

ILO World Day for Safety and Health at Work



ILO World Day for
Safety and Health at Work 2008





What is World Day for Safety and Health at Work?

A day, the 28th of April, when governments, employers, workers and others raise awareness of the importance of safe, healthy and decent work



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Why is Safety and Health at Work Important for the ILO?

- The International Labour Organization, a United Nations Specialized Agency, has created many international standards on safety and health at work since its inception in 1919
- Under the ILO's Decent Work Agenda, work can only be decent if it is safe and healthy
- Social dialogue, discussions between employers and workers, is a key tool in making work safe and healthy



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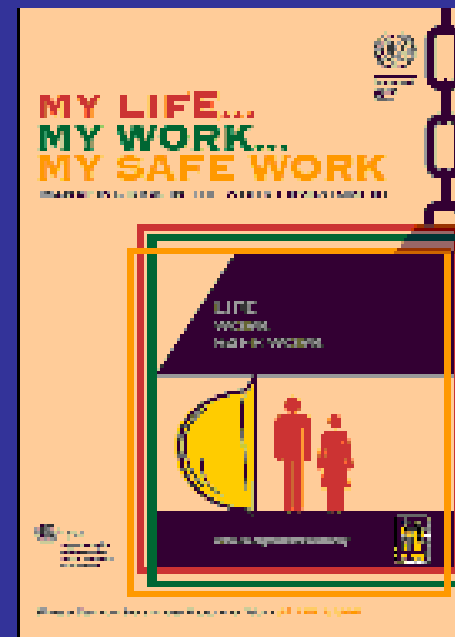


2008 World Day Theme

This year's theme is
“Managing risks in the work
environment”

The 2008 World Day report
and additional products,
including a poster, a postcard
and a bookmark can be found
on the following website:

www.ilo.org/safework/safeday



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Risks at Work: WHO?



- Workers everywhere are exposed to risks related to their safety and health
- Most recent global estimates (2005):
 - 2.2 million people die annually from occupational accidents and disease
 - 270 million workers annually suffer non-fatal injuries
 - 160 million workers suffer short or long-term illnesses from work-related causes per year
- Marginalized groups of workers are often more at risk



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Risks at Work: **WHAT?**

- Managers and workers need to think about how to eliminate, reduce and control risks
- Accidents and diseases often have several contributory causes, including:
 - Organizational factors
 - Physical factors
 - Human factors
- Risks can be classified in several ways, such as:
 - According to generic type
 - According to resultant harm
- Some industries entail greater risks than others



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Risks at Work: **WHY?**

The elimination, reduction and control of risks:

- Reduces human and economic burdens of work-related accidents and ill-health
- Enhances both business productivity and benefits enterprises and national economies

The total cost of work related accidents and diseases = 4% of world's gross domestic product



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Risks at Work: **HOW?**



- Identify, anticipate, and assess hazards and risks and take positive action to control and reduce them
- Identify hazards in the work environment and assess related risks of injury
- Assess whether or not existing arrangements and precautions are adequate



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Four Key Steps to Reduce Risk

1. Eliminate or minimize risks at source
2. Reduce risks through engineering controls or other physical safeguards
3. Provide safe working procedures
4. Provide, wear, and maintain personal protective equipment

