines, apparatuses, and equipment. This quality certification system related to the safety of machines, apparatuses, and other equipment is currently operated and supervised by KOSHA.

Recently, the range of certification has been expanded to the hi-tech semiconductor manufacturing equipment from industrial machines and apparatuses. Failure to acquire this mark will result in serious problems in selling the product in domestic and overseas markets.

The examination is recognized for its strict adherence to regulations and difficulty in obtaining certification. Of the 2,707 applications for certification submitted since 1997, only 66% or 1,785 cases have been certified.

Samsung Electronics and many other key domestic manufacturers first check whether suppliers have acquired S Mark prior to ordering equipment and facilities.

With the application of the hi-tech automated facilities expected to rise, the protection of workers from harmful materials including the electromagnetic waves generated by machines and equipment is expected to play decisive roles in the ensuring the health and safety of workers.

International regulation on safety problems : Korea's S Mark's recognized through a reciprocal recognition agreement concluded among 5 countries: Britain, Germany, France, U.S.A., and Switzerland. This means that manufacturers that have acquired S Mark can export products without having to undergo the process of separate safety certification inspection, resulting in real savings in time and expenses.

It is known that some 60~70 corporations out of the 100 largest corporations in Japan highly value this system, and multi-national corporations including NIKON, IBM, "Tokyo Electron, Hitachi, BOC of Britain, and ASML of the Netherlands have applied for S Mark certification.

KOSHA will continue to expand reciprocal recognition agreements with other countries indirectly supporting Korean firms in producing and selling products at site.

(Naeil Shinmoon, Dec. 11, 2003)

- Presentation of Korea's safety certification S Mark held in Japan.

From March 2 through March 4, the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA toured Yokohama, Osaka, and Fukuoka in Japan to present briefing sessions on S Mark, the safety certification mark.

A seminar was held by the experts from the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA at the invitation of Japanese corporations wishing to export to Korea since the "S Mark" system of Korea has taken root as an international certification system.

Managers from some 100 semiconductor equipment manufacturers and related officials from certification agencies participated in this meeting where the procedure of applying for S Mark, Korea's safety certification system, was introduced.

To protect workers from industrial accidents by improving the safety of industrial machines and equipment, and to prepare for implementation of the Product Liability system, KOSHA introduced the S Mark system in November 1997 to improve the safety design and manufacturing capability of manufacturers.

- Products eligible for certification include:

- Dangerous machines and apparatuses and protective devices
- Semiconductor manufacturing equipment
- Industrial machines and apparatuses
- Aerial working platforms and transport vehicles
- Personal protective gear



‘From November 1997 to January 2004’, a total of 2,746 applications for ‘s Mark’ certification have been received of which 68.2% or 1,874 cases received certifications, 39% or 747 cases were for export products.

In the meantime, KOSHA concluded reciprocal recognition agreements with the safety certification agencies of 7* countries including the CE Mark of Europe to support the export of domestic manufacturers and to facilitate the acquisition of overseas certifications. As a result, domestic products have received the CE mark of Europe and other overseas certifications in 727 cases.

* 7 countries: Britain France, Germany, U.S.A., Switzerland, Norway, and China.

- Cooperative agreement concluded between Korea and China on Occupational Safety and Health. KOSHA to strengthen cooperation with SITIAS and CPCM of China.

The scale of Chinese markets related to explosion proof electric equipment is approximately 80~130 billion won. Considering the development speed of China that has received capital inflow from international markets, it is certain that the explosion proof electric equipment market will continue to grow. The size of the domestic market for the explosion proof electric appliances is only approximately 6~8 billion won, and the volume of explosion proof equipment exported to China by Korean manufacturers is still low. International standardization of the safety and health sector is being rapidly realized. To effectively meet this trend, KOSHA has recently concluded a memorandum

of understanding with well-known Chinese institutions related to industrial safety and health (e.g. SITIAS and CPCM). Under this memorandum, Korea and China will mutually recognize the test reports of explosion proof electric appliances and exchange information on research into industrial safety and health. This effort will not only improve exports to China by the domestic manufacturers but will also make it possible to pursue Win-Win strategies in the industrial safety and health sector by both countries.

