

# 2005 Newsletter

HOME > > In Focus > Newsletter > 2005 Newsletter



- **Main OSH Policy**

- Toxic materials requiring special medical examination to be expanded to 178 kinds in 2006. - Ministry of Labor prescribes tower crane installing/dismantling persons to receive special training.



**Starting from next year, workers handling dimethylformamide and other toxic materials that might induce acute hepatitis are required to undergo special medical examinations, and the types of toxic materials requiring special medical examination will be expanded to 178 kinds from the current 120.**

**At the same time, the medical examination conducted at the time of hiring, which in some cases has been used as a discriminating means of hiring, will be abolished. In addition, workers who are involved in the installing and dismantling tower cranes will be added to the list of workers who require special training as part of plan to strengthen the prevention of accidents involving such workers.**

**The Ministry of Labor disclosed on October 7 that it had revised the Enforcement Regulation of the Occupational Safety and Health Law. The main contents of the revision include the strengthened prevention of occupational diseases involving workers who handle toxic materials, assurance of the safety of workers who install or dismantle tower cranes, and effectively adjust the unreasonable regulation which has reduced the interval of working environment inspection.**

**According to this revision, some 14,000 workers who handle 58 kinds of toxic materials including dimethylformamide and nitrobenzene known to induce chronic health problems among the toxic materials manufactured and used in the nation will additionally undergo special medical examination starting on January 1 of next year.**

**Meanwhile, even the workers who handled nickel, cadmium and benzene for 5 years or more will be**

able to receive free medical examination once a year after retirement, and the system of conducting medical examination at the time of hiring which has been used sometimes to eliminate hepatitis B carriers will be abolished.

(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.10.10)

- **Update in KOREA**

- Labor-management cooperative voluntary inspection system to be introduced in safety inspections - The existing inspection and certification system to be integrated into the safety certification system

**The dangerous machines and protective gears testing and inspection system will be integrated into the safety certification system, and regular inspections exempted for workplaces that have introduced a labor-management cooperative voluntary inspection system.**

**The Ministry of Labor on November 10 announced general improvement where the testing and inspection system that has been carried out for the past 20 years to protect workers from defective machinery, safety devices and protective gears will be integrated into a safety certification system, and a labor-management voluntary inspection system will be introduced.**

**Under these improvement measures, the current testing and inspection system that has made decision after only checking the product performance will be changed to the safety certification system under which not only the performance of products is checked but also the makers' quality control systems are evaluated at the same time.**

**In addition, regular inspections and self-inspections will be integrated to reduce inspection burdens on the part of the workplaces being inspected, and a labor-management voluntary inspection system and a graded inspection system introduced to rationalize inspection systems.**

**The labor-management voluntary inspection system is a system where, in case workers and employers install a voluntary inspection program through cooperation and voluntarily evaluate and manage the hazards of the machines to be inspected, regular inspections will be exempted. On the other hand, a graded inspection system is a system where inspection cycles, inspection items, and inspection methods are applied differently according to the period of use and the status of aging in a workplace that does not enforce a voluntary inspection program.**

**The Ministry of Labor expects that industrial accidents resulting from defective products will be prevented because these systems carry effects of fundamentally blocking the manufacture, distribution and use of defective products.**

**(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.11.14)**

- Korean Industrial Health Association starts U-health service for workers - Begins remote health management as model case by operating joint network with Korea Telecom (KT)

**The Korean Industrial Health Association has developed what is called U-health service, a remote health management service, to effectively manage the health of workers at small and medium workplaces who receive poor industrial health management service. Starting in this month, the Association will begin to provide services as model case.**

**The Korean Industrial Health Association disclosed that it had, as model case, started remote health management service starting from the previous month jointly with Korea Telecom (KT). This service provides advanced medical services through network to the workers at workplaces subject to control by health management agencies, at the same time managing health systematically and on a timely basis.**

**According to the Association, the pattern of the diseases of workers serving at small and medium enterprises is on a gradual increase to chronic and degenerative diseases, making it urgent to \*establish appropriate measures for the workplaces left unattended in a dead angle zone of health management, and \* to build a health management service infrastructures at workplaces with poor systematic health management because they do not have health management facilities with which workers at small and medium enterprises can manage their own health during working hours.**

**In connection with this, the Association has developed a remote health management service that can manage the history of workers' medical examination data, and continuously manage health through online by checking the health bio-information such as the blood pressure, blood sugar, body fat and other data on a real time basis at the workplaces through the use of bio meters.**

**"This remote health management system has presented a program for workers to improve workers' voluntary health management ability, and receive health management service for life at low expenses,"said LEE Myong-sook, head of the Health Support Bureau of the Korean Industrial Health Association. "This system has provided an opportunity for the Association to provide basic data for the establishment of a health promotion policy for workers at small and medium enterprises, and to overcome limitations on the visit-centered health management agency business."**

