- **OSH Statistics**

  - As of the end of September, occupational accident rate is 0.61%, down 0.06% over the same period in the previous year

    The occupational accident that showed a sharp increase last year has been tending downwards since the beginning of this year until September.

    According to the ´current status of occupational accident occurrence as of the end of September in 2004´ recently published by the Ministry of Labor, as of September in 2004, the occupational accident rate has decreased from 0.67% to 0.61%, down 0.06% over the same period in the previous year.

    The number of accident victims has decreased from 69,960 persons to 65,086 persons, down 4874 persons (7.0%) over the same period in the previous year. The death toll has decreased from 2154 persons to 2050 persons, down 104 persons (4.8%) over the same period in the previous year; however, approximately 7 workers still lose their lives in the workplace every day.

    In terms of types of industry, the number of accident victims in the manufacturing industry was 27,539 persons, the highest percentage (42%) of the total, followed by the construction industry with 13,955 persons (21%). The number of accident victims and accident rate decreased in all types of industry except the mining industry over the same period in the previous year.

    In terms of size of workplace, the number of accident victims, accident rate, and the death toll in workplaces with less than 50 employees are 44,293 persons, 68.1% of the total, and 1,118 persons (54.5%) respectively; especially, those in workplaces with less than 5 employees are 14,095 persons, 21.7% of the total, and 348 persons (17.0%) respectively.

    Except workplaces with more than 1,000 employees where the number of accident victims and the death toll increased by 501 persons and 15 persons respectively over the same period in the previous year, the number of accident victims and the death toll in most of types of industry decreased.

    In the meantime, for accident reduction, the Ministry of Labor is keeping a tight rein on workplaces whose safety management is poor by making the nationwide inspection of workplaces jointly with the prosecution for one month starting on November 15.

    (Daily Safety News ,November 15, 2004)

- **Main OSH Policy**

- Dump trucks are to be equipped with a speed limiting device; the Act will be revised in the first half of the next year

  The Ministry of Construction & Transportation will oblige a speed limiting device to be mounted on dump trucks and ready-mixed concrete trucks, etc. registered as ´construction machinery´ starting in the first half of the next year.

  On October 20, the Ministry said, the Enforcement Regulations of the Construction Machinery Management Act will be revised so that a speed limiting device must be mounted on the construction machinery, in the first half of the next year.

  Currently, dump trucks and ready-mixed concrete trucks are obligated to be equipped with a tachograph or a speed limiting device for the prevention of safety-related accidents; however, the Ministry judged that such optional provisions are not enough for the prevention of traffic accidents and decided that a speed limiting device shall be mounted on the construction machinery.

  Most of dump trucks, etc. currently in service are equipped with a tachgraph instead of a speed limiting device; however, in many cases, even vehicles equipped with a tachograph do not have it function normally, obtaining almost no results of prevention of safety-related accidents. The current regulations prescribe only the obligation to be equipped with a tachograph; there is no legal basis prescribing punishment for the violation of obligation to have it function normally so that many vehicles do not have a tachograph function normally.

  Accordingly, the Ministry is examining technical matters, etc. for installing a speed limiting device under the policy that the construction machinery shall be equipped with a speed limiting device regardless of whether or not it is equipped with a tachograph.

  (Daily Safety News, October 21, 2004)

- To establish a fire safety trainer´s qualification system for children's early safety training; the children's fire safety training is to be included in a regular curriculum

  For children´s early safety training, a fire safety trainer´s qualification system will be established, and a safety instructor per elementary school will be designated, and fire safety training manuals and guidelines will be developed.

  On December 9, the National Emergency Management Agency said, for prevention of children´s safety-related accidents and for enhancing early safety awareness, a comprehensive early safety training system including introduction of a fire safety trainer´s qualification system, etc. will be promoted.

  The Agency plans to focus on fostering fire safety trainers in 5 fire schools throughout the country by establishing a team specializing in safety training in each of 158 fire stations in the nation or designating training personnel therein and, in the long term, to qualify those who have specialized in fire training and those who have completed the fire science course among eligible persons

related to education.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development, the Agency will designate and operate a safety instructor and a person in charge of safety training for each elementary school, and develop and supply fire safety training manuals/ guidelines and training equipment/ materials; in the long term, they plan to include the children´s fire safety training in a regular curriculum under the guidance of a teacher specializing in safety.

