



# KOSHA

vol. 117

# NEWS

JUNE  
2022

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# Get your heatwave protection equipment ready in the workplace!



## Get your heatwave protection equipment ready in the workplace!

- The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA, President Ahn Jong-jul) has launched the Program to Help Provide Facilities as a Protective Measure Against Heatwave, in an effort to prevent heat stroke among workers who are exposed to extreme heat conditions at manufacturing or construction worksites during the summer.
- A total of 156 suffered heat stroke or other heat-related illnesses during each summer season(June to August) in Korea over the past five years(2016-2020), and 26 of these people (16.6%) died.

> Illnesses caused by extreme summer heat occur mainly among workers in the service industry who often work outdoors, such as construction or sanitation workers.

- In addition, the APEC Climate Center predicts in its seasonal forecast(April-September 2022) that the East Asian region will be hit with above-average temperatures this summer, while the Korea Meteorological Administration also predicts that the North Pacific high pressure system will bring a very hot summer to Korea this year.
- In response, KOSHA has initiated the Program to Help Provide Facilities as a Protective Measure Against Heatwave, in which the Agency will pay up to 70% of the cost for portable air conditioners or sunshades at construction sites within a limit of KRW 30 million. To be eligible, the recipient must be a small business, with fewer than 50 employees.

> A total of KRW10 billion has been set aside this year for this program at industrial sites.



## Get your heatwave protection equipment ready in the workplace!

- The previous practice was to continue accepting applications from program participants until the budgeted funds were all handed out. This year, however, the process has been changed to a public competition format, and the applications must be submitted before a set deadline.

› The improved format ensures that the applications are received well in advance, so that the monetary support can be provided in a timely fashion. This way, the protective items will be procured prior to the time(June-September) when the danger of heat injury is great.

- Program participants may apply online via the Clean Workplace Creation Project for about three weeks, starting from April 18 to May 9.

› You may click on the What's New section of the Clean Workplace Creation Project homepage for details on how to apply for the program and what the program procedures are.

- "Every year, heat-related illnesses occur on industrial sites, and sometimes these cases result in death," says KOSHA President Ahn Jong-ju. He adds, "I ask that business sites take interest in and apply for the Program to Help Provide Facilities as a Protective Measure Against Heatwave Calamities so that their workers can stay healthy and work safely during the summer."





# Upgrade the Safety of Your Workplace with Free Professional Consultations



**KOSHA provides “risk assessment consulting” to SMEs with up to 49 employees.**

- The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA, President Ahn Jong-jul) provides “risk assessment consulting” to protect workers from serious accidents that can result in injury and even death. The program is available to small and medium-sized businesses that employ up to 49 workers and are vulnerable to industrial accidents.

› This Risk Assessment Consulting Program sends KOSHA professionals to workplaces that have fewer than 50 employees and lack a robust accident prevention capability. The specialists identify harmful/risk factors that can result in serious injury or death, discover areas for improvement, and offer free consulting services.

\* This program targets the head office of general construction companies outside Korea’s top 200 in terms of appraised construction capacity as well as construction projects valued at under KRW12 billion(KRW 15 billion for civil works).

- The program will be run in two phases this year to prepare the recipients for an expanded Serious Accident Punishment Act(SAPA), which will include workplaces with 5 to 49 employees from January 27, 2024: An initial consulting session will focus on high-risk factors that may lead to accidents that result in serious bodily injury or worse. Then, a second consulting session will be conducted to elevate the business owner’s commitment to accident prevention as well the employee’s level of participation in the effort.

› The initial consulting on “high-risk factors that may result in serious bodily injury or worse” offers technical support to identify in advance work operations or situations where death or serious injury could result, and then make the needed improvements.

– To this end, KOSHA analyzed 3,306 manufacturing-related accidents that have occurred in Korea over the past three years and then developed an “assessment table for high-risk factors for serious bodily injury,” which can help to identify causes of accidents. The Agency plans to use this table in consulting work.