**(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.10.24)**

- Seoul City holds an international safety city symposium - Opinions presented through the lectures of domestic and overseas experts and meetings

**Seoul City on October 14 held an International Symposium on Safe City at the Convention Center of Sejong Center to promote safety under the theme of "building community cooperative foundation" with some 250 participants including domestic and overseas safety experts, related persons from academic circles and civilian organizations, and related government officials attending.**

**At this event which was divided into the 1st and 2nd part, Dr. Leif Svanstrom, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion gave a lecture under the theme of 'Factors for the successful performance of the Safe City Project of the World Health Organization', followed by case presentations by domestic experts regarding factors of succeeding in the community safety promotion project.**

**Domestic speakers at this event included Kim Chan-ho, Director of Dongan-gu Health Clinic of Anyang City who has experience in performing the World Health Organization safe city project; Ha Hyun-sung, Director of Mapo-gu Health Clinic and Kim In-kuk, Director of Songpa-gu Health Clinic who are currently carrying out Seoul City's safe city model project.**

**In the 2nd part of the event, Dr. Sebastian, Director of the Child Abuse Prevention Center of the Red Cross children's hospital operated in South Africa gave lectures on 'Cooperative activities for the prevention of child abuse', and Mr. Max Vosskhuler, Co-Chairman of the safety school creating projects sponsored by the World Health Organization, on "Building community cooperative foundation for the promotion of safety", followed by discussions among panelists consisting of domestic experts in various fields.**

**(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.10.17)**

- Safety at places of public performance and events to be strengthened - Public performance law to be amended, and manuals distributed to maintain order

**The public performance law will be amended to strengthen safety management at performance and event places, and related manuals developed and distributed to maintain order at the places of event.**

**The National Emergency Management Agency disclosed on October 19 that it, following the accident at Sangju Stadium that occurred on the night of October 3, held various meetings with related ministries, experts and other political sectors to find ways of preventing the recurrence of similar accidents, and finalized general measures for safety management at places of event.**

**The current public performance law prescribes that a contingency plan should be submitted to the**

**Chief of fire station. To build an effective responsibility system for the control of accidents at the places of public performance and events, related laws will be amended by the first half of next year where such contingency plans should be submitted to mayors, Gun (county) chiefs and Gu (ward) chiefs, the responsible parties for the management of accidents in the areas of their respective jurisdiction.**

**In the mean time, an ordinance will be established based on which a safety management examination committee consisting of officials from local governments, competent police stations, fire stations and other related institutions including NGO and experts will be organized and operated to strengthen the responsibility of related institutions.**

**As a practical safety management program, the National Emergency Management Agency plans to develop and distribute manuals containing basic rules of conducts for safety management during this month, and develop detailed practice manual by the first half of next year.**

**Meanwhile, the National Emergency Management Agency intends to strengthen the control over unauthorized civilian security guard companies, making it compulsory to provide training for safety guards prior to the start of events. It will expand the training hours, establish appropriate standards by the end of the year for dispatching safety specialists, police and fire fighters.**

**In addition, the requirement to submit a contingency plan in case the number of the audience is 3,000 or more will be changed to 1,000 or more as part of improvement plans, and the fine that used to be imposed on those who violate the requirement to submit report will be changed to actual punishment.**

**(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.10.20)**

- A concert will be held for workers suffering from occupational accidents in 5 locations across the nation - The Korea Labor Welfare Corporation to promote the consciousness and interest in preventing industrial accidents

**The Korea Labor Welfare Corporation will hold a concert in 5 locations of Korea to comfort workers being treated for injuries or diseases caused by industrial accidents, and their families, and the promote hopes and courage in recovering and rehabilitating from occupational injuries or diseases.**

**The Korea Labor Welfare Corporation disclosed that it will hold a concert called "2005 Song of Love, Song of Hopes" to create social consensus with respect to occupational accident victims and to enhance consciousness and interest in accident prevention.**

**In the past, concerts for workers suffering from occupational accidents were held only in certain**

areas and in places where hospitals of the Workers Accident Medical Corporation operated under the control of the Korea Labor Welfare Corporation are located.

This time, however, concerts will be held from November 18 through November 30 in 5 areas across the nation, enabling many workers being treated for occupational injuries and diseases and their family to participate in the event. This event is intended for workers being treated at medical institutions for occupational injuries and/or diseases, their families and the general public. This program includes "Board of the message of hope and recreation of love" and the family love program "You are my blue bird", and "Human documentary video of rehabilitation from occupational accidents". The event is designed to allow direct participation by the workers victimized by occupational accidents and to offer some moments of relief and relaxation.

