

2006 Newsletter

HOME > > In Focus > Newsletter > 2006 Newsletter



- **Main OSH Policy**

- Labor-Management participatory program to be introduced at SOC construction sites to prevent accidents

The Ministry of Labor announced that it would introduce a labor-management participatory safety management system at SOC construction sites starting 2006. Under this system, an accident prevention program shall be implemented considering the risk factors at workplaces.

- Workplaces introducing this program shall be exempted from the compulsory guidance and supervision provided by the Ministry of Labor for the rational improvement of the regulatory system related to occupational safety and health activities.

*** Such policy is pursued by the Ministry of Labor to convert the national safety management system into a labor-management participatory safety management system. Note that this is the 2nd model project following the ?Labor-management voluntary inspection system covering dangerous machines and apparatuses? launched on November 11, 2005.**



According to the Ministry of Labor, it implemented the ?Differentiated control of SOC construction sites? based on the accident ratio to prevent the occurrence of accidents at large construction sites in order to contribute to the reduction of accidents to a certain degree.

- The existing method, which focuses on whether safety measures are taken against the existing risk factors at the time of inspection, is not enough to promote continued safety management activities. Thus, the Ministry of Labor decided to introduce this system. In principle, the introduction of the labor-management participatory accident prevention program is decided based on the voluntary selection of each workplace.

- In particular, field managers, safety managers, workers' representatives, and/or honorary occupational safety supervisors meet semiannually to discuss major risk factors covering each

process and prepare a safety management plan for submission to local labor offices. They should require workers to participate in all safety activities including safety inspections during the work process and improvement of risk factors to maintain safety at the construction sites at all times. * Persons representing the majority of workers or foremen of the principal contractor and/or subcontractors shall serve as the workers' representatives.

Workplaces participating in this program shall be exempted from guidance and supervision including vulnerability inspections or prosecutors' joint inspection. However, those who fail to join this program shall be subject to various guidance and supervision practices as what is currently being implemented.

According to the Ministry of Labor, satisfactorily implementing the labor-management participatory accident prevention program requires taking strong actions against workplaces recording serious accidents due to their failure to take appropriate safety measures or petitions/complaints or indictments 2 times or more for the last six months. Investigation shall be conducted immediately, and fines or other legal sanctions, slapped against such workplaces.

(Ministry of Labor, December 7, 2005)

- Ministry of Labor certifies High Power Gear as the 20,000th Clean workplace
 - Creating healthy workplaces by improving the working environment
 - Labor Ministry to invest KRW100 billion this year in improving the working environment, according to Labor Minister Kim Dae-Hwan

Labor Minister Kim Dae-hwan certified High Power Gear (CEO: Lim Jin-gap) as the [20,000th Clean workplace] in Namdong-gu, Incheon on January 19 (Thu), 2006.

According to Minister Kim, the government will do whatever it takes to solve the problem of depolarization. Still, it is important that the civilian sector also exert efforts in the same direction, says the labor minister.

- The Minister also said that the [Clean project] supports the creation of a safe and healthy working environment as a model case of solving depolarization.
- The government will invest KRW100 billion in this project to help small and medium enterprises solve the problem of manpower shortage and create jobs for the younger generation

before & after

before

after

before & after



High Power Gear

High Power Gear

- Business type: General industrial machines and systems (major products: automobile gears)
- CEO: Lim Jin-gap
- Location: (Lot 14, Block 138) Namdong Industrial Complex, Namdong-gu, Incheon? No. of employees: 31
- Investments (total investment: KRW60 million; finance: KRW27.8 million; self-funding: KRW32.2 million)
- Local exhaust systems, elevator/crane protective systems, working platforms and safety guard rail

As a system wherein up to KRW30 million (or up to KRW40 million for the casting/plating business) is earmarked as safety and health facilities investment funds each for financially and technically deficient manufacturers employing less than 50 workers, the 'Clean Project' was launched in October 2001. Since this program was initiated five years ago, a total of KRW256.5 billion has been invested. The 20,000th Clean Workplace was also named. To date, approximately 11% of all eligible workplaces have benefited from this program.

