

# **Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene**

**IIOSH**

**2005**

## **THE INFORMATION CENTER**

The IIOSH Information Center is the Israel's primary source of OSH information. It supplies the public, particularly safety and other interested people at industrial plants, with reliable up-to-date information according to their requests. Every answer is being tailored to the inquirer's needs and educational level. The center's information scientists use an extensive network of OSH information resources that includes numerous international and local databases, a library, personal expertise of the IIOSH staff and, when necessary, authoritative sources elsewhere. For this purpose the Information Center maintains working contacts with many relevant organizations in Israel and abroad.

The IIOSH is the official representative of the International Labour Organization Information Center in Israel (CIS ILO).

The center's main activities include:

- Provision of up-to-date information, usually free of charge, in response to written or verbal requests from workers, managers, OSH professionals, or members of the public, submitted by means of mail, fax, telephone, e-mail or via the Internet;
- Maintenance of constant ties with recognized suppliers of OSH information worldwide;:
- Acquisition, processing, translation, cataloging and systematization of information within the entire area of safety and health at work, using databases, professional literature, other printed and electronic sources;
- Development and maintenance of specialized local databases;
- Maintenance and ongoing updating of the service library containing thousands of books and periodicals;
- Preparation and production of professional publications on selected topics, intended for a countrywide circulation, including information sheets and FAQs;
- Maintenance and constant updating of the Israeli OSH-related legislation and standards register;
- Participation in surveys and applied research in the field of OSH.

**Every year the Center answers over 5000 written and verbal information requests.**

The center's establishment and current operation have been facilitated by financial support provided by the *Workplace Health and Accident Prevention and Research* fund of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor and the *Manof* Foundation of the National Insurance Institution.

**THE INFORMATION CENTER IN FIGURES  
YEAR 2005**

5,300	Written and verbal answers
55,000	Full text microfiche and digital items
50,000	Entries in the local database
5,900	Books and magazines
36	Extensive databases containing millions of items
2,200	Enterprises, factories, organizations receive safety information handouts
5,000	IIOSH bimonthly magazine subscribers read the information centre's selected answers.
160	International Hazard Datasheets on Occupations
35	International Chemical Safety Cards
50	Selected answers presented at the Institute's Internet site

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE WRITTEN ANSWERS BY THE SUBJECT  
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2005**

	Subject	Amount of inquiries	%
	Total	2876	100
1	Machinery – equipment – tools	266	9.2
2	Energy (electricity, gas, water)	257	8.9
3	Industrial processes	40	1.4
4	Chemistry	671	23.3
5	Physics - radiation	99	3.5
6	Medicine	57	2.0
7	Personal protection equipment	95	3.3
8	Legislation	442	15.4
9	Fire protection	61	2.1
10	Construction works	107	3.7
11	Ergonomics	42	1.5

12	Environment	100	3.5
13	Other (occupational health, statistics, s. management etc.)	639	22.2

## **The human factor and occupational safety**

### **Work related stress.**

- Within the scope of the main subject pertaining to the human factor in occupational safety, the information center has shifted its focus to the subject of the work related stress that in recent years has moved to a prominent place in scientific research with the findings that appear to indicate its major relevance to occupational safety. In the two previous years the main objective was to promote the awareness through provision of professional information to the thousands of workplaces, to draw the attention of the managers at all levels and the employees to the scale of the problem, to the harm caused by the stress, in general, and the work related stress, in particular, and to encourage them to mitigate the problem.
- In the last year the information center, while continuing dissemination of the information based on the up to date findings (research, articles, etc.), shifted its activity to the "field work". The work related stress issues have been placed on a high priority list by the Institute's management, and they will be discussed on a dedicated session during the bi-annual Institute's Safety convention in October 2006. In addition, the work related stress has been selected as a quality objective for the Institute's branches activities for 2006 - 2007, to be dealt with in accordance with methodology set by the Israeli Standard 18001 "Occupational health and safety management systems - specifications". To achieve this objective a training module on work related stress has been developed which will be integrated into the various training schedules planned for the safety community, for the year 2007. In addition, the information center offers a range of "on site" activities on this subject for managers and employees. To carry out this task new lecturers have been selected and added to the lecturers pool. To supplement this activity the Institute's safety instructors will get a specialized training on the work related stress to promulgate the awareness and to assist in understanding of the issues involved at the plants they visit.
- In addition, the information center carried out activities on the subject in various other channels:
  1. in continuing its ongoing search and publishing of new data and findings relating to the issues of coping with the work related stress;
  2. participating in the preparation of guidelines dedicated to advancing the principles of the occupational safety and health management systems;