(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.11.18)

- The latest collection of the laws can be downloaded from Internet - Ministry of Labor provides downloading service through the Home Page of the safety and health policy team

**Anyone can easily get materials related to safety and health through Internet. The Safety and Health Policy Team under the control of the Industrial Safety and Health Bureau of the Ministry of Labor. has recently included 2-part "collection of all safety and health laws" in its Home Page library.**

**The collection of the law is divided into 10 files which include occupational safety and health act, its Enforcement Decree and Enforcement Regulations, safety regulations, health regulations and employment regulations.**

**According to the Policy Team, the Enforcement Decree and the Enforcement Regulation of the safety and health act and the health regulations have been amended once respectively since 2003. The collection of the laws saved in the library is the latest edition that shows all amendments made as of the end of November 2005.**

**Since all laws are stored in separate individual files by themes, and the table of contents is provided separately, persons who do not need all materials can selectively download data.**

**"Internally, it is easy to inspect the collection of the laws; however, it is difficult for outsiders to inspect them due to huge size of the volume and the characteristics of the collection being 'Not for sale'. Now, anyone can download the data," said an official from the Ministry of Labor.**

**Currently, the collection of the safety and health laws is visited by persons 3 times higher in number than any other posted materials.**

(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.10.10)

- **Update in KOSHA**

- Members of the safety and health information service exceeds 200,000 - Consumers express high satisfaction as the nation's largest safety and health knowledge management system.

**Members of 'The safety and health information service (KOSHA NET:<http://www.kosha.net>), nation's largest safety and health information service, have exceeded 200,000.**

**The Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency announced on December 5 that the number of the members of the "Safety and health information service (KOSHA NET)", the knowledge management information system set up for external clients including the persons related to safety and health at workplaces, has exceeded 200,000.**



**In connection with this, KOSHA presented gift certificates to Ha Sung-du (Field Supervisor of Dangjin Thermal Power Division of Korea East-West Power Co.,Ltd. ) for being the 200,000th member.**

**Currently, the "KOSHA NET service" operated by KOSHA is provided based on a free membership system. Every day, more than 150 persons at average apply for membership and some 11,000 persons visit the service, indicating that this service is well accepted by workplaces, persons related to safety and health and the general public.**

**This service provides nation's largest volume of safety and health information, images and animations exceeding tens of thousand sheets, and the latest domestic and overseas information. It plays the role of a window for sharing information and exchanging materials between safety and health-related persons as the nation's best safety and health information service.**

**The KOSHA NET service aimed at 'providing user-centered high-quality safety and health information' through knowledge management includes the following:**

**- DB service on law information, MSDS, KOSHA-CODE and other data**

- Diversified multimedia web contents service related to safety and health
- Community service aimed at revitalizing information exchanges between members
- E-Mail service, individual Home Page service and other additional services

In the meantime, since the number of the KOSHA NET service members exceeded 200,000, KOSHA plans to operate the KOSHA NET, which is currently operated as an integral part of the KOSHA Home Page, separately from KOSHA.

KOSHA plans to provide an upgraded service starting in January 2006 by designing user-centered screen and by improving functions. It will also introduce a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system to provide tailored information to clients based on member information.

(Source: Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency ,2005.12.5)

- 3,024 workplaces that have acquired S-mark safety certification experience not 1 accident. - 3,000th S-mark certification awarding ceremony held on November 22.

Sources say that the 's-mark Safety Certification' operated by KOSHA has significantly contributed to the safety of products and the improvement of corporate productivity.

According to KOSHA, since the certification system was introduced, 3,024 workplaces have received S-mark safety certification. While these workplaces have contributed to the increase of exports every year, there has been not 1 case of accident involving any of these workplaces.

On November 22, after 8 years since this system was introduced, 3,000th S-mark was awarded to Omron of Japan that produces optical electronic safety devices used for the installation of presses.



According to the Safety Certification Center of KOSHA that sponsors certification, there were 44 applications for S-mark safety certification in 1997, 334 in 2001, 1,040 in 2004 and 1,005 as of November 2005, indicating rapid increase in the number of applications. Analysis indicates that the reason for such high interest held by workplaces in the S-mark safety certification is that the level of safety in domestic and overseas labor environment has increased and that the safety of the high-



technology equipment used for the manufacture of semiconductors and LCD is the very reliability of the equipment, which in turn improves the productivity. If a domestic company acquires S-mark safety certification, it will be of great help in acquiring CE mark from EU, in that it will cost 10~15 million won less and the processing period reduced by half compared with a case where the company applies for the CE mark without acquiring the S-mark safety certification.