The [Clean Project] was originally designed to prevent industrial accidents by improving facilities at workplaces. Still, research showed that the project was also effective in solving the manpower shortage of small and medium enterprises.

Effects of Implementing the [Clean Project]

Effects of Implementing the [Clean Project]

- Injury rate decreasing by 35.4%, death rate dropping by 76.6%
- Helping solve the manpower shortage (74.4%)
- Workplaces responding to the program helping create new jobs (2.11 new jobs per workplace)

© Source: Results of the 2005 research on 12,465 workplaces certified as clean workplaces from 2002 to 2004

[Research institute: Safety Society; Senior researcher: Professor Kim Tae-gu, Inje University]

Based on the results of the research, the Ministry of Labor decided to use the Clean Project program to solve the depolarization of the safety levels of workplaces between large and small and medium enterprises and implement policies that will enable the young, unemployed generation to have opportunities to work at small and medium enterprises.

"Domestic small and medium enterprises constantly experience manpower shortage because the salary level they offer is lower compared to large enterprises. Moreover, young workers tend to avoid working at small and medium enterprises because of their poor working environment," said Minister Kim. He then stressed the need to focus continually on "improving the working environment wherein young technicians can work under safe conditions."

For 2006, the Ministry of Labor plans to reorganize and integrate all financial support programs targeting the improvement of the working environment of small and medium enterprises, thereby maximizing the effects of improving the working environment by providing tailored support through risk assessment

(Ministry of Labor January 18, 2006)

- Use of asbestos to be banned completely starting 2009 - Using asbestos cement and brake lining to be prohibited as soon as possible through discussions with other ministries

The use of asbestos (including manufacture and importation) shall be totally banned starting 2009. In particular, the Ministry of Labor plans to hold meetings with the [Asbestos Action T/F] composed of labor-management experts to establish a [Program for the prevention of workers' health problems due to asbestos] based on several criteria. It shall also decide the schedule of the ban through discussions with the ministries concerned as part of its follow-up measures after checking the status of asbestos use.

The use of asbestos-based cement products including asbestos slate, asbestos-based ceiling materials, asbestos partitions (asbestos cement sheets), and extruded cement sheets as well as abrasives including automobile brake lining shall be prohibited early.

The [Asbestos Action T/F] recommends banning the use of asbestos-based cement products and automobile brake lining starting July 2006 and implementing the total asbestos ban starting 2009. The use of other abrasive products such as the brake lining used for special-purpose vehicles, gaskets used for special equipment and other sealed products, asbestos cloth, and other asbestos products shall be gradually prohibited until 2009 considering the safety and possible substitution.

In October 2004, Japan imposed a ban on the manufacture, importation, and use of 10 products including asbestos slates, textile-tempered cement sheets, and brake lining. The country plans to start implementing total asbestos ban sometime this year.

To prevent asbestos exposure during the process of dismantling/removing buildings, the government shall take legal actions (imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years or a fine of not more than KRW50 million) against persons caught dismantling/removing asbestos buildings without prior approval.

To date, the government stopped work in case anyone was found to be dismantling/removing asbestos buildings, instructed the persons concerned to apply for approval, and took legal actions in case they failed to comply. Nonetheless, it discovered that the illegal dismantling/removal of buildings could not be controlled effectively even when such sanction was imposed.

The government plans to supplement the asbestos dismantling/removal standards (regulations on occupational health standards) through subdivision by type of work in order to promote applicability to the work sites.

- It also seeks to make reporting whether asbestos is involved when extending or modifying buildings compulsory as in the case of dismantling/removing buildings and expand asbestos-related infrastructure.

In particular, the few asbestos analysis agencies shall be supported by financing the purchase of analysis equipment (up to KRW500 million, to be repaid in installments for 7 years with a 3-year grace period at an annual interest rate of 3%).

- A certification system based on best practices in other foreign countries shall also be introduced to manage the asbestos analysis agencies and enhance the reliability of the analysis work effectively.

At the same time, the government shall study and introduce a licensing system related to the dismantling/removal of asbestos buildings operated by advanced countries. The Ministry of Labor shall carry out surveys regarding the status of asbestos buildings and conduct research on the characteristics and danger of asbestos exposure.