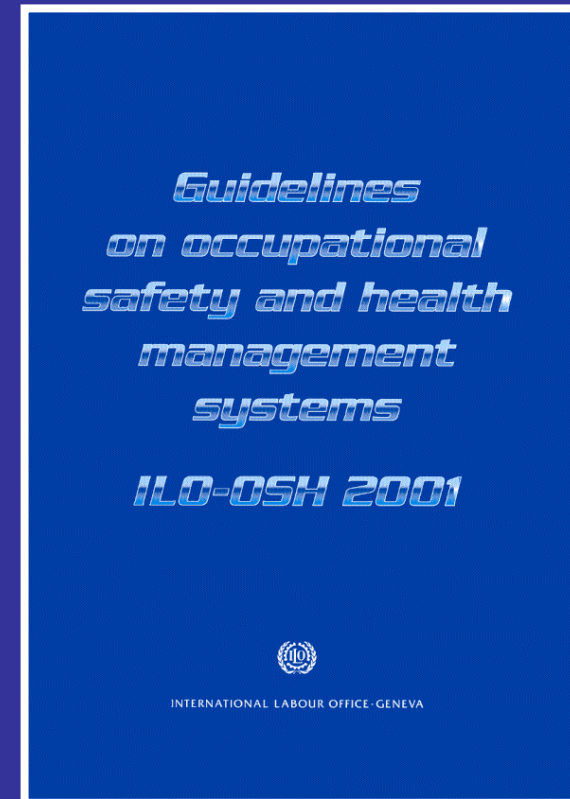


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Education, Training, and Information

- Fundamental in the promotion of safety and health at work requires:
 - A well supported organization with clear safety and health responsibilities and procedures for dealing with risks
 - Constant vigilance
- More information is given in *Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems*, ILO, 2001



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Shared Roles: Employers and Workers

- ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) states that employers are required to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, workplaces, equipment and substances, are safe and without risks to health
- Workers should always be provided with:
 - Training about protective measures
 - Necessary protective clothing and equipment
 - Information, on a regular basis, about specific and general dangers at their job
- Workers should cooperate with their employers in fulfilling their obligations and reporting situations that present imminent danger



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Shared Roles: Governments

- Governments are responsible for:
 - Setting national policy for occupational safety and health
 - Establishing an effective system of inspection and enforcement of relevant legislation
 - Gathering relevant statistical data regarding accidents and diseases at work
 - Measuring progress towards national objectives
 - Informing future policy makers
- International labor standards should be ratified and implemented



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Shared Roles: Educational, Training, Information and Research

- Educational and training institutions play an important role in raising awareness
- In some countries, risk education is now part of national educational curricula
- Universities and research institutions:
 - Provide a technical and scientific basis for risk evaluation and management
 - Develop innovative ways of reducing risk
- Information networks such as the 150 CIS national and collaborating Centres located in ILO Member States should:
 - Gather, evaluate and widely disseminate information on safety and health at work
 - Actively promote safety and health at work



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Shared Roles: The International Community

- International organizations are actively engaged in promoting occupational safety and health
- The ILO's Decent Work agenda is based on:
 - the understanding that work is a source of personal dignity, family stability and peace in the community
 - democracies that deliver for people
 - economic growth that expands opportunities for productive jobs and enterprise development
- Promotion of occupational safety and health is one of the means to make Decent Work a global reality

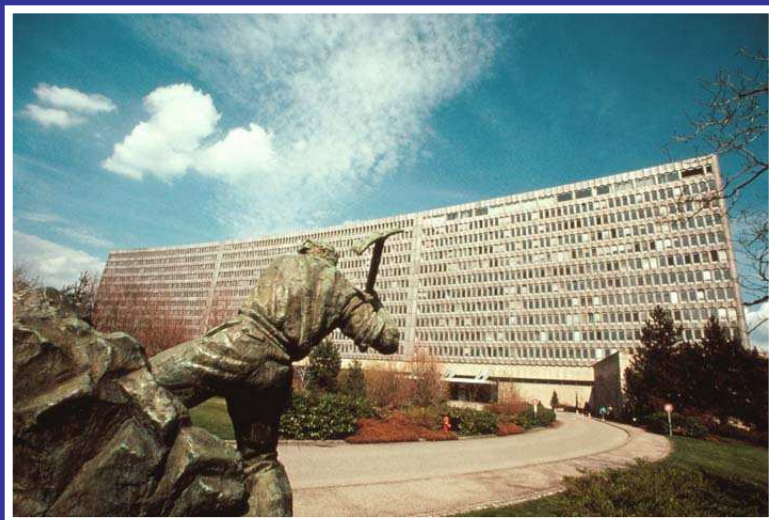


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The International Labour Conference adopted, in June 2006, The Promotional Framework on Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C 187)

Promotes continuous improvement in occupational safety and health



- Policy: national policy promoting a safe and healthy working environment
- System: laws, regulations, information, advice, training and education, and the collection of data
- A national programme: timeframes, priorities and means of action



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For Further Information

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