(Daily Safety News, December 10,2004)

- **Update in KOREA**
  - Chemical substances discharged from articles for daily use are more than those discharged from industries

It was learned that chemical substances discharged from articles for daily use such as cars, agricultural medicines, and household goods, etc. are 3.7 times greater than those discharged from industries.

According to a study conducted and announced on October 1 by the Ministry of Education on the efflux of chemical substances in the distribution/ consumption phases of 9 fields including cars, painting-related work, agricultural medicines, and household goods, etc., chemical substances discharged in the distribution/ consumption phases during 2002 total to 142,500 tons.

The largest amount of chemical substances was discharged from cars, followed by painting-related work and agricultural medicines as follows: 60,300 tons (42.3%), 57,200 tons (40.2%), and 9,500 tons (6.7%). 138,200 tons, 99.6% of the total efflux were discharged into the air, and the remaining 4,300 tons were discharged into soil.

5 kinds of volatile organic compound such as toluene, xylene, ethylene, acetylene, and ethyl acetate account for 60% of the total efflux;and in household goods, a lot of 2-propanol used for solvents for skin protective chemicals, glass and carpet cleaning chemicals, and textile softeners were discharged.

An official at the Ministry of Education said, "in the case of some discharge sources, there are limitations for lack of basic statistical data, but the actual state of chemical substances discharged

from cars, agricultural medicines, and household goods, etc. discharged into the environment in the distribution/ consumption phases can become identified", pointing out that "consumers should be aware of the fact that chemical substancesdischarged from daily necessaries are more than those from industries and change their consumption patterns".

(Daily Safety News, October 20, 2004)

- A seminar on technology trends of textile materials for protective clothes is held for interchange of international information

  In line with the fact that chemical protective clothes will be included in items requiring official approval and certification starting next year, a seminar for improvement in quality of textile materials of protective clothes was held. The Korea Apparel Testing & Research Institute (Director Yoo Jung-sok) recently designated by the government as the agency for evaluation of reliability of textile materials for protection against elements harmful to safety and for construction held the international seminar on ´Industry of textile materials for protection against elements harmful to safety and technology trends´for interchange of international information on textile materials of protective clothes in the Seoul Textile Center on 26 September.

  In the seminar attended by experts from government agencies, academic circles, and business circles, the following were discussed: 1) trends of development ofprotective clothes for protection against elements harmful to safety using advanced technologies 2) trends of ISO standardization in the field of protective clothes 3) types of textiles for protective clothes and material characteristics 4) study of lifespan characteristics by chemical analysis of protective clothing raw materials and introduction to test equipment 5) report on the method of processing moisture permeable waterproof raw materials and NBC (nuclear/biological/chemical) protective clothes 6) study of characteristics and types of protective equipment used in the military 7)roles of protective clothes in the working environment and polices of the Ministry of Labor, etc.

  In addition, reading papers such as´CE marking system and performance requirements for personal protective equipment(PPE) in Europe´by Dr. Steve Rose, British SATRA Certification Team and ´study on evaluation of cleanliness and agreeableness of functional materials for polyurethane clothing´ by Masao Inomoto, Japanese SEIKO Chemical Research Institute, etc. provided an opportunity to compare Korea´s technological level with advanced nations´.

  (Daily Safety News, October 20, 2004)

- No work under the influence

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. put 24 Breathalyzers on the workplace and gives a sobriety test in order to prevent occupational accidents that may occur in case of drunken working.
This action was taken after the demand of U.S. Exxon Mobil, the ship´s owner, for application of the provisions of ´prohibition of work of regular drug addicts and alcoholics´so that drunken workers will not be allowed to work in the process of building the Floating Production, Storage & Offloading (FPSO) facilities, an order placed with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. by Exxon Mobil last year. Accordingto the provisions, if the blood alcohol concentration of a drunken worker in a sobriety test given in the morning meeting is above 0.05%, the relevant worker shall not work but return home using a monthly leave.