- In particular, it shall prepare Q/A containing general information on asbestos for distribution to companies and workers concerned to provide education and information on related matters.

(Ministry of Labor, January 19, 2005)

- Government to Conduct Field Examination on Occupational Disease-inducing Chemicals - Five to six chemicals examined each year; development and dissemination of countermeasures sought

The government shall conduct comprehensive and precise field examination on occupational disease-inducing chemicals including the highly controversial hexane and TCE.

Beyond managing disease-causing chemicals only after diseases are found, the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA (headed by Park Gil-sang) announced on the 16th that they would conduct accurate examinations on selected major chemicals that induce occupational diseases particularly their distribution, usage, and management.



전면형 이상의 방진 마스크 및 보호의 착용

In particular, the Ministry of Labor shall categorize known disease-inducing chemicals into 30 kinds and conduct examinations on the circulation and usage of at least 5~6 of these chemicals.

This year, an examination shall be conducted on 6 chemicals including hexane, TCE, methyl bromide, DMF/Dimethylacetamide, toluene-2, 4-TDI/MDI, and other isocyanates and silicas



폐기물은 밀봉한 후 처리

The Ministry of Labor also announced that it would integrate into database information on processes and workers' exposure to chemicals by type in Korea, select businesses requiring improvement and training on preventive measures and develop and disseminate CIC (chemical information card), and measure sheets by process based on core toxicity information and standards stipulated in the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

(Ministry of Labour, April 17, 2006)

- **Severer Punishment Awaits Employers Neglecting Safety and Health Measure** -Amended Occupational Safety and Health Act passed in the National Assembly, to be enacted in September

Following the passage of the Amended Occupational Safety and Health Act during the general meeting of the National Assembly on the 2nd, severer punishment now awaits employers neglecting safety and health measures particularly a jail term of up to 7 years if any of their employees dies due to an occupational accident.

The amendment includes the basis for imposing stricter penalty on safety and health agents, expansion of the Occupational Safety and Health Commission, and business secrets and workers' rights to access materials safety and health data.

The Ministry of Labor revealed that the amended Act would be enacted in September. The enforcement decree and enforcement regulations are currently being amended.

Originally planned for enactment this July, the amended Act seeks to emphasize the need for safety and health initiatives and establish strict responsibilities for occupational accidents based on similar acts in Korea and cases in other countries. Conflict arose between the government and opposition parties late last year in the National Assembly regarding the amended Act on Private Schools, however; hence the delay.

(Ministry of Labour April 6, 2006)

- **Update in KOREA**

- **Ministry of Labor conducts epidemiological tests regarding the death of a TCE handling worker** - Checking the correlation between skin erythema and exposure to harmful factors - Strengthening supervision on workplaces handling TCE and other organic solvents

The Ministry of Labor conducted epidemiological tests on February 8 (Wed) involving K Company in Bucheon. K Company specializes in coating parts of lighting equipment. On January 21 (Sat), a local worker who was removing dregs following the cleaning works using trichloroethylene (TCE) died after suffering skin erythema and sudden liver function disorder. TCE is an organic solvent used as detergent and defatting agent.

The doctor believes the cause of death is the Stevens-Johnson syndrome, which results from TCE. Its symptoms rarely occur among normal workers, however. Commonly occurring among workers who had worked for a short period (approximately 40 days), the Stevens-Johnson syndrome is related to the individual constitution.

In case erythema develops on the skin of a worker who handles TCE, the owner should immediately let the worker be examined by an industrial medical specialist and request assistance from the Ministry of Labor or KOSHA, if necessary.

Similarly, the Ministry of Labor requested KOSHA's occupational safety and health research institute to conduct epidemiological tests in order to check the correlation between the cause of workers' diseases and harmful factors at the workplaces accurately.

On the other hand, a foreign worker who was engaged in examination and packing following the cleaning of TCE at H Company, a mobile phone parts maker based in Gwangju, Gyeonggi Province, died on January 14 (Sat) of acute hepatitis after contracting skin erythema (cause of death believed to be the Stevens-Johnson syndrome) after only working for a short period (approximately 40 days). The research institute also performed epidemiological tests for this case from February 1 (Wed) to February 3 (Fri). The results are currently being analyzed.