3. publishing an information brochure on different stages in the process of hazard assessment of work related stress, based on the occupational safety and health management systems methodology.
  4. An information paper giving examples of the ways of handling various causes for the work related pressure will be published shortly.
- The information center published information regarding the human factor in safety, in general, the work related stress, in particular, through various means of media at the disposal of the Institute (the Institute's internet site, brochures, posters, bi-monthly "Safety" periodical, etc.) or outside it - channeling the information through means available to other public bodies in Israel.
  - In order to assist various economy sectors in coping with daily work related stress, f.e. construction and farming sectors, we have provided information adopted to the needs of a specific sector, with the intention to widen the range of sectors which we intend to assist through provision of specific and sector tailored information regarding the work related stress and the human factor.
  - The information center continues creation and maintaining of up-to-date professional library dedicated to the human factor in safety.
  - We aim at intensifying our activities carried out at workplaces so that we could provide practical and specific assistance to the administrative and safety managements in handling the safety and health issues connected with the work related stress.

### **Multimodal transport of dangerous goods**

The IIOSH information centre is a major source of information on all aspects of the transport of dangerous goods in all modes. Since the preparation of the dangerous goods shipments, being an intrinsic part of the workplace processes, is normally carried out at the premises of the plants, the transport of dangerous goods is treated by the Institute as a very important occupational safety subject in industry.

Following are some of the major subjects pertaining to the multimodal transport of dangerous goods dealt with in 2005:

- Consultation and provision of required information, including regulatory updates around the world, to various governmental offices, such as Environmental, Interior, Transport and to the emergency services. Some of the advisory activity is provided as a background for the current or future legislation processes. Obtaining new professional literature in the field and updating the existing sources (printed and electronic).
- Provision of support to the workplace staff involved in the transport of dangerous goods through assistance on the classification, selection of suitable packagings, the rules of packing, shipment documentation, and the like.

- Providing active professional support to the Institute's training department and participating in actual basic and refresher training of the industrial and transport sectors relevant staff.
- A pilot project on the preparation and publishing of the instructions in writing to the drivers carrying dangerous goods compliant with the format and contents required by the relevant Israeli legislation. The individual instructions in writing are prepared in easy to understand and use layout suitable not only for the use on the roads but also for the dangerous goods movement within the premises of the industrial enterprises.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene dedicates continuous efforts to identify and assist the enterprises lacking adequate safety standards. These efforts find their expression in various types of the Institute's activity and special projects, such as:

### **The Implementation of a self sufficient occupational safety system in some 1000 small and medium sized workplaces.**

This project has been approved for 3 year duration, with a dedicated task force of 6 instructors. The project will embrace small and medium sized industrial, communication and other high occupational hazard profile workplaces spread throughout the country and employing up to 100 employees. The innovative feature of this project is the intention to provide the workplaces with tools and instruction that will enable them to carry out autonomous occupational safety management, in addition to the Institute's instructors assistance in detecting the hazards.

#### **The project's aims:**

(a) The system assimilation will be carried in 2 stages:

- (1) Carrying out a safety self check using a template for carrying out self checks developed previously in a dedicated project.
- (2) Actual implementation process which contains the components for the safety management to be used by the plant's executive authorities, within and beyond the time frame of the project.

(b) Occupational safety promotion in the involved workplaces to be achieved through:

- (1) hazards assessment together with relevant recommendations provided by the Institute's instructors.
- (2) follow up on the adherence to the recommendations provided.

At present the pilot project is being carried out at 24 workplaces and a search for additional participants is being continued.

## **The Development of two educational software modules for the mobile training units and the upgrade of the existing ones.**

### 1. The project description:

The educational computer software programs were developed for the four Institute's mobile training units for construction and industry applications, each in a number of languages.

(a) for the industrial applications: the following subjects were selected: manual handling of loads; safety in operating dangerous appliances and their protection; safety in using tools and lifting devices; fire safety. The software is being developed in the Hebrew and the Russian languages.

(b) for the construction applications: the training software is being developed in the Russian, Romania, Arabic and Turkish to focus on the following subjects: protection from the height related falls; scaffolding; digging and the soil works connected to construction site preparation; electrical works; exposure to silica dust.

(c) an upgrade of the existing educational software modules to suit "Windows" environment.

(d) the development of a dedicated "management system" of all existing subject modules to ensure optimal suitability of the educational modules to the needs of the trainees.