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. started to build FPSO at the end of the last year and purchased 4 Breathalyzers and has given a test to site workers in the relevant marine business headquarters. The company put 20 more Breathalyzers on the workplace this time.

An official of the company said, "because it is highly likely that accidents will happen if a worker suffering from a hangover due to heavy drinking yesterday gets to work; with the ship´s owner´s demand, the company started to give such a sobriety test for prevention of occupational accidents."

Judging the sobriety test is very effective in preventing occupational accidents, Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. considers expanding the sobriety test into its all workplaces, but the Labor Union is against the company´s plan, saying, "the sobriety test in all workplaces unilaterally promoted by the company is encroachment on human rights."

(Ulsan/ Yonhap News, November 13, 2004)

- 1st review meeting to be held in Seoul next year the intergrated SHEQ model development to be completed in 2007

As Korea will lead the OECD´s ´integrated safetyhealthenvironmentquality (SHEQ) management model´ development project, it is likely that Korea´s roles in OECD and global status will be greater than ever.

According to KOSHA, in the 14th OECD expert group meeting on chemical accidents held on November 3 at OECD headquarters, Paris, France, the progress and future course of ´integrated SHEQ management model´ development led by Korea was discussed.

Related experts including Kwon Hyuk-myon, a KOSHA technical adviser, Yoon In-sop, a SeoulNational University professor, Ham Byung-ho, an administrative official of the Ministry of Labor, etc. attended this meeting.
In the meeting, Adviser Kwon explained the framework of the SHEQ model and announced future plans. Professor Yoon explained domestic and foreign trends of integrated researches including Korea, the U.S., Europe, and Japan, etc.
In addition, as Sweden, Italy, and Swiss announced their intention to participate in the model development group, a working group consisting of a total of 7 nations including Canada and Czech, existing members, will be organized and operated.

The integrated model development project adopted as a new project in the expert group meeting on chemical accidents held in last November will be completed in 2007 through the 4-year development process including the 1st review meeting to be held in Seoul next September.
The integrated SHEQ management model means a management system for increasing management efficiency by integrating and managing ´safetyhealthenvironmentquality´ separately managed in workplaces.

(Daily Safety News , November 16, 2004)

- Disaster information and disaster status to be provided via satellite broadcasting; NEMA enters into a mutual cooperation agreement with ACANETTV

Disaster information and disaster status will be provided via satellite broadcasting.
After making an agreement for mutual cooperation with ACANETTV, a digital satellite TV data broadcasting station, on November 17, the National Emergency Management Agency said disaster information and disaster status will be broadcast via the digital satellite data broadcasting channel.
Accordingly, through a preparatory process including program production, Data related to various kinds of disaster status, heavy snows, typhoons, fires, suspension of power supply, and suspension of water supply; the National Emergency Management Agency´s policy data; national publicity data; and event data, etc. will be broadcast via the data channel starting in January 2005.
The National Emergency Management Agency expect that people will promptly cope with disaster

as all kinds of disaster information can be broadcast to running trains and express buses and ships as well as mountain and island areas 24 hours a day.
ACANETTV plans to newly organize broadcast disaster news flash into the urgent disaster information of Skyweather, 24h weather data broadcasting channel of Skylife, and operate it as a separate independent menu and inter-working broadcasting.

(Daily Safety News, November 18, 2004)

- **Update in KOSHA**

○ KOSHA to declare ´New KOSHA 2010´ on the occasion of 17th anniversary of its founding to adopt a joint declaration pledging accident prevention cooperation for advancement of industrial safety

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of its foundation, KOSHA will announce ´New KOSHA 2010´, an innovative management strategy for aiming to become one of the world´s leading disaster prevention organizations.
KOSHA will celebrate the 17th anniversary of its founding and announce ´New KOSHA 2010´with the participation of many persons related to occupational safety and health from the labor/management/government parties and academic circles in Olympia Hall, Olympic Parktel located in Songpa-gu in Seoul at 3 p.m. on December 8.
In addition, KOSHA will organize a conference on advancedoccupational safety and health consisting of 11 organizations including KOSHA, labor-management organization, disaster prevention organization, and civic organization, etc. In this resolution meeting, a joint declaration pledging disaster prevention cooperation for advancement of industrial safety will be adopted.