Internationally, matters related to safety and health are being standardized and specialized. Under such trends, KOSHA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with 2 institutions (*SITIAS and * CPCM) of China respectively. Under this agreement, both parties will recognize the test reports on explosion-proof electric appliances and exchange research and technical information in the industrial safety and health sector.

Since China joined the WTO, foreign capital is being attracted for large-scale facility investment in the manufacturing industry. China has emerged as the No. 1 trading partner of Korea. As investments in the petrochemical sector are expected to grow, demand for explosion proof electric appliances will experience a sharp increase.

"We have concluded this MOU to rapidly increase exports to China by domestic industrial machine manufacturers and to exchange information on safety and health," said KOSHA President Kim Yong-dal. "We will continue to form alliances with the safety and health institutions of other countries to introduce industrial accident prevention techniques from overseas and to help related domestic manufacturers export products."

At this time, the Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency has concluded business coalition agreements with 18 institutions in 10 countries including the U.S., Britain, and Japan.

- CCC Mark (China Compulsory Certification)

Starting in August 2003, this compulsory certification mark has been applied to 132 industrial products including home appliances and only those with this mark can be distributed on the markets. It is likely that in the future, this system may be expanded to industrial machines and apparatuses.

- MOU signed with (SITIIAS- Shanghai Institute of Process Automation Instrumentation)

- Contents : Mutual recognition of test reports on explosion proof electric equipment based on International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards.

- Effects : Domestic explosion proof equipment manufacturers desiring to export their products to China may use the explosion proof equipment test report to acquire a certificate of explosion proof electric equipment from China, saving time and expenses.

- MOU signed with (CPCM)

- Fields of cooperation covered:

- Research into mechanical safety and human engineering

- Mutual cooperation on certification of machine safety, evaluation of hazards, and performance of safety tests.

- Establishment and/or amendment of international standards and development of safety and health management systems

- Expected effects :

- Promotion of mutual development through joint research into mechanical safety and health and exchange of experts, and saving of expenses through mutual utilization of the results of research already conducted.

- Preparation for CCC, China's compulsory certification system, applied to machines.

- KOSHA to provide financial and manpower support for those who suffered damage from heavy snowfall.

KOSHA plans to provide financial support of up to 500 million won per business enterprise

The record snowfalls caused by abnormal atmospheric conditions caused enormous damage to many places in Korea with the Chungcheong area suffering the heaviest damage.



KOSHA plans to provide workforce and financial support to these areas requiring assistance in recovering their destroyed accident prevention faculties.

Those who suffered damage or destruction of the safety and health facilities from heavy snowfall may obtain loans of up to 500 million won to restore their damaged facilities at an interest rate of 3%

per annum with a 3-year grace period and 7-year installment payment plan.

- **Eligible persons:** Persons who need to replace, install, or repair safety devices and personal protective equipment, facilities related to accident prevention, and to make improvements in the working environment for workers' safety and health.

- **Application for support :** Call Safety Technology Dept., Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency (Tel : 032-510-0571-5)

In addition, KOSHA has organized a special accident prevention support team composed of KOSHA experts in each area to prevent secondary accidents and to restore damaged facilities in workplaces. These teams will provide support until the damaged facilities are fully recovered.

According to KOSHA's own calculation as of 12:00, March 6, 46 establishments, including prefabricated buildings and construction sites in the Chungcheong area suffered damage from heavy snowfall. Since there are many places still inaccessible because of the snow and investigations are still underway, damage estimates are expected to escalate.

(Safety News Feb 21)

- A task force team will be operated in the Ulsan area to assist in the prevention of accidents.

The Ulsan office of KOSHA has organized a 'shipping industry accident prevention team' to reduce accidents in the shipbuilding industry in response to a serious of fatal accidents at shipbuilding sites that have become an issue of social concern.

