

Newsletter

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

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Apr. 2014



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KOSHA held a meeting with 17 private accident prevention organizations in southern Gyeonggi-do

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Opening of Working-level Meeting

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Comprehensive Countermeasures of In-depth Technical Assistance for Industrial Sites

KOSHA held a meeting with 17 private accident prevention organizations in southern Gyeonggi-do

April 7, 2014

Discuss “supporting weekend construction sites” and “quick sharing of accident information”, etc.

KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) held a meeting on Friday, 21 March to discuss comprehensive accident preventive countermeasures in the safety, chemistry, health care, construction, and service sectors with 17 private accident prevention organizations at the Gyeonggi R&DB center in Suwon-si.




KOSHA held a meeting with 17 private accident prevention organizations in southern Gyeonggi-do

More than 1.15 million employees work in about 125,000 workplaces in the area of southern Gyeonggi-do. Preparing measures, therefore, is required for supporting large construction sites; managing harmful and hazardous factors at the businesses handling chemical substances; preventing accidents in the service industry; and protecting workers from musculoskeletal disorders in the automobile manufacturing industry.

At the meeting, comprehensive countermeasures were debated on enforcing the accident prevention activities such as fatal accident prevention for 6 cities in the southern area of Gyeonggi-do.

The discussion was mainly about enhancing support for weekend construction sites where people work on the weekend when management and supervision are often neglected; sharing accident information with partners; expanding financial support for small-sized workplaces to have special health checkup; and providing data on preventing suffocation accidents in confined spaces.

KOSHA called on the organizations to actively review and support the content and result of discussion. In addition, the agency asked the efforts of the organizations to properly settle down the risk assessment, a self-regulatory safety management system and the accident prevention rating system which reduces industrial accident insurance premium for manufacturing workplaces with 50 employees or less. 

Opening of Working-level Meeting of Safety and Health Leader Group in the Shipbuilding Industry


For the purpose of eradicating fatal accidents in the shipbuilding industries which occur in succession recently

April 11, 2014

Working-level officials of "Shipbuilding Safety and Health Leader Group" met to find out measures to eradicate fatal accidents—have occurred in succession recently—in the shipbuilding industry.

KOSHA (President Baek Hun-ki) held "Working-level Meeting of Safety and Health Leader Group in the Shipbuilding Industry" with heads of safety and health department from the top 10 Korean shipbuilding companies and officials from the Ministry of Employment and Labor, etc. on Friday, April 11 at Glory Condominium in Busan.

"Safety and Health Leader Group in the Shipbuilding Industry" consists of CEOs in major shipbuilding businesses in Korea, the Minister of Employment and Labor, the President of KOSHA, etc. Since its launch in 2010, the group has put occupational safety and health into the management principal of CEOs as one of the top priorities through regular meetings. The group has also played a leading role in enforcing self-regulatory occupational safety and health activities of labour and management.

The working-level meeting was held to find measures to eradicate fatal injuries in the shipbuilding industries, which is rising lately. In addition, the meeting was an opportunity to share the cases and countermeasures of fatal accidents and reaffirm the determination to fulfill safety and health activities. 

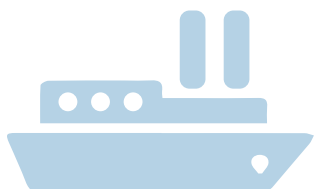


Overview of the meeting

13:30-16:00, Friday, April 11, 2014

Glory Condominium in Busan

Director of Occupational Safety Department from KOSHA, Officials from MOEL, Heads of Occupational Safety Department from top 10 shipbuilding companies (Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.; Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME); Samsung Heavy Industries; Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.; Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction; Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co., Ltd.; STX Offshore & Shipbuilding; Daesun Shipbuilding & Engineering; Sungdong; SPP Shipbuilding)



Reduce a Blind Spot about Asbestos Disposal and Removal

Technical assistance, training, and consulting for 5,000 small demolition sites removing asbestos of 800m² or less by the end of 2014

March 17, 2014

The endeavor to protect the health of workers from asbestos, a carcinogen known as its infamous name “a silent killer”, is accelerated. KOSHA (headed by President Baek Hun-ki) will provide technical assistance, training, and consulting for small scale demolition sites disposing and removing asbestos.


