

KOSHA

To Prevent Foreign Workers Under the EPS from Occupational Accidents

KOSHA Signed the Agreement with the Korea Support Center for Foreign Workers

Reducing occupational accidents of foreign workers by establishing a cooperative system in safety & health

- The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (hereinafter referred to as 'the agency' or 'KOSHA') signed the agreement with the 9 major Korea Support Centers for Foreign Workers* (hereinafter referred to as 'the major centers') in June 2023. This is to prevent foreign workers under the Employment Permit System (EPS) from occupational accidents.

* The major centers provide counseling to employers as well as foreign workers under the EPS who suffer from cultural differences and language barriers, and comprehensive support services for foreign workers such as Korean classes, legal advice for daily life and ICT training. With the financial support of the Ministry of Employment and Labor, there are centers in Seoul, Uijeongbu, Gimhae, Changwon, Incheon, Daegu, Cheonan, Gwanju and Yangsan, South Korea, in operation.

- As of 2023, the number of new foreign workers entering South Korea reached 110,000. The Korean government has separately set the quota for 5,000 workers in the area where there is a lot of the reported dangerous work that is labor intensive such as shipbuilding, which illustrates that there should be more preventive efforts to prevent foreign workers under the EPS from occupational accidents.

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- Against this backdrop, KOSHA decided to sign such an agreement as a part of the 'Roadmap to Zero Workplace Fatality' established by the Ministry of Employment and Labor on November 30, 2022, in order to prevent foreign workers under the EPS from occupational accidents.
- This agreement will establish an active cooperative system between KOSHA and the major centers for activities* to prevent foreign workers under the EPS from occupational accidents.

* Including carrying out safety and health training, promoting activities to spread safety culture, joint development & distribution of safety and health content, capability building through safety and health training at the major centers, etc.

- KOSHA supports professional instructors for training, safety and health content and VR hands-on training, while the major centers support KOSHA to get involved in safety and health training for foreign workers under the EPS, counseling and various events. Also, there will be regular meetings planned to share information on safety and health and strengthen the cooperation between the organizations.
- Meanwhile, KOSHA's Gyeongnam Regional office and Changwon Center provided two rounds of the VR safety training on Sunday, June 18, 2023. One hundred foreign workers went through the VR safety training such as forklift accidents, suffocation accidents in confined spaces and jamming near conveyors.

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- Indrer (Nepal, 27) participated in the VR safety training and said, "The video felt realistic and fun. It helped me understand the concept of safety and I got to learn how important safety is. I want to introduce this training to my friends."
- KOSHA will take more active measures to reduce occupational accidents of foreign workers under the EPS by constantly delivering safety and health information to those workers and their employers through active cooperation with the major centers that are equipped with the nationwide network and resources to promote interests and commitments in preventing occupational accidents.