Currently, advanced countries operate safety certification systems that apply strict standards relating to safety and environment, which poses as an invisible trade barrier in international business. In connection with this, the S-mark safety certification conducts safety and reliability tests meeting the global standards such as the international standards (ISO/IEC) and EU standard(EN), while at the same time diversifying cooperation with advanced countries. By doing so, the 's-mark safety certification will act as a means of acquiring the European CE mark accreditation, overcoming the export barriers imposed by advanced countries, and also effectively coping with the product liability (PL) system.

The S-mark safety certification is a system that, after comprehensively appraising the quality management ability of makers, allows S-mark, the safety certificate, to be put directly on products that satisfy the certification standards. The S-mark safety certification system is intended to prevent industrial accidents by encouraging manufacture and use of the products with high safety.

(Source: e-Labor News No. 73,2005.11.28)

- KOSHA produces feature drama on children's safety, - Safety king for kids" to be aired on EBS-TV on November 25 and November 26



A drama featuring children's safety will be produced and aired on November 25 through EBS-TV. The Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency (President: Kil-sang Park) announced on November 22 that it had produced "Safety king for kids", a feature safety drama designed for children, to promote the safety consciousness of the children and thus prevent accidents.

The "Safety king for kids" designed for elementary school children will be aired for 25 minutes from 5:25 p.m. of November 25 and from 3:35 p.m. of November 26 through the nationwide network of EBS-TV. After the broadcasting, children's safety training DVD will also be produced and

**distributed.**

**The children's safety drama shows the potential risks of accidents that the children can experience during daily life at home and at school in order to enhance children's safety awareness. It also presents interesting cases from which children can promote their safety consciousness and make it a habit to ensure safety during routine daily life.**

**(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.11.23)**

- KOSHA dispatches special investigation support team to the site of large construction accidents. - Results of investigation to be used as references to prevent the recurrence of typical accidents and to find accurate causes within the shortest time possible.

**KOSHA plans to dispatch a special investigation support team to the large construction accident sites that have given rise to public criticism to quickly and accurately examine causes of accidents and to establish appropriate measures to prevent the recurrence of the same or similar accidents.**

**The Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency (President: Kil-sang Park) announced on October 30 that it will organize and operate a special investigation support team starting on December 1 to investigate large construction accidents that have given rise to public criticism such as the collapse of large structures to quickly investigate large construction accidents and find causes. This is an action taken following the Icheon Logistics Center collapse that has recently occurred.**

**The special investigation support team will be composed of KOSHA experts and external experts in each field numbering approximately 30 persons.**

**Key members of the team include Professor Hong Sung-gul of Seoul National University, an expert in the field of architectural structures and plants; Professor Kim Yung-su of Gyeongbuk National University, an expert in the field of sheathing and slopes; Professor Park Don-hui of Chonnam National University, a fire and explosion expert, and Chong Yung-kon, a consulting engineer of Joeun Engineering Corporation, an expert in blasting.**

**In case an accident involving 3 or more fatalities, collapse, fire, explosion or an accident eliciting public criticism occurs, KOSHA will organize an investigation support team according to the characteristics of each accident and provide prompt investigation support when the Ministry of Labor starts investigation into the accident.**

**KOSHA expects that the operation of the special investigation support team will contribute to the**

prevention of the typical accidents by promptly investigating accidents and by finding accurate causes on a timely basis, while at the same time promoting the public trust of KOSHA.

(Source: Korea Occupational Safety & Health Agency ,2005.10.10)

- **New OSH Materials**

- Seoul City publishes "Easy Guide to Construction Business" - Provides explanation on workers safety and matters related to the Construction Industry Basic Act

**The Seoul City has published a booklet titled "Easy guide to construction business" to secure safety of workers engaged in construction works and to provide information on construction business from the stage of registering construction business to the control of construction work.**

**According to the announcement made by the Seoul City on October 19, the book consists of 11 Chapters and appendixes containing information on the registration of construction business; transfer, merge and inheritance of construction business; contract and subcontract, construction work, technology management, construction work reporting system, examples of administrative disposition that induces disadvantages of business, questions and answers, administrative rulings and the latest judicial precedents.**

**The current Construction Industry Basic Act and other related laws and ordinances are difficult for construction workers to understand due to complicated professional terms used, and due to lack of a handbook that provides essential information and materials.**

**The book therefore explains various cases that cannot easily be understood in the construction business registration procedures and systems in a specific and easy way in addition to matters related to construction work, technology management, safety management, contracting and subcontracting. It also shows in detail the type of violations to prevent related persons from receiving disadvantageous disposition simply because they do not understand related laws and/or ordinances well.**

**The book can be bought from any bookstores in Seoul or through the online shopping mall: [www.store.seoul.go.kr](http://www.store.seoul.go.kr).**

(Source : Daily Safety News ,2005.10.20)

- KOSHA publishes regulations on occupational safety and health standards that interprets laws and regulations through comic books - Occupational safety and health act interpreted in easy way through comic books

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