

2007 Newsletter

HOME > > In Focus > Newsletter > 2007 Newsletter



- **Topics**

- Registration for participation in 2008 World Congress on Safety and Health at Work Started

5 Sept. 2007

Registration for participation in 2008 World Congress on Safety and Health at Work Started

Prior Registration and Reservation of Accommodation possible through Homepage

Prior registration for participants in the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work to be held in Seoul in 2008 has started. KOSHA announced that reception of early registration of participants started on 1st for safety and Health personnel worldwide through the World Congress official homepage (<http://www.safety2008korea.org>), fax and e-mail.

KOSHA explained that reservation for accommodation and submission of manuscripts to be presented as well as early registration are possible through the World Congress homepage that was recently renewed.

The reorganized homepage enables easy check on the whole content of the World Congress through the main screen and serves in 7 languages including English, Japanese and Chinese.

By starting work on registration in September, KOSHA has completed the preparatory process for successful holding of the World Congress, and will go ahead with preparatory work in earnest for holding the Congress such as selecting participants in Safety and Health Summit, presenters in keynote addresses, technical sessions, symposiums, etc., receiving manuscripts of poster sessions and presenter corner, and finalizing details of other events and programs.



- Inspection, testing and safety certification systems to be in operation in January 2009

3 July 2007

Inspection, testing and safety certification systems to be in operation in January 2009

Plenary session of the National Assembly passes the Industrial Safety and Health Act unanimously

Modification of the inspection, testing and certification systems and restoration of safety and Health regulations were finalized unanimously in the National Assembly, so they will be applied from January 1, 2009.

The National Assembly opened the 9th plenary session of the 268th temporary meeting to pass a partially revised (alternative) bill of Industrial Safety and Health Act and a partially revised bill of special action law for alleviating regulation of corporate activity.

The partially revised bill of Industrial Safety and Health Act was passed unanimously with 189 assenting of 189 present and the partially revised bill of special action law also unanimously with 194 assenting of 194 present.

The revised bill of Industrial Safety and Health Act contains the safety certification system, safety check of harmful and hazardous machines and equipment, acknowledgement of special cases of the labor-management consultation body of the construction industry and introduction of harmful factor tolerating standards. The revised bill of special action law contains periodical inspection of press lift and job training of safety and Health managers and restoration of the obligation of submitting

harmful and hazardous accidents prevention plans by the manufacturing industry.

The revised bill of Industrial Safety and Health Act originally targeted enforcement on January 1, 2008, but the bill finally passed was revised to be in force from 2009, and the enforcement date of the partially revised bill of special action law was matched with 1 January 2009, the enforcement date of the partially revised bill of Industrial Safety and Health Act.

- **OSH Administrative Activities**

- Bringing harmful chemical substances into this country is blocked at the source

27 Aug. 2007

Bringing harmful chemical substances into this country is blocked at the source

Approval by Government is required to import reagents, etc. for research and test purposes

Law is being amended for more prompt disclosure of information on harmful chemical substances and blocking their import at the source.

The Government submitted a bill of partial amendment to the Harmful Chemical Substances Management Law with the main points like these to the Environment and Labor Committee of the National Assembly on 22nd.

According to the Amendment, the Ministry of Environment shall notify the applicant for harmfulness examination if the results of harmfulness examination of a new chemical substance fall under the designated standards of toxic material or observed material and also notify the public of them at the same time.

This is an amendment to the provision of notifying the public after 3 years after notifying the applicant of the results of harmfulness examination of a new chemical substance.

To apply for harmfulness examination, it has now become possible to submit not only domestic test data but also the test data of a foreign testing agency that has been confirmed to observe good laboratory operation standards of OECD.

Also, it instituted a new provision that nobody shall import any substance forbidden to handle into this country. Provided, however, that reagents for testing, research and inspection of the substance forbidden to handle may be imported if it is approved by the Ministry of Environment of the Ministry of Labor.