´New KOSHA 2010´ to be declared domestically and internationally as KOSHA´s innovative management strategy for aiming to become one of the world´s leading disaster prevention organizations in order to meet changes in the future environment will be promoted until 2010.
KOSHA plans to provide labor-management friendly safety health services by introducing activation

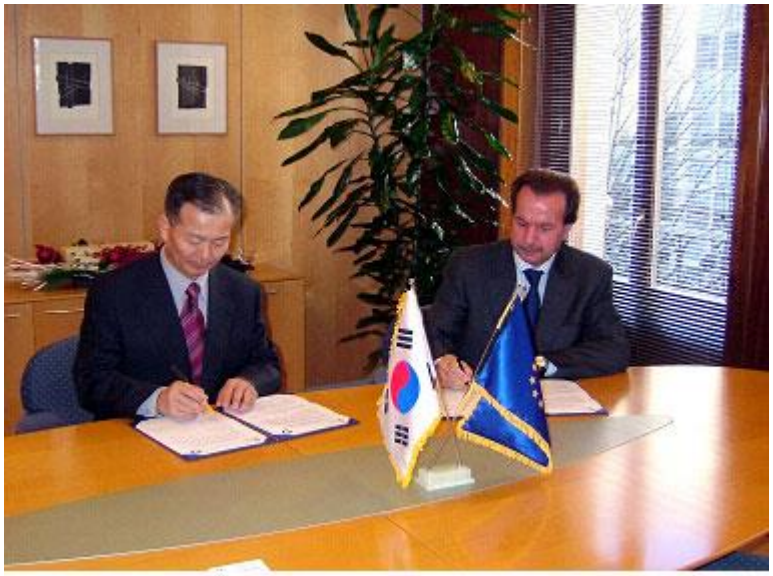
of corporate self-safety health management system and KOSHA 18001 certification through ´New KOSHA 2010´.

President Kim Yong-Dal said, "Through ´New KOSHA 2010´, KOSHA will make every effort to realize a safe, healthy industrial society based on changes and innovation in cooperation with labor/management/government parties, civic organizations and academic circles.

(Safety & Health Newsletter,December 15,2004)

- To strengthen international cooperation on occupational safety and health between Korean and EU, KOSHA enters into an agreement with EU-OSHA

As KOSHA entered into an agreement with the European Union Occupational Safety and Health Agency (EU-OSHA) for cooperation in the field of occupational safety and health, it is likely that international cooperation business between the two organizations will be conducted actively in the future. Kim Yong-Dal, KOSHA President, met with Hans-Horse Konkolewsky, the head of European Union Occupational Safety and Health Agency, and made an agreement for business cooperation in the field of occupational safety and health in Bilbao, Spain.



According to the agreement, mutual business cooperation relations will be maintained by exchanging occupational safety and health technologies and related standards, and diversified joint projects including operation of a joint Website for interchange of Internet-based information will be conducted.

Especially, the Website is expected to greatly contribute to enhancement of the national prestige of Korea among European countries by posting regulations, rules, research and statistical dataas well as events of and news on both organizations on the Internet.

It is also expected that KOSHA will pave the way, through the conclusion of the agreement, for

introducing internationally recognized EU technical levels related to SafetyHealthEnvironment, raising the domestic technical levels of safety and health.

KOSHA President Kim said, "The global tendency is that matters concerning SafetyHealthEnvironment are being used as new trade barriers" adding that "the business cooperation agreement will be helpful in eliminating trade barriers that may occur when domestic enterprises export goods to EU countries."

With the agreement with the European Union Occupational Safety and Health Agency, KOSHA has come to maintain cooperation relations with 24 institutions in 10 countries including the U.S., the U.K., and Japan, etc.