It is hard for the small demolition sites (the total size of asbestos to be removed is 800 square meters or less) to have systematic safety and health measures because of short construction period and insufficient construction expenses. In response to this, KOSHA hired workers experienced in safety and health management and specialists with high experience of asbestos abatement to support 5,000 small scale asbestos removal sites nationwide from March by the end of 2014.

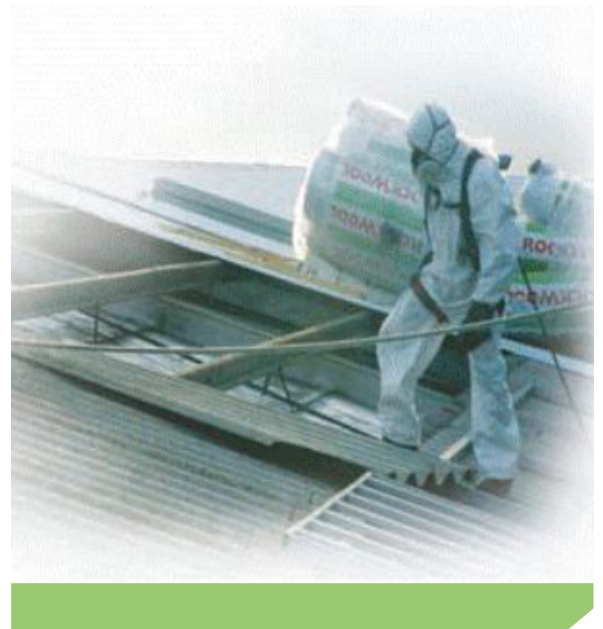
The specialists will have professional education related to specific workplaces to assist industrial sites more efficient way. On-site consulting will be also provided on whether a workplace is following the safety regulations such as wearing personal protective gears and the standard of working process such as encasement or encapsulation.

KOSHA will provide technical assistance if problems can be easily improved at a site. If a workplace does not follow the legal standard or has high risk of asbestos exposure, KOSHA will ask administrative measures from the local authorities.

In addition, KOSHA posted a list of registered companies, which provide asbestos disposal and removal services received a rating of “excellent” for the safety assessment, on the website of KOSHA and the Ministry of Employment and Labor. It is also expected to secure the safety of the companies and to improve their technical standard.

The number of workers who are diagnosed with asbestos-related occupational diseases decreased by 4 from 23 in 2011 to 19 in 2012. The number of deaths, however, increased by 2 from 13 in 2011 to 15 in 2012.

An official of KOSHA said “Asbestos removal workers who are directly exposed to asbestos must wear protective gears such as protective clothing or dust respirators.” and added “Asbestos removal should be accomplished through encasement or encapsulation to prevent the release of asbestos into the air.” 



The 1000th authorized workplaces on Risk Assessment

KOSHA granted the 1000th certification of authorized workplaces on risk assessment.

March 24, 2014



Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA(right) and a highly contributed staff member of IS Auto Inc(left).


President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA granted the 1000th certification of authorized workplaces on risk assessment to IS Auto Inc., an automobile components manufacturer, on March 8th, 2014.

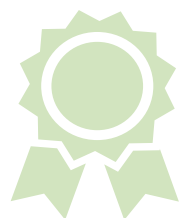
IS Auto Inc. adopted the risk assessment system in 2013. Since then, the company has identified the harm and risk factors and improved the problems consistently by organizing a dedicated group.

As a result, the company earned the glory of becoming the 1000th authorized workplaces on risk assessment as well as will receive exemption on the industrial accident insurance—about USD 19,000—during the term of validity (for 3 years).