## Upgrade the Safety of Your Workplace with Free Professional Consultations

➤ The second round of consulting is designed to confirm whether the recommendations from the first consulting session have been put into action and to elevate the health and safety competencies of workers at companies that employ 5 to 49 people. These are the businesses that will be made subject to SAPA in 2024.

– The focus of this support program is on harmful or risk factor identification, top management's leadership in establishing and implementing improvement measures, and key points for worker participation

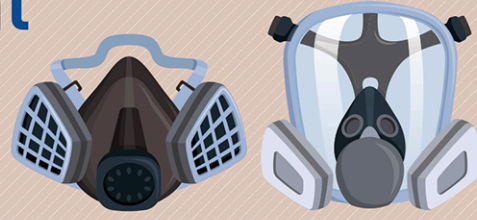
➤ A third round of consulting can be added at the request of a business with 5 to 49 workers.

- Applications for the consulting service may be submitted online via KOSHA's Risk Assessment System homepage(<https://kras.kosha.or.kr>). They may also be mailed to or presented in person at one of KOSHA's frontline organizations.
- Meanwhile, risk assessment is mandatory for business owners under the Occupational Safety and Health Act(Article 36), requiring employers to identify harmful or risk factors in the workplace and take the proper preventive measures.
- KOSHA President Ahn Jong-ju says, "Nothing matters more for preventing industrial accidents than ensuring companies can identify for themselves the harmful/ risk factors at their worksites and correct them. We are committed to supporting those workplaces that hire fewer than 50 workers and lack adequate accident prevention capabilities so that they improve their accident prevention measures in the workplace and raise the health and safety standards for their employees."





# Be sure to verify your respiratory protective equipment before using it!



## Production/distribution of “One Point Lesson: Guide to Wearing Personal Protective Equipment Safely”

### Case No. 1

**A worker suffocates while wearing a gas mask instead of an air-supplied respirator in a tank (confined space), where oxygen is insufficient, at Shipyard A**

### Case No. 2

**A worker not wearing a gas mask at Chemical Manufacturer B inhales hydrogen sulfide while checking the water level of a neutralization tank**

- Incidents occur that threaten worker safety. For example, some workers wear a regular gas mask or dust mask that is not designed for airtight spaces that lack sufficient oxygen, while others do not wear the right type of gas mask for the hazardous substances they are handling.

➤ In response, the Occupational Safety and Health Certification Institute(OSHCI, Director General Kim Young-tae), which belongs to the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA), has produced and is distributing to worksites information that users of respiratory protective equipment(RPE) must know. The published materials include the safety certification marks for three RPE types (gas masks, air-supplied respirators, and powered respirators), the places where each is to be used, and guidelines on their purchase and use.

- The publication contains details on how to select safe and proper RPE as well as how to wear the personal protective equipment best suited for various physical conditions of the users.
- For personal protective equipment, products that have received the safety certification must be used without fail. Users are recommended to verify the capacity and grade on the safety certification mark and select the respiratory protective equipment that is appropriate for their specific operational environment as well as the types of dust and hazardous materials being handled.
- You may go to the OSHCI homepage to verify whether certain types of equipment have been certified and what their capacity and grade are.

\* **Search and verify safety-certified products:** OSHCI website (<http://kosha.or.kr/oshci>) ➡ Protective Equipment ➡ Safety Certification(KCs-Mark)

## Be sure to verify your respiratory protective equipment before using it!

- The new guide:

➤ has been produced and distributed as Part 3 in the “One Point Lesson: Guide to Wearing Personal Protective Equipment” series, which is intended to encourage the use of safe and appropriate personal protective equipment and prevent the use of uncertified equipment.

➤ is being distributed to over 4,300 workplaces in Korea, including builders, manufacturers, and certified product makers, and can also be found on the KOSHA website.