- Korean-style job stress measuring instrument is developed

A Korean-style job stress measuring instrument showing the main causes of employee stress in Korea has been developed. KOSHA Occupational Safety & Health Research Institute (Director Kim Kwang-jong) jointly with the Korea Job Stress Research Society (Chairman Park Jung-sun) will hold a ´2004 Academic Conference on Stress at Work´ and announce the result of research development related to a job stress measuring instrument on the 4th floor of the hall of Health Graduate School of Seoul National University on December 3.

In the academic conference, the Korean-style job stress measuring instrument recently developed jointly by Korea Job Stress Research Society and Wonju Medical College of Yonsei University under a service contract with KOSHA will be announced and discussed.

According to KOSHA, it took 3 years to develop the job stress measuring instrument with the help of a separate research concurrently conducted for identifying Korea´s specific job culture.

In the academic conference, Jang Se-jin, Professor of Wonju Medical College of Yonsei University, and others who led the development will read a paper on the process of development of and features of the measuring instrument. A symposium on plans to use the measuring instrument will also be conducted.

(Daily Safety News, December 23,2004)

- Rapidly increasing job-related diseases of employees in their fifties

- International seminar entitled "Business management and workers´ health management" held by KOSHA –

´Brain-heart blood vessel disease´ and ´musculoskeletal disease´, so-called ´advanced-country-type diseases´ that frequently occur in an aging society and a knowledge industrial society, increased as many as 3.5 times during the last 5 years.

Analysis of ´job-related disease occurrence status´ covering a period of 5 years since 1999 by the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA showed that job-related disease patients increased from 1,558 persons in 1999 to 6,890 persons in 2003, up 342%.

The reason why these job-related diseases increase rapidly is that a heart disease and cerebral hemorrhage, etc. frequently occur to middle-aged/advanced-aged employees due to job-related stress for a long period, and the musculoskeletal disease is increasing rapidly due to repeated work. An official of KOSHA said, "job-related diseases occur to some of young employees recently, but most of them occur to middle-aged/advanced-aged employees who have repeated similar work" adding that "especially, the death toll of a brain-heart blood vessel disease is increasing rapidly."

In reality, employees who died of a brain-heart blood vessel disease increased from 420 persons in 1999 to 703 persons in 2001 and 820 persons in 2003. Since these statistics include only deaths covered by workmen´s compensation insurance, it is presumed that the number of actual deaths will be much more than these statistics.

The reason why the number of deaths is so many is that generally these diseases occur abruptly and damage the brain and the heart, core organs of the body, and the diseases largely caused by job-related stress.

The problem is that it is highly likely that these job-related diseases will increase in the future. As those aged 65 years and older exceeded 7.2% of the total population in 2000, Korea has entered into an aging society, and the percentage of employment of advanced-age people aged 50 years and older and middle-age people is also increasing.

They increased from 4,694,000 persons, 23.1% of the total population to 5,316,000, up 620,000 persons. Therefore, occupational accidents of advanced-age employees aged 50 years and older increased from 12,970 persons in 1999 to 28,527 persons in 2003, up 120%. Compared with the percentage of the total occupational accidents, that of the occupation accidents of advanced-age employees aged 50 years and older increased from 23.4% in 1999 to 30.05% in 2003.

This is in sharp contrast with the fact that the percentage of occupational accidents of those under 30 years old decreased rapidly from 22.24% to 14.52% in the same period, indicating that the exposure of advanced-age employees to occupational accidents is increasing.

With regard to this, at the international seminar under the title of "Business management and workers´ health management" held at COEX in Samsung-dong, Seoul, on November 18 under the auspices of KOSHA, Kaztaka Kogi, an adviser to Japanese Labor Science Research Institute, said, "Japan has already experienced the problem of these job-related diseases", adding that "the Ministry of Public Welfare is focusing on prevention and medical treatment of these diseases on a preferential basis."

Norman G. West, Operating Director of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), said, "HSE is making efforts to reduce the occurrence rate of musculoskeletal disease up to 20% until 2010", adding that "in order to prevent the disease, we are using methods related to risk assessment such as an assessment chart for manual haulage work and the numerical scoring system, etc."

Naomi G. Swatson, the job stress research head of the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, said, "job stress is mainly caused when the requirements of the job do not match the capabilities or needs of the worker", adding that "in order to prevent this, we are operating phased prevention programs: phase 1. elimination of causes of stress; phase 2. response changes after elimination; phase 3. consultation and psychological treatment."

