

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

KOSHA Newsletter

August 2010

OSHRI Acquires International Accreditation in Asbestos Analysis Using Electron Microscope, for the First Time in Korea

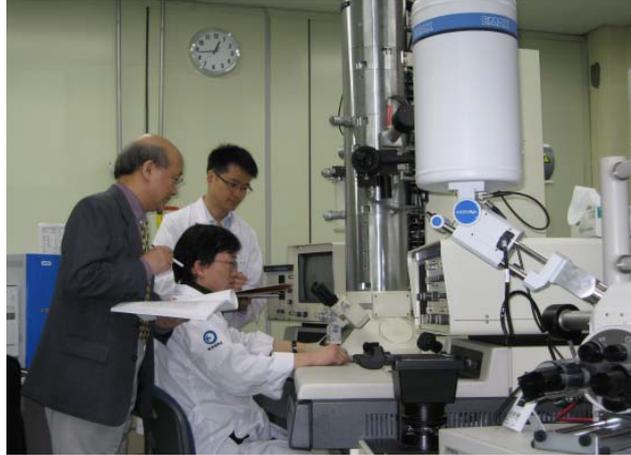
NVLAP accreditation from NIST recognized OSHRI's expertise and credibility in asbestos analysis

August 2 (Mon), 2010

- At a time when interest is increasing over the risks of asbestos, the grade 1 carcinogen, Occupational Safety & Health Research Institute of the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHRI-KOSHA; Director General: Kang, Seong-Kyu) acquired international accreditation for the analysis of asbestos using electron microscopes, the first such accreditation ever acquired in Korea.
- OSHRI-KOSHA has recently received NVLAP (National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program) accreditation from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on 'Asbestos analysis using electron microscopes.'
- 'NVLAP' is an international accreditation system operated by the NIST of the US, under the US Office of Commercial Affairs.
- There are about 4 institutes in Korea that analyze asbestos using electron microscopes. However, none of them has yet acquired an international accreditation.
- The electron microscope is capable of analyzing airborne asbestos at a maximum of several million magnifications. This increases the reliability of the test results by overcoming the limits of existing polarization microscopes and the phase microscopes, which can only analyze solid samples and at relatively low magnifications.
- OSHRI has now gained the international credibility regarding the analysis of asbestos using electron microscopes, based on which OSHRI can now validate the results of analyses conducted by domestic institutes and make final decisions on samples that cannot easily be analyzed using ordinary microscopes.
 - Furthermore, the accreditation will be of great help to asbestos-related research conducted by OSHRI such as epidemiologic surveys and status checks on workers engaged in asbestos related works.
- Last year, OSHRI-KOSHA conducted 938 cases of asbestos analysis covering 42 institutes, of which 238 cases used electron microscopes, while 700 cases were tested using ordinary microscopes, polarization microscopes, and phase microscopes.
- In July 2008, OSHRI applied for accreditation to the NIST of the US. OSHRI was tested for its asbestos analyzing ability, went through field inspection, and supplemented facilities and equipments for the span of two years before acquiring the accreditation.

- “This is an international accreditation received for the accuracy and reliability of asbestos analysis using electron microscopes,” said **Yang Jung-sun**, Director of the Center for Chemicals Safety and Health at OSHRI. “Since this international accreditation is first of its kind received by a Korean institute, it will improve Korea’s asbestos analysis technique and contribute to the standardization of asbestos analysis by providing technical support” Director Yang added.

<Photo > Assessing asbestos analyzing ability using electron microscopes.



The Launch of ‘Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Leadership Group’

CEO’s commitments to accident prevention contribute to safety in shipbuilding industry

June 21, 2010

- ‘Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Leadership Group’ was launched with the participation of CEOs to prevent accidents in the industry.

- Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA; President: Noh, Min-Ki) held a ceremony to launch ‘Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Leadership Group’ at 11:00, June 21, 2010 in Paradise Hotel Haeundae in Busan. Participants included representatives and members of the Korea Shipbuilders Association and related officials from the Ministry of Employment and Labor.