The risk assessment system is a strategy of industrial accident prevention through which the owners of workplaces identify harm and hazard factors at their workplaces and then improve the factors in systematic manner.

Korean government endeavors to activate the risk assessment system for small workplaces with less than 100 full-time workers (in case of construction work, with total construction amount of KRW 12 billion). For this, the government offers various incentives including exemption on the industrial accident insurance to businesses which adopt the risk assessment system and become authorized workplaces.

After implementing the risk assessment, the accident rate of authorized workplaces decrease by 17.6% year on year. 



Cooperative labor-management relations reduces occupational accidents

OSHRI announces a study 「Labor-Management Cooperation and Occupational Accidents」 More reliable and cooperative relations of labor-management lower the accident rate

April 9, 2014

A study showed that reliable and cooperative relations between the labor and management contribute to reducing the rate of occupational accidents.

Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI), an affiliated organization of KOSHA headed by president Baek Hun-ki, conducted a study on the labor-management relations and their effects on occupational accidents through 「Labor-Management Cooperation and Occupational Accidents」

Accident rate according to the labor-management relations (manufacturing and construction industries)

Accident rate by industry		the labor-management relations		
		Reliable, cooperative	Unreliable, uncooperative	Difference
Accident rate (%)	Manufacturing	0.65%	1.19%	0.54%p
	Construction	0.53%	1.72%	1.19%p

Level of accident prevention activities by level of labor-management cooperation (manufacturing and construction industries)

Average level of the activities/Industry		Level of labor-management cooperation		
		High	Middle	Low
Average level of accident prevention activities (On a scale of 1 to 5)	Manufacturing	3.86	3.47	3.05
	Construction	4.12	3.61	3.28

According to the study, a business which is reliable and cooperative when it comes to the labor-management relations shows lower rate of occupational accidents than one which is not. The difference of the accident rate in the manufacturing industry is 0.54%p and 1.19%p in the construction industry.

In addition, research and analysis on “the correlation of accident prevention activities and labor-management relations” and “the correlation of safety and health management system and accident rate” were conducted in the study.

When it comes to “the correlation of accident prevention activities and the labor-management relations,” researchers scored the cooperation level of labor-management relations on a scale of 1 to 5 and studied on what impact does the relations have on accident prevention activities. To figure out “the correlation of safety and health management system and accident rate,” they analyzed the impact of safety and health activities performed by management class on occupational accident rate.

In terms of “the correlation of accident prevention activities and the labor-management relations,” a manufacturing business with high level of labor-management cooperation shows high level of accident prevention activities (3.86). In contrast, another business with low level of labor-management cooperation shows low level of accident prevention activities (3.05). Same goes for the construction industry proving that the more cooperative labor-management relations are, the higher level of safety and health activities is.

Cooperative labor-management relations reduces occupational accidents

The level of labor-management cooperation includes presentation and acceptance of opinions, reliability, and how much do the labor and management cooperate each other.

On the other hand, researchers analyzed how much do the safety and health activities affect occupational accidents targeting the businesses where accidents occurred, to figure out "the correlation of safety and health management system and accident rate."

"Safety and health management" refers to systematic OSH activities reflecting the issues of OSH in the business activities. According to the study, the average accident rate of the group which is the highest in safety and health management activities is 3.36% and 4.96% in the manufacturing and construction industries respectively. Those figures are less than half of the accident rate of the group which is the lowest in the activities.

OSHRI found in their study, 「Labor Management Cooperation and Occupational Accidents」, that the more cooperative the labor and management relations are, the higher the accident prevention activities are. Active accident prevention activities of employers also reduce the accident rate.


