

“Health and Safety at Work”



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

**Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions,
Adaptation to change**

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Unit F4 “Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work”

“Health and Safety at Work”



***“ Improving quality and
productivity at work ”***

***Community Strategy
2007 – 2012
on Health and Safety at
Work***

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Main conclusions of the previous Health and Safety Strategy 2002-2006 :

- *2002-2006 Strategy has re-launched prevention policies at national level.*
- *Presented coherent and convincing arguments in favour of a partnership to achieve common objectives.*
- *Obligated interested parties in the prevention field to give strategic consideration to how these objectives might be attained.*
- *It has raised public awareness of the importance of health and safety at work by presenting them as integral parts of quality management.*

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Under the Lisbon strategy, the Member States have acknowledged that :

- *Guaranteeing quality and productivity at work can provide a major contribution in promoting economic growth and employment.*
- *The lack of effective protection to ensure health and safety at work can result in absenteeism, in the wake of workplace accidents and occupational illnesses, and can lead to permanent occupational disability.*
- *This not only has a considerable human dimension but also has a major negative impact on the economy.*

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The evaluation of the Community strategy 2002-2006 shows a significant improvement of the level of the protection of workers :

- *The rate of fatal accidents at work in the EU-15 has fallen by 17% (period 2000-2004).*
- *The rate of workplace accidents leading to absences of more than three days has fallen by 20% (period 2000-2004).*

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The latest results of the fourth European survey of working conditions :

- *Almost 28% of workers in Europe say that they suffer from non-accidental health problems which are or may be caused by their current or previous job.*
- *35% of workers on average feel that their job puts their health at risk.*
- *Moreover, occupational hazards are not being reduced in a uniform way :*
 - *some categories of workers are still overexposed to occupational risks*
 - *certain types of enterprises are more vulnerable*
 - *certain sectors are still particularly dangerous*

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Challenges identified during the previous period, continue to grow in importance :

- *Demographic change and the ageing of the working population*
- *New employment trends
(increase in self-employed, outsourcing and SMEs)*
- *New and larger flows of migrants*
- *Increasing number of women at work*
- *Certain types of occupational illnesses becoming more common*
- *The nature of occupational hazards changes with the innovation, emerging new risk factors*

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Objective of the Community strategy 2007-2012 at EU-27 level :

- ***Sustainable and uniform reduction in accidents at work and occupational illnesses continues to be the prime objective***
- ***Objective of reduction in 25% of the total incidence rate of accidents at work***

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To achieve this ambitious goal, the following main instruments are proposed :

- *Guarantee the proper implementation of EU legislation*
- *Support SMEs in the implementation of the legislation in force*
- *Adapt the legal framework to changes in the workplace and simplify it, particularly in view of SMEs*
- *Promote the development and implementation of national strategies*
- *Encourage changes in the behaviour of workers and encourage their employers to adopt health-focused approaches*
- *Finalise the methods for identifying and evaluating new potential risks*
- *Improve the monitoring of progress*
- *Promote health and safety at international level*

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Construction Sector Dimension

- *Where does the Construction Sector fit into this picture?*
- *Affected in the same way as all other employment sectors.*
- *Community Strategy Implementation – Member States to issue National strategies involving all actors including social partners, role of the Safety and Health Advisory Committee (Action Programme) and the Senior Labour Inspectorates Committee.*
- ***What specific actions are foreseen for the Construction Sector?***
- *Key issues will be:*
- *report on implementation of “Construction Directive”92/57/EEC, and*
- *development of sector specific non-binding guidance by the Commission services (EMPL F4) with the close collaboration of the ACSH.*

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Construction Sector Dimension

Report from the Commission to the other Institutions on the practical implementation of the Construction Directive 92/57/EEC.

To review the practical implementation of the Directive on the basis of the individual national reports and the outcome of an independent external study commissioned by DG EMPL, the results of the SLIC construction campaigns and the experience of the Commission services (EMPL F4).

A final draft of the document was presented informally to the ACSH Bureau at its meeting on 21 February 2008.

To be submitted to Inter-Service Consultation within the Commission services to enable interested DGs to comment.

Adoption by the Commission expected by summer 2008.

This will encourage an open debate on this important topic.

At an early stage of this process the need for guidance was identified.

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Construction Sector Dimension - Guidance

Guidance on the practical implementation of the Directive 92/57/EEC.

To be developed by the Commission services in collaboration with a Working Group of the ACSH – MSs, Employers, Employees, and invited independent experts coming from different areas such as architects, designers, coordinators, consultants engineers, representatives from bigger and small construction companies at EU level, etc.

Decision to develop new guidance targeted to a broader audience:

For example: client, architect, designers, SMEs in construction Sector, contractors, property owners.

To present practical messages on key concepts.

The goal of this Non-binding guide is to help a better practical implementation of the 92/57/EEC Directive and in particular to help main actors/players in this field in the preparation of the « Safety and health plan – risk assessment » and to take appropriate prevention measures to reduce accidents and occupational diseases.

The draft guidance will be tested in three different typical construction scenarios.

The final draft version is expected by end of 2009, thereafter it will be published.

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Construction Sector Dimension-Guidance

Some of the key concepts that may be addressed by the guidance include:

At the design state - accident and ill-health prevention during the construction and use phases.

Address the complexity of the construction sector where multiple employers/self-employed and consequently workers may work on various stages of the same project – often at the same time.

Reflect on what happens once the job is complete – appropriate file containing relevant safety and health information to be taken into account during any subsequent works to ensure continued knowledge of important health and safety aspects - to facilitate future building work, alterations etc.

Training of persons at all levels within the “construction sector” (in its broadest sense).

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Conclusion:

The new OSH Strategy contains some actions specific to the Construction Sector that will be taken forward by the Commission working with the MSs and Social Partners.

However:

There are many aspects of the strategy that will apply to all employment sectors, including the construction sector.

The Construction Directive is one daughter Directive of the Framework Directive - the other Directives will apply where the risk is present in the workplace –chemicals, noise, vibration, use of work equipment, including for work at height, use of PPE etc.

Guidance on Directive 2001/45/EC Work at Heights – the text is complete and it will be published in near future.

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***Thanks for
your attention***

DG EMPL F/4