The Government clarified that the purpose is to solve the problem of causing safety accidents and harm to Health and control more thoroughly the substances forbidden to handle, by promptly notifying the public of the harmfulness examination results.

Meanwhile, some provisions of the amendment bill will come into force from January next year, and the rest from the day when 6 months has passed after promulgation.

- Ministry of Construction and Transportation will cooperate with Ministry of National Land and Transportation of Japan on automobile safety

31 Aug. 2007

Ministry of Construction and Transportation will cooperate with Ministry of National Land and Transportation of Japan on automobile safety

Exchanged problems of development of regulations and internationalization of safety standards

The Ministry of Construction and Transportation announced that a Memorandum of Cooperation on automobile safety was signed with the Ministry of National Land and Transportation of Japan at Tokyo, Japan.

This Memorandum of Cooperation provides for cooperation between the two countries for exchange of information on development and execution of automotive technical standards and protection of automobile users for the development in the fields of automotive technical standards and safety.

The signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation has great significance in that Korea has built a system for enabling mutual assistance in policy with Japan on discussion of internationalization of safety standards centered on the U. S. and Europe, by building a formal cooperation channel on automobile safety with Japan, a country producing automobiles of the world's best level.

As the Ministry of Construction and Transportation signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on automobile safety with Japan this year, following the signing of Memorandums of Cooperation with China in 2004 and the U. S. last year, it has become possible to cooperate with major automobile producing countries in future in all aspects of automobile safety policy.

Meanwhile, with the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Ministry of Construction and Transportation and Ministry of National Land and Transportation, 'the First Cooperation Meeting between Korean and Japan on Automobile Safety' was held to discuss automobile safety policies, automobile and parts certification systems, safety standards internationalization policies, etc.

- Transferred Korea's advanced disaster prevention technology to Mongolia

24 Aug. 2007

Transferred Korea's advanced disaster prevention technology to Mongolia

To carry out disaster prevention know-how education and occupational inspection side by side

The National Disaster Management Institute of the National Emergency Management Agency conducted a '2007 Mongolia Disaster Prevention Capability Strengthening Course' jointly with KOICA for government officials of the Disaster Prevention Research Center of Mongolia for 3 weeks from Aug. 29 to Sept. 18 to transfer our advanced disaster prevention technology.

This course was conducted for 11 persons from 4 agencies including the Disaster Prevention Research Center of Mongolia with education on various disaster prevention policies including our disaster prevention facilities of the NEMA Disaster Strategy and Situation Room and explanation of our disaster prevention policies.

The NEMA expected to contribute to the improvement and development of Mongolia's disaster

prevention work within the earliest possible time by forwarding our know-how related to disaster prevention and enabling them to build disaster prevention infrastructure including their own disaster prevention system.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Institute had the participants in education experience also Korean culture through an occupational observation trip to agencies related to disaster prevention, a visit to Korea Folk Village, Seoul City tour, and a visit to Korean home.



- Service relating to safety is maintained even during strike.

11 July 2007

‘Service relating to safety is maintained even during strike.’

The Ministry of Labor makes a preliminary announcement of a revised bill of the Enforcement Decree of the Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act ... to be in force in January next year

In future, a given level of manpower must be left for essential services related to citizen’s life and Health and physical safety even during strike.

The Ministry of Labor will make a preliminary announcement of a revised bill of the Enforcement Decree of the Trade Union and Labor Relations Adjustment Act with essential features like this and plans to enforce it from January next year.

This is to define the scope of essential services as the essential services maintaining system is introduced in the essential public-interest businesses such as railroad, airline, water supply,

electricity, gas, hospital and blood from January next year with the legislation last year of making labor-management relations more advanced.

The Ministry of Labor defined essential services to be maintained as the work that can make public life, safety and Health dangerous if suspended and the work that could bring about an urgent national crisis that leads the normal living conditions of the public to danger according to the scope and period of strike.