In his opening address to the seminar, Kim Yong-Dal, KOSHA President, said, "Entry into an aging society and diversity of types of employment pose new challenges for business management and labor market" and emphasized the need for the government´s active measures for workers´ right to health, adding that "especially, protecting workers´ health and life from diseases and accidents is becoming one of pan-national tasks."

(Maeil Shinmoon, November 22, 2004)

- KOSHA is providing funds for musculoskeletal disease prevention

Funds are being provided for reducing occupational accidents; solving a labor shortage problem; and creating a healthy working environment by eliminating harmful risk factors for the purpose of preventing musculoskeletal disease in the workplace musculoskeletal disease.

KOSHA is providing funds for the employer of a manufacturing company with the number of regular employees of 50 or more to less than 300 covered by the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act that is conducting or intends to conduct a musculoskeletal disease prevention program by a labor-management conference.

Up to 30 million won per workplace within 50% of required funds is loaned in case of purchase and installation of equipment. An additional fund is provided from the occupational accident prevention facility funds at an annual interest of 3%, to be repaid on an installment basis in 7 years with a 3-year grace period

Relevant equipment is 12 pieces of equipment such as appropriate equipment necessary for musculoskeletal disease prevention and ergonomically-designed ancillary and convenience equipment, etc. (including traveling carts, heavy-material conveying/loading equipment such as

conveyors, automated equipment in the process where lumbago & musculoskeletal diseases may occur).

Applicant workplaces are requested to contact regional headquarters/ adviser of KOSHA or visit the Internet homepage: http://msd.kosha.net (musculoskeletal disease prevention corner)

(Safety & Health Newsletter, October 15, 2004)

- KOSHA gets an international patent on elevator safety brake

KOSHA announced, on December 1, that it has recently obtained an international patent on two industrial safety technologies: an ´elevator safety brake´ and a ´combustible gas detector´ from Australia and the U.S., respectively.

The elevator safety brake is a technology for preventing a fall accident by supplementing the existing safety device installed in an elevator; the combustible gas detector is a technology for preventing serious accidents such as a fire or explosion of chemical plants caused by gas leakage.

KOSHA also applied for a patent on these technologies to Europe (EU), Japan, and China, etc.

KOSHA currently holds a total of 144 industrial property rights: 62 patents on occupational safety and health including the above patents; 58 utility models; 4 designs; and 20 trademarks.

(Financial, December 3,2004)

- **New OSH Materials**

- Dangerous substance information management system starts to provide services via the Internet

The National Emergency Management Agency completed reorganization of the dangerous substance information management system promoted from last August pursuant to amendment to the Dangerous Substance Control Act and started to provide full-scale Internet services on October 19.

The dangerous substance information management system is designed to prevent harm caused by dangerous articles in society and industries and secure public safety by providing data on the nature/status and quantities of about 3,000 inflammable and combustible chemical substances (class 6) set forth in the Dangerous Substance Control Act: relevant information is provided for persons concerned via Hazmat.nema.go.kr.

(Financial, December 3,2004)

- KFPA publishes a new edition revised and enlarged of English-Korean disaster prevention glossary including new 1,100 terms

  The Korean Fire Protection Association (Chairman Park Jung-hoon) said on November 17, it published a new edition revised and enlarged of English-Korean disaster prevention glossary for engineers, etc. engaged in disaster prevention work.

  The English-Korean disaster prevention glossary was published in 1997 by the Korean Fire Protection Association for the first time in Korea and fully revised in 1999. The new edition revised and enlarged includes new 1,100 terms including those related to Korea Industrial Standard, insurance, and engineering works.

  The 800-page English-Korean disaster prevention glossary gives a concise and clear explanation in Korean of 6,130 English terms concerning disaster prevention centering around fire and explosion excepted from overseas disaster prevention data including NFPA codes, etc. Abbreviations for 155 overseas institutions related to disaster prevention and a Korean-English index also find their places in the glossary.

  (Daily Safety News, November 18, 2004)