\* Visit the KOSHA website([www.kosha.or.kr](http://www.kosha.or.kr)) ➡ Publication ➡ Safety and Health Resources ➡ Search for “Guide to Wearing PPE”

- “Now is the time to raise awareness of how important wearing personal protective equipment is when using chemical substances or working in confined space under high temperature and humid conditions,” says OSHCI Director General Kim Young-tae. He goes on to say, “We hope the use of this guide will get people to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment on industrial sites and instill in them the habit of adhering to safety regulations.”





# MOEL\* and KOSHA host discussion with safety executives from major builders to reduce fatal accidents



## Onsite inspections of safety and health management system operability in fifth month of SAPA enforcement

- The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA, President Ahn Jong-ju) met with safety executives from 16 construction companies on June 3(Fri). The participants discussed ways to firmly comply with the Serious Accidents Punishment Act(SAPA) on worksites and decrease fatal accidents.

› The meeting was held to discuss onsite inspections of the voluntary establishment and implementation of safety and health management systems by construction companies as well as ways to strengthen onsite operability and in the wake of SAPA's enforcement.

- At the meeting, the safety executives from the construction companies formed a consensus on the importance of “the organically-linked roles” between that head office and the worksites with respect to reducing fatal accidents by establishing a safety and health management system.

› They also shared the view that the head offices should establish the procedures for identifying risk factors and improving them as well as provide the necessary resources, while the worksites are to take steps to make substantial improvements to risk factors.

- KOSHA President Ahn Jong-ju says, “To reduce the number of fatal industrial accidents in Korea, it is paramount that we protect workers' lives on construction sites, where more than half of all fatal accidents occur.

› He adds, “The essence of SAPA, which took effect this year, is for the responsible persons in management to play a central role in building a safety and health management system appropriate to the construction company's distinctive features. After that, they must inspect and verify at least twice a year whether the system is achieving adequate supervision over worker safety and health on the worksites, and they must take corrective action when needed.”

## MOEL and KOSHA host discussion with safety executives from major builders to reduce fatal accidents

- Meanwhile, the safety executives from the 16 construction companies at the meeting pledged that they would play a leading role in preventing industrial accidents and that they were committed to cultivating a culture of safety first at construction sites by firmly complying with SAPA requirements and meticulously following safety measures on construction sites.





# KOSHA discusses cooperation plans for accident prevention at small workplaces



## “Kick-off meeting for establishing a safety and health cooperation system” held on May 12

- The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency(KOSHA, President Ahn Jong-ju) held the Kick-off Meeting for Establishing a System for Safety and Health Cooperation on May 12(Thu). Six NGOs dedicated to accident prevention, including the Council of Specialized Safety Management Institutions, were in attendance.
  - KOSHA and NGOs working to prevent accidents in four areas—safety, health, construction, and services—are cooperating on the establishment of a safety and health cooperation system to prevent fatal accidents and occupational diseases from occurring at small workplaces.
  - The kick-off meeting focused on plans for cooperation between KOSHA and the private-sector accident prevention organizations.
  - The plan is to select and go forward with implementation tasks that consider the effectiveness of methods for preventing serious accidents in specific areas such as manufacturing as well as their operability at worksites.
- › The outcomes gleaned from the establishment and operation of the safety and health cooperation system will be reflected in KOSHA’s industrial accident prevention programs and used in other ways as well to ensure the health and safety of workers in each business category.

## KOSHA discusses cooperation plans for accident prevention at small workplaces

- KOSHA President Ahn Jong-ju says, “KOSHA's cooperation with accident prevention NGOs, which are closely working with small businesses, will generate synergy in reducing industrial accidents. I call on your to come up with and implement meaningful cooperation plans.”







# KOSHA NEWS

Protecting Worker's  
Life and Health



## Published by

Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency  
400 Jongga-ro, Jung-gu, Ulsan,  
44429 Republic of Korea

Tel. +82 52 7030 745

Fax. +82 52 7030 326

E-mail. [overseas@kosha.or.kr](mailto:overseas@kosha.or.kr)

Web(Kr). [www.kosha.or.kr](http://www.kosha.or.kr)

Web(En). <http://www.kosha.or.kr/english/index.do>

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