To protect the health of workers handling chemical products, the Ministry of Labor plans to use the supervisors (3 doctors and 14 industrial health specialists) hired in the early part of this year to strengthen supervision over workplaces handling chemical products.

The Ministry of Labor also instructed local labor offices to inspect workplaces handling organic solvents such as TCE to prevent occupational diseases and distributed a pamphlet titled [Prevention of workers' diseases and health problems due to TCE]. Meanwhile, the local labor office controlling K Company in Bucheon and H company in Gwangju, Gyeonggi Province inspected both companies to check for similar symptoms in other workers or other factors that may undermine the health of workers in order to prevent the recurrence of the typical case.

Last February 1 (Wed), the Ministry of Labor ordered H company in Gwangju, Gyeonggi Province to stop using organic solvents for cleaning purposes and let the workers concerned be diagnosed since there were no local exhaust systems installed in the company. Five days later, it ordered K Company in Bucheon to conduct a medical examination for the 5 affected workers.

(Ministry of Labor, February 8, 2006)

- "Construction accident can be prevented during thawing season" - KOSHA to provide guidelines for 4 vulnerable areas to ensure safety during the thawing season

The Gyeongin Regional Labor Office (headed by Park Jong-chul) announced on the 21st that it would implement a quarterly comprehensive safety and health management inspection on companies where foreign workers had previously experienced an accident.

As a first step, the office will have conducted an inspection on the 17 companies that recorded accidents in the 4th quarter of last year by the 31st. These 17 companies to be inspected include manufacturing companies with caught-in accidents such as auto parts manufacturers and plating manufacturers and those wherein there is a high risk of fall including small construction sites with

50 employees or less. Therefore, measures related to caught-in accidents and fall shall be major checking points.



At least 3~4 comprehensive training sessions shall also be held for employers and their foreign employees in mid-April when the inspection will have been completed to enhance their awareness of potential dangers.

(Ministry of Labour April 22, 2006)

- Gyeongin Regional Labor Office to Conduct Comprehensive Safety Inspection for Foreign Workers -To be carried out every quarter by the Gyeongin Labor Office starting with 17 companies

Members of the National Assembly and visitors had the opportunity to experience risks at industrial sites in the occupational safety and health exhibit held on March 20~23 at the lobby on the first floor of the National Assemblymen's Hall by KOSHA (headed by Park Gil-sang) and Labor Environment Commission office of Wu Won-sik and sponsored by the Ministry of Labor.

Designed to provide visitors with the opportunity to experience firsthand real risks at industrial sites, booths have been prepared under four themes: general technology, health check, information, and virtual risk experience.

The opening ceremony on the 20th was attended by many enthusiastic visitors including Kim Deok-gyu, vice chairman of the National Assembly, Lee Kyeong-jae, head of the Labor Environment Commission, Kim Geun-tae, executive director of the Woori Party, Assemblyman Wu Won-sik, Assemblyman Je Jong-gil, Assemblyman Cho Jeong-sik, Assemblyman Kim Young-joo, and Labor Minister Lee Sang-su. The visitors improved their awareness of safety and health as they viewed various parts of the exhibit including safety cap impact, virtual risk experience, noises in actual life, exercise and health analysis for individuals, and demonstration of excellent safety gears.

According to Labor Environment Commission's Wu Won-sik, industrial accidents have killed seven people every day for the last ten years. He urged everyone in the National Assembly as well as the Labor Environment Commission to think about the seriousness of the problem through the exhibit. KOSHA Director Park Gil-sang noted how the National Assembly had realized the significance of occupational safety and health. He called upon the general public to follow suit.

(Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency, April 18, 2006)

- National Assembly Members "Experience" Risks in Industrial Sites - Occupational Safety and Health Exhibit held, giving an opportunity to experience risks on the site firsthand

- **Update in KOSHA**

- Board-hanging ceremony for the Planning Task Force of the i, 2008 World Congress on Safety and Health at the Workplace i¹ to be held



The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) (president: Kil-sang Park) will hold a board-hanging ceremony for the Planning Task Force of the [18th World Congress on Safety and Health at the Workplace] at 10:00 on June 26 at the head office of KOSHA. Several officials involved in the Planning Task Force of the congress are expected to attend.