Recently, the shipbuilding industry is enjoying a business boom with orders increasing by 234% over those of the year before. With orders covering production for the next 5 years, related industries have intensified work speed and increased their workforce to record levels. While this is good news for the industry, it raises a concern that accidents may also increase dramatically.

Since 2001, the accident rate at the 2 large shipyards in Korea compared to all manufacturers has steadily increased (2001: 35.9% --> 2002: 26.9% --> 2003: 48.8%). In Ulsan alone, the number fatal accidents related to shipbuilding increased by 50% during 2003 over that of the year before (from 14 to 21 fatalities). During January of this year, 4 fatal accidents occurred in a series of accidents at the Ulsan shipyards during one 10-day period, requiring special accident prevention measures.

Until now, the shipbuilding accident prevention team operated by the Busan Regional Office of

KOSHA has provided support in the prevention of accidents. The Ulsan office of KOSHA has organized a permanent task force team in Ulsan to provide continuous accident prevention programs at shipbuilding sites.

With the operation of the shipbuilding accident prevention team under the control of the Ulsan office, it can now conduct investigations into small and large accidents occurring at shipyards, establish accident prevention programs, and provide timely shipbuilding technology support. This includes continuous technological consultations, the provision of site-centered technical support, and cooperation that can readily be applied to workplaces. These measures are expected to significantly reduce future shipyard accidents.

- **New OSH Materials**

- Dynamic animations will be distributed that promote safety awareness.

Produced as a screen saver for computer users.

The transmitted fairy tale "The Sun and the Moon" was used to make the animation more amusing.

A dynamic animation produced as a computer screen saver for computer-using wage earners and younger generation was introduced.

Under the current environment where social interest in safety is increasing, KOSHA has produced for free distribution an interesting, dynamic animation screensaver to promote safety awareness among netizens.

To create interest, the animation is based on the transmitted fairy tale "The Sun and the Moon". A 2-minute animation and a 30-second animation were produced that can be downloaded through the KOSHA Home Page.

KOSHA will continue publicity activities that promote safety awareness of netizens and society.

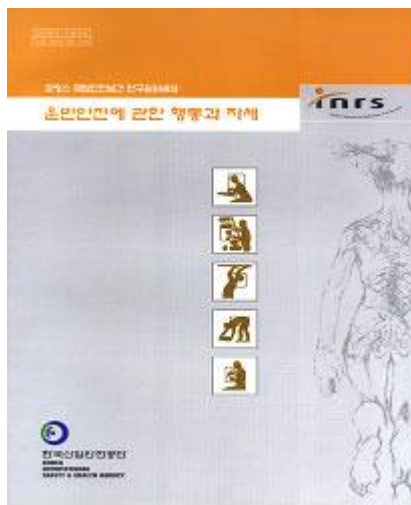
Downloading: Visit KOSHA Home Page(www.kosha.or.kr) and click Notice on the initial screen



- "Transporting safety rules and posture issued by INRS, France" published.

Musculoskeletal diseases including the disk and shoulder sprain that might occur during repeated work motions have suddenly surfaced as a new issue between labor and management, and each workplace urgently needs information and materials related to manual work.

In connection with this, KOSHA concluded a copyright agreement on "Transporting safety rules and posture" used as training materials for the transporting safety courses offered by the National Institute of Safety Research (INRS; INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE ET DE SECURITE) of France. Under this agreement KOSHA can translate the materials into Korean for publication and distribution in Korea.



*** Original Title: Gestes et postures de sécurité dans le travail**

This book will be used by safety managers to train workers in balancing human power when transporting materials. As an essential guideline, this book will be used as supplementary materials for trainees in relation to motion and posture. To ensure easy understanding, the book explains each item in detail along with pictures. It offers correct ways of working under safe conditions in connection with physical behavior when transporting materials.

Upon completion of training, safety monitors (managers) can offer solutions to all problems related to the physical activities of the workers including not only the simple problems (Method of lifting, carrying on their backs, and method of carrying materials with different shapes and weights) but also more complicated problems (Method of keeping workplaces neat and orderly).