Accordingly, service should be maintained at a certain level for the operation and safety work of vehicles and aircraft, emergency maintenance and safety management works of gas and petroleum refining, emergency medical and intensive care patient treatment and support works, the work of supplying blood for transfusion, and the work of maintaining normal communications network and troubleshooting work, etc.

Especially for the water and gas works, all services should be supplied normally, and the Bank of Korea should keep maintaining all functions as central bank.

The specific operation schemes such as the level of maintaining essential services and the relevant jobs and personnel as provided by the Enforcement Decree may be defined by agreement between labor and management, otherwise decision by the labor relations commission must be followed.

- "Korea is No. 1 in Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance!"

13 July 2007

"Korea is No. 1 in Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance!"

Korea Labor Welfare Corporation is benchmarked eagerly by 7 countries in Asia

"We have come to learn the advanced systems of Korea including IT technology before we implement Industrial accident compensation insurance next year," said Sum Sophorn (age 40), deputy director of Social Welfare Bureau of the Department of Labor and Job Training of Cambodia, who participated in the 'Technical Support Training for Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance in the Asia-Pacific Region' provided by Korea Labor Welfare Corporation as a special cooperative project between Korea and ILO.

In the training program for industrial accident compensation insurance, the personnel of the Korea Labor Welfare Corporation gave lectures in English on Korea's industrial accident compensation insurance system for 12 days, attended by 14 high-level government officials of 7 countries of Brunei, Cambodia, China, Kiribati, Mongolia, Nepal and the Solomon Islands.

Deputy Director Sum Sophorn who lead the training group (4 persons) bigger than that of any other participating countries, said, "Since our civil war ended in 1979, Cambodia has been weak in the social security field to the extent that the industrial accident compensation insurance won't be implemented until next year and the medical insurance until 2009," adding "We will learn Korea's advanced systems collecting knowledge and data necessary for building hardware such as the computer system as much as possible while we are staying in Korea."

In response to this, President Kim Won-bae said, "We will dispatch our personnel to Cambodia around October this year to continue our effort for the development of industrial accident compensation insurance in the developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **Statistics**

- Steep Rise of Occupational Casualties in First Half This Year

3 Sept. 2007

Steep Rise of Occupational Casualties in First Half This Year

Ministry of Labor statistics ... Rising Tendency of Death by Occupational Accident and Disease

The first half of this year showed a steep rise in the number of workers who suffered occupational accidents. The increasing tendency continued also in deaths by accident.

According to the statistics of occupational accident totaled up tentatively by the Ministry of Labor as of the end of June, the number of casualties is 43,819 persons, which is an increase of 513 over 43,306, the number of casualties that occurred during the same period last year. Considering that the number of casualties was 20,277 in the statistics as of the end of March, the number of occupational casualties increased by 23,542 persons in 3 months.

The number of deaths is 1221, which has also increased by 69 over 1152 that was the total during the same period last year. But in the totaling up the deaths as of the end of March, the rate of increment decreased compared with the increase of more than 10% last year.

By industry, the number of casualties of the manufacturing industry was 17,095 accounting for 39%, which is the largest, followed by 8,678 of the construction industry.

By size of workplace, the workplaces with less than 300 persons accounted for 91% of the casualties, and especially in the workplaces with less than 50 persons, 75% of the total casualties occurred.

By classifying occupational accidents into accidents at work and diseases at work, the accidents at work such as constriction and overturning decreased by 3.3%, whereas diseases at work such as musculoskeletal diseases increased by 43.5%. Meanwhile, in spite of the increase of casualties, economic losses due to occupational accidents were tentatively totaled up to 7,749,680,000,000 won, showing a reduction of 29.2 billion won below the amount for the same period last year.

- **Update in KOSHA**

- Published OSH Research Brief, a high-class information magazine for safety and Health leaders

6 Sept. 2007

Published OSH Research Brief, a high-class information magazine for safety and Health leaders

To distribute to governments related to safety and Health, managers, labor organizations and academic