Dubbed a world festival of safety and health as well as a Safety Olympics, the [World Congress on Safety and Health at the Workplace] will be held at Seoul COEX in Samseong-dong for 5 days from June 30 to July 4, 2008.

Sponsored by the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Society Safety Association (ISSA), and the promoter, the [World Congress on Safety and Health at the Workplace] is an international safety and health congress held triennially. Various events are featured at this congress, which shall be attended by approximately 2,000 government officials, persons belonging to labor-management organizations, safety and health research institutes, and experts from many countries worldwide. Some of these events include seminars on safety at the workplaces, workshops, film and video festivals sponsored by each country, exhibits, etc.

The World Congress on Safety and Health at the Workplace was first held in Rome, Italy in 1955. This will be the 2nd congress to be held in Asia following the one held in India in 1993.

- Korea and Mongolia exchange ideas on mutual cooperation regarding occupational safety - Mongolia expressing gratitude for the invited training and other support provided - Requests for continued support in providing technical cooperation for the inspection agency



A group of inspectors from Mongolia including the director of the Inspection Board, Basan visited KOSHA on January 16 (Mon), 2006 and exchanged ideas with KOSHA President PARK, Kil-sang regarding possible cooperative projects between Korea and Mongolia. During the meeting, Basan and his party expressed their deep gratitude to KOSHA for the support it provided through its Mongolian cooperation projects.

According to President Kil-sang Park, he expected more development in the occupational safety and health of both countries through close cooperation and promotion of friendly ties. KOSHA vowed to continue providing support. The party showed particular interest in Korea's occupational safety and health system and toured KOSHA's OSH Exhibition Hall, virtual safety training center, safety and health training Institute, On-the-job Construction Safety Training Center, and other occupational safety and health facilities.

Since signing a MOU with Mongolia in September 2003, Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency has been dispatching experts every year to Mongolia to provide technical support. In 2004 in particular, training equipment and materials were supplied to the Mongolians' Safety and Health Information Center. Likewise, as part of its support program, KOSHA invited 29 officials from Mongolia's Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor (MSWL) and Inspection Board (14 officials in 2004 and 15 officials in 2005) for 2004~2005 for training purposes.

The Mongolian Inspection Board is a special supervisory agency that supervises and controls the

officers of the departments of the Mongolian Government. The occupational safety and health Inspectors in Mongolia works under the supervision of this Inspection Board.

(KOSHA, January 16, 2006)

- **KOSHA awards construction safety and health management system (KOSHA 18001) certification to Hanjin Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency presented a certificate and a certification plaque to Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction (Architectural Department) at the company's head office in Gui-dong, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul last December 20 (Tue) at 17:00. Approximately 150 persons participated in the awarding ceremony including PARK, Kil-sang President of KOSHA, Kim Jung-woong, CEO and president of Hanjin, and other company officials.**

Hanjin's Architectural Department received the certification for effectively building a voluntary safety and health management system to prevent accidents and consequently taking advantage of the opportunity to minimize damage due to accident and to protect the lives of workers.

To establish safety and health management systems at certified workplaces, KOSHA has provided a total of 17 training, practice, and experiential programs to promote safety awareness among 1,500 persons including field managers, supervisors, and managers of suppliers, improved safety-related systems to build an accident prevention system and encourage participation in the safety activities at all levels, and selected 7 worksites nationwide as model workplaces for quick establishment of the field safety management system and expanding the programs to all sites.

Major improvements for certified workplaces»

1) Improvement of the company safety culture

- Field safety management system involving executives, submission of weekly reports on safe construction work, dissemination of accident examples, and dispatch of official letters encouraging safety activities

2) Strengthening of the accident prevention functions of the safety team at the head office

- The members of the head office's safety team increased from 3 to 5 to strengthen accident prevention abilities.