<Outline of the ‘Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Leadership Group’ launching ceremony>

Date and time : 11:00~13:00, June 21, 2010

Venue : Sicily Hall, Paradise Hotel Busan

Participants : President of KOSHA, CEOs of 9 major shipbuilders that are members of the Korea Shipbuilders Association:
(Hyundai Heavy Industries, Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, Samsung Heavy Industries, Hyundai Mipo Dockyard, Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries, STX Offshore & Shipbuilding Co., Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction, SLS Shipbuilding Ltd., and Dae Sun Shipbuilding and Engineering),
and
Yoon-Vae Kim, Director General of Occupational Safety and Health Bureau, Ministry of Employment and Labor

- Joined by leaders from both the enterprises and the government, ‘Shipping Industry Safety and Health Leadership Group’ seeks to incorporate CEOs’ commitments to safety and health management into shipbuilding business. The goal of this is to prevent accidents from the fundamental level.
- Following the launch of ‘Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Leadership Group’, CEOs will make voluntary efforts to establish safety culture at shipyards operated by the Korea Shipbuilders Association, which has nine major domestic shipbuilders as members.
- During the ceremony, KOSHA adopted ‘Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Leadership Declaration’ together with the representatives of the nine large shipyards. It contains safety and health responsibilities of the CEOs in shipbuilding industry, as well as details on regular evaluation activities to enhance safety and health levels in the industry.
- To maintain the strength and commitment of the ‘Shipbuilding Industry Safety and Health Leadership Group’, KOSHA plans to hold regular meetings with the representatives of the member organizations and provide materials related to specific practice methods and other pertinent materials. (End).



Joint Efforts Launched to Prevent Accidents Involving Foreign Workers

KOSHA concludes an MOU with 6 employment training institutes
on June 8.

June 7, 2010

- Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) aims to prevent accidents by providing pre-employment training for foreign workers.
- On June 8, 2010 (Tue), KOSHA (President: Noh, Min-Ki) concluded an MOU aimed at preventing accident involving foreign workers at the conference room of Human Resources Development Services of Korea (HRDKorea) located in Gongdeok-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul with 6 institutes providing pre-employment training for foreign workers.

< Outline of the MOU Signing Ceremony >

- Date and time : 11:00~13:00, June 8 (Tue), 2010
- Venue : Conference room (3F) of HRDKorea located in Gongdeok-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul
- Participants : Noh, Min-Ki, President of KOSHA
Yu, Jae-Soub, President of the HRDKorea, and other related persons
- Employment training institutes : HRDKorea , Korea International Labour Foundation, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, Construction Association of Korea, Korea Federation of Small and Medium Business

- Based on the MOU, KOSHA will provide professional lecturers to the 6 institutes, develop and provide safety and health training materials for each type of trade, and operate programs for the lecturers of the training institutes.

- The 6 training institutes in charge of providing pre-employment training for foreign workers will operate pre-employment training programs in an effective way using the programs and training materials provided by KOSHA.
- Last year alone, these 6 institutes conducted pre-employment training for some 57,000 foreign workers.

- According to the statistics on occupational accidents, 14,419 foreign workers fell victims to occupational accidents during the last 3 years, of which 305 died.

- The number of casualties showed increasing trends during the past 3 years. There were 5,231 casualties last year, which is a 31.8% increase compared to that of 2007.

- Casualties involving foreign workers during the past 3 years (Unit: person)

Item		3 year total	2009	2008	2007
Foreign workers	Casualties	14,419	5,231	5,221	3,967
	Fatalities	305	101	117	87

★ Casualties: Includes fatalities

- At the MOU signing ceremony, KOSHA delivered safety and health materials for foreign workers indicating its commitments to build safety and health partnership.

- “Foreign workers engaged in difficult and hard work are vulnerable to occupational accidents due to unfamiliar environment and language barriers,” said an official from KOSHA. “We hope to effectively prevent occupational accidents involving foreign workers through joint efforts by the government together with public and private training institutes. (End)”