Correlations between accident rate and safety and health management activities (manufacturing and construction industries)

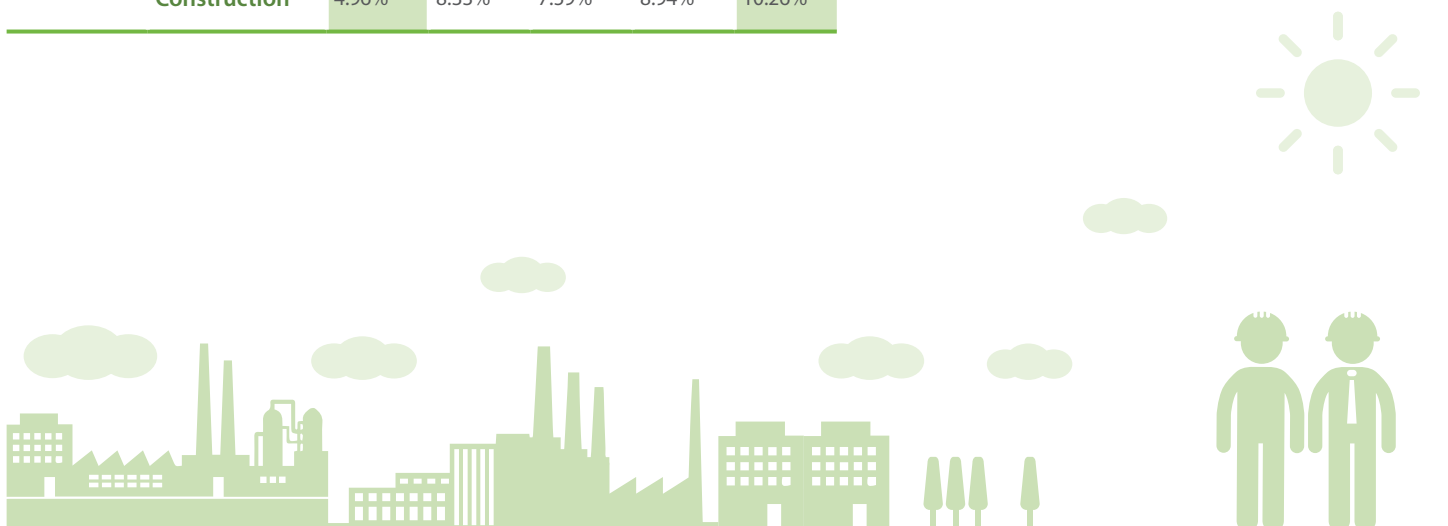
Average accident rate /Industry		Safety and health management activities				
		Very high	High	Middle	Low	Very low
Average rate of accident	Manufacturing	3.36%	4.72%	5.48%	5.09%	6.94%
	Construction	4.96%	8.33%	7.59%	8.94%	10.26%

In line with this, researchers cited various foreign accident cases in the study. They are: the accident prevention activities of trade union in chemicals factories in Europe and the United Automobile Workers (UAW) in the U.S.; and the active occupational accident activities of trade unions in the Japanese National Railways, the supermarket industry, and electric device manufacturing factories.

In the study, analyses were carried out targeting 3,000 manufacturing workplaces and 1,000 construction workplaces based on the report from 「the trend of occupational safety and health (OSH)」 which had been conducted for 3 months from June to September of 2012.

For more detailed information, visit the website of OSHRI (<http://oshri.kosha.or.kr>) and search "occupational accidents" in the search box of Research Project.

Dr. Jo Heum-hak, a senior researcher of the study from OSHRI said, "This study which is almost the first of its kind in Korea will suggest the correlation between the trade union and OSH activities." He added, "I'm positive this study will prove that how actively workers participate in the OSH activities can contribute to reducing the occupational accidents." 



Gwangju City, ready to become a safer place

KOSHA and Gwangju City signed an MOU for industrial accident prevention technical assistance in hazardous process, etc.

March 18, 2014


With KOSHA's technical assistance of accident prevention and the administrative power of Gwangju City at the center, the MOU has concluded to prevent fatal industrial accidents. The MOU will also contribute to gaining a foothold for making Gwangju a safer city through a safety culture movement.