3) Examination and introduction of regulations related to the conversion of non-regular safety managers into regular managers

4) Evaluation of the results of safety activities carried out by the managers concerned, classification of workplaces into satisfactory and unsatisfactory ones, and integration of the results into the performance appraisal

5) Improvement of systems aimed at revitalizing participation by suppliers

- Increasing the ratio of progressive payments for outstanding suppliers

- Strengthening the restrictions on participation to biddings by unsatisfactory firms
- 6) Launching of effective safety activities by introducing a risk assessment system
- Introduction of a risk assessment technique and launching of effective safety activities by maintaining mutual linkages between council meetings, safety training, safety activities, safety inspections, and other related safety activities
- 7) Strengthening of safety training for team members at all levels
- Establishment and implementation of an annual training schedule including KOSHA 18001
- 8) Improvement of the method of assessing field safety management activities
- Change from simple inspection and evaluation into field system (activity) evaluation

The Architectural Department of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction was recently certified and passed through ? evaluation of the company's status, ? consulting, and ? certification assessment following its application for certification in April 2004. This is the 8th safety and health management system certification awarded.

© What is the construction business safety and health management system (KOSHA 18001)?

- This is a voluntary safety and health management system operated by the manager for the systematic prevention of accidents and reduction of loss by integrating the safety and health programs into the management policies.

- Since KOSHA 18001 was launched in 2001, a total of eight workplaces have been certified. (KOSHA December 20, 2005)

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Mongolia's Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor (MSWL) and Inspection Board (14 officials in 2004 and 15 officials in 2005) for 2004~2005 for training purposes.

**The Mongolian Inspection Board is a special supervisory agency that supervises and controls the officers of the departments of the Mongolian Government. The occupational safety and health Inspectors in Mongolia works under the supervision of this Inspection Board.
(KOSHA, January 16, 2006)**

- **KOSHA's Daejeon office to conduct safety training for the 32nd Infantry Division**

To prevent accidents inside the military compound, KOSHA's Daejeon office (director: Kyung Chang-su) plans to conduct safety training for the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 32nd Infantry Division 3 times starting February 16 at the Chungcheong Safety Training Center in Nam-myeon, Yeongi-gun.

"Military personnel rarely receive safety training at external facilities; still, safety training for military personnel is particularly important since they will eventually be industrial workers after they complete the military service," said Director Kyung Chang-su. Kyung added how the training would be implemented based on the philosophy of Lee Hong-ki, the 32nd Infantry Division commander who believed that Korea could create strong military forces through changes and reforms that may only be realized when everybody including each individual soldier has a strong sense of safety.

Training is divided into a virtual reality safety training conducted using state-of-the-art, computerized, 3-dimensional virtual reality experience facilities and a field safety training that lets trainees experience safety-related problems through the use of the safety training facilities installed outside buildings. Each training session is expected to run for approximately 3 hours.

"Together with the personnel concerned from the 32nd Infantry Division, we shall do our best to enable the training to contribute to the prevention of accidents inside the military compound and to win the trust of parents who had sent their beloved children to the military unit," said Director Kyung.

Located in Yeongi-gun, South Chungcheong Province, the Chungcheong Safety Training Center operated by KOSHA's Daejeon office is built on a site measuring approximately 8,000 square meters. The training center houses indoor classrooms, exhibition halls, and outdoor virtual reality classrooms. Since its opening in 2001, the center has provided training for approximately 6,000 workers, government employees, and students; thus drawing raves from participants.

[Outline of training conducted at the Chungcheong Safety Training Center]

- Virtual reality safety training

: This training consists of 9 3-dimensional safety video modules that allow trainees to experience the various types of risk factors existing at industrial sites and examples of accidents indirectly through computerized virtual reality video systems and 25 modules of discovering virtual reality risk factors. For the 25 modules, trainees themselves get to identify and eliminate risk factors during dangerous situations at home, schools, and industrial sites and promote safety consciousness.



- Field safety training

: Allowing trainees to practice and experience safety factors directly through various tests and practices, the training involves conducting safety helmet drop tests, hand grip tests performed using a hand-dynamometer to check how much the grip (grasping power) of both hands decreases when cotton gloves are worn compared to bare hands, oxygen deficiency tests carried out using a live rat to check how a workers' body reacts in a space lacking oxygen, and first-aid treatment in case of an emergency.