### 2. The current year progress:

(a) Two film scripts dedicated to subjects in industry and construction were written.

(b) A tender for the software modules developing and upgrading has been released.

## **Translation and adaptation of the technical info sheets prepared by the International Labour Organization Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS).**

a) The project deal with translation and adaptation of some 161 technical info sheets prepared in the format of "good practice" rules and summed up as sets of "dos" and "don'ts".

b) The source for the info sheets is a dossier prepared under the initiative of the ILO CIS. The info sheets are devised in the language optimally compatible with the needs of the users.

c) The info sheets prepared by the Institute have been published in several languages, spoken by the native population, as well as foreign workers: Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian - to ensure maximum exposure of the relevant work sectors to the information presented in the info sheets.

## **Preparation of Guidelines on Occupational Safety for the work contractors.**

Within the scope of this project the Occupational Safety and Hygiene Guidelines for the work contractors will be that will target two groups:

a) The Guidelines for the industrial projects entrepreneurs.

The Guidelines will offer the practical management tools to ensure the safety at all work sites involved and for the whole duration of a specific project. The Guidelines will be subdivided on the basic of the projects scale and their unique features.

b) The Guidelines for the work contractors.

This document will guide the contractors at different levels how to set up and run the safety management system and how to implement safety programs for a given project. The Guidelines will refer the contractor to the technical tools which will assist him to implement the safety requirements set by the entrepreneur for compliance. The initial draft of the Guidelines have been completed by the end of 2005.

**Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems -the Competent Institute.**

The Competent Institute has been established at the Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene in 2005 to promote the implementation of the occupational safety and health management systems in accordance with the ILO Guidelines. It is headed by the steering committee made up of representatives of various public institutions and government offices.

In the framework of the Competent Institute activities the first scientific conference on the occupational safety and health management systems was arranged and took place on the 5 May 2005. This, first of its kind, event in the Israel's occupational safety record brought together for the first time safety and health professionals, scientists and regulators and created a unique venue to exchange views, ideas, activities, raising professional questions and presenting research findings - all with the purpose of intensifying the awareness and anchoring the importance of the occupational safety and health management systems in the Israel's economy.

In the presence of some 160 stakeholders a community statement was signed by Dr. Jukka Takala, , the director of In Focus Programme on Safe Work, International Labour Organization and by high ranking representatives of the Israel government and the safety community. The statement represents the commitment of the people signing it:

- to act for promotion of the occupational safety and health management systems in various sectors in Israel through the adjustment of the ILO guidelines to the needs of Israel's economy;
- to initiate collaborative projects with international organizations and ILO member countries aimed at the development and implementation of occupational safety and health management systems;
- to advance collaboration with ILO in the field of the occupational safety and health in order to minimize work accidents and workers' exposure to health risks.

This event has received attention in Israeli media and on ILO internet site

## **GSH implementation.**

The Institute continues the joint multistage activity with the Environmental and Industry, Trade and Labor Ministries on the possible modes, means and methods of the GHS implementation in Israel by identifying the currently existing national legislation and standards which for evaluation of the degree of amendments that have to be carried out to enable the implementation relevant GHS principles in Israel.

## **The Israeli standard 2302 implementation.**

The section 1 of the above standard which deals with the classification, packaging, marking and labeling of the dangerous goods for the industrial supply and house applications, has recently gone through some of the major amendments following its harmonization with the major European directives in this field: 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC. Due to its utmost importance for the Israeli supply chain the Institute actively participates in its implementation through joint activity with the relevant governmental agencies, mainly though advisory, explanatory and training actions and events and provision of information.

## **IIOSH web activities, 2005**

Over the year 2005, IIOSH continued to enhance and enlarge its web presence and Internet-based activities.

- A new monthly e-newsletter was started, with a subscriber list of over 1,700.
- Several new sections were added to the main IIOSH site [www.osh.org.il](http://www.osh.org.il):
  - Construction Safety – towards the International Work Safety Day;
  - Ergonomics and Human Factor – based on CCOHS OSH Answers translated into Hebrew;
  - Noise and Hearing Protection – selected online publications;
  - Self-Auditing tools for OSH Management.
- The full-text online library was augmented to 840 publications.
- The site was being updated on a daily basis: over the year, 253 news items and 126 weekly OSH FAQ's were published.
- The IIOSH web forum continued to serve the country's OSH community as its main communication channel, with almost 13,000 posts in 2005.
- The main site's usability was boosted by adding a Google-based search and improved navigation tools.