With the MOU signed KOSHA and the city would focus on initiatives as below:

- Technical assistance in hazardous process at industrial sites ordered or authorized by the city;
- Safety inspections during thawing or raining seasons;
- Cooperation in checking and verifying the harm and hazard prevention plan of workplaces;
- Safety training for workers in the waste disposal businesses (both direct and third party agencies) in the area of Gwangju City, Gyeonggi-do; ▽ Rental service of protective equipment for working in confined space such as manholes or sewage disposal facilities;
- Joint response system to prevent fatal accidents at high-risk construction sites or distribution centers;
- Supporting safety culture movement of private organizations; and National campaigns for accident prevention

Nowadays, there are about 100,000 workers in around 15,000 workplaces in Gwangju, Gyeonggi-do. About 1,000 workers suffered from occupational illnesses last year alone.

In this context, KOSHA is putting its effort to concentrate the capabilities of safety and health to prevent industrial accidents. As of today, KOSHA has concluded the MOUs with about 330 organizations and agencies including 64 local governments, 62 workplaces, 108 private organizations, etc.

President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA said, "It is expected that the MOU will reduce industrial accidents by widening the scope of KOSHA's technical assistance." He added, "It will also contribute to laying a foundation for Gwangju to become a safer city." 

Overview of the MOU for industrial accident prevention



KOSHA (President Baek Hun-ki(left)) signed an MOU with Gwangju City (Mayor Jo Eok-dong) to jointly prevent industrial accidents on Thursday, March 13 at the city hall.

Date :
11:00 AM-, Thursday, March 13, 2014

Venue :
Briefing Room of Gwangju City hall
(50 Haengjeongtaun-ro, Gwangju-si, Gyeonggi-do)

Participants :
KOSHA President Baek Hun-ki, Gwangju City Major Jo Eok-dong and other persons concerned



KOSHA cooperate to build A City of Safety

KOSHA and Namyangju-si signed an MOU for occupational accident prevention

April 8, 2014

Securing safety at workplace and raising civic awareness on a safety culture

KOSHA (headed by President Baek, Hun-ki) leads to build a safe city in cooperation with a local government.

Baek Hun-ki, President of KOSHA, and Lee Seok-woo, Mayor of Namyangju-si, signed an MOU and confirmed their determination to cooperate on Tuesday, April 8.

The MOU aims to secure the safety at workplaces ordered by local governments and spread a safety culture by raising civic awareness on the safety.

As signing MOUs, KOSHA and Namyangju-si will cooperate and collaborate to prevent occupational accidents from construction sites ordered or permitted by the city; confined workspaces such as wastewater purification/disposal facilities; cleaning and waste disposal companies; construction sites building manufacturing facilities.


For construction sites, technical support on safety and intensive safety inspection during certain seasons like the rainy season will be implemented. For those who work within confined spaces, safety educational training and safety equipment will be provided.

Cleaning and waste disposal companies will be informed details of a KOSHA's financial support program to improve working environment. For securing fundamental safety, the manufacturing industry will be applied stricter standard as KOSHA will defer granting a certification of harm and hazard prevention plan to disqualified workplaces when they construct facilities.

In the event of a large-scale accident happens, the two will work together to deal with the accident. In addition, KOSHA and Namyangju-si will collaborate to conduct campaigns for promoting a safety culture and raising safety awareness for the happiness of people.

In Namyangju-si, more than 100,000 workers are working at about 18,000 workplaces. Occupational accidents in this area mainly arise from construction sites and public service workplaces.

As of now, KOSHA has signed MOUs with 66 local governments and agencies nationwide and accumulating capabilities for national accident prevention.

President Baek Hun-ki of KOSHA said "Recently, building a safe city draws interest of local governments which is an encouraging sign." He added, "KOSHA will spare no effort to support workers for their more decent and better working conditions." 



Baek Hun-ki(Right), President of KOSHA, and Lee Seok-woo, Mayor of Namyangju-si, signed an MOU and confirmed their determination to cooperate on Tuesday, April 8.