(KOSHA February 16, 2006)

- KOSHA to Launch Safety Call Service - Seoul branch first to offer technical service

KOSHA shall implement the Safety Call Service to provide customers with a more readily accessible technical safety and health service.

According to KOSHA's Seoul branch headed by Lee Young-dae, it would start offering free customized technical services to all manufacturing companies in the region this month.

The Safety Call Service is a prompt technical service that responds to safety and health matters and concerns at manufacturing sites. The Seoul branch will be the first to implement such service.

In particular, technical service is provided not only to employers but also to employees based on their preferred time, level, scope, and range.

According to an officer of the Seoul branch, the service would first be offered at Gasan Digital Complex, Onsu Complex, and Seongsu Industrial Region and later expanded to other areas.

Interested parties may avail themselves of the Safety Call Service by applying via telephone, fax, and Internet. Details of the service may also be found on the website of KOSHA's Seoul branch.

(KOSHA April, 16 2006)

- Presentation of Construction Site Safety Activity Cases to be Held - KOSHA discussing exemplary safety methods to be benchmarked

A presentation of cases of safety activities at construction sites shall be held to promote safety activity initiatives at construction sites.

KOSHA (headed by Park Gil-sang) announced on the 8th that it would hold a presentation on the safety activities at construction sites as cases of safety management enhancement for benchmarking in the 39th week of occupational safety and health.

Construction site representatives nationwide are expected to attend the presentation, which shall

introduce exemplary cases including partner safety management, safety and health facilities improvement, safe work techniques, and method improvement and other safety activities for workers.

Any construction site wishing to participate in the presentation may apply at KOSHA or regional branches and instruction centers by April 14 by post or in person. Ten construction sites from the civil engineering and construction fields shall be selected to participate in the presentation following document examination and site inspection.

Scheduled to be held on July 6~7 at KOEX, the final presentation shall include the announcement of the two most exemplary sites and awarding of the Minister of Labor award and cash prize worth KRW2 million. In particular, two sites shall be awarded the gold award and KRW1.5 million cash prize each. On the other hand, six other sites shall receive the silver award and KRW1 million cash prize each. Finally, ten sites shall be awarded the bronze award and KRW500,000 cash prize each. (KOSHA April 9, 2006)

- **New OSH Materials**

- View information on international occupational safety and health at a glance - KOSHA opening a safety and health website in cooperation with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EASHW)

You can now view in real time good practices of advanced countries, information on harmful materials, and accident prevention techniques for securing safety and health at work.

To provide people with the opportunity to obtain information on overseas occupational safety and health easily, Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency opened an occupational safety and health website linked with world-renowned safety and health agency European Agency for Safety and Health at Work on February 7 (Tues).

Operated under the management of EASHW, the website is shared by 40 member agencies of 35 countries from the EU and the Pacific. This portal site lets workers, owners, and safety and health experts of European countries and Korea to view international safety and health information at a glance.

Users can easily obtain the desired information regardless of which country's homepage is clicked, since the safety and health information of each member country are divided and classified under the same themes and forms.

According to KOSHA, the website opened by KOSHA and EASHW facilitates the exchange of information on the safety and health among countries in Europe and the Pacific, best practice cases of accident prevention systems, statistical materials, education, and publications. More importantly, the website lets one search and utilize the advice provided by world safety and health expert

groups quickly through the use of the bulletin board functions and data accumulated in the network.

As a Focal Point of the Korean network, KOSHA signed an agreement with EASHW at the end of 2004. Approximately 1 year later, the website was opened after considerable preparations made by both parties. Any domestic agency wishing to participate in the information exchange activities using the network operated by EASHW can take part in the program as a Korean network member agency without paying separate fees through discussions with KOSHA.

© European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EASHW)

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work was set up by the European Union to help meet the information needs in the field of occupational safety and health. Based in Bilbao, Spain, the Agency aims to improve the lives of people at work by stimulating the flow of technical, scientific and economic information between all those involved in occupational safety and health issues.

To connect to the website, go to <http://kr.osha.eu.int>. Users can also gain access through KOSHA's homepage (<http://www.kosha.or.kr>) and EASHW's site (<http://osha.eu.int>).



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improvement, safe work techniques, and method improvement and other safety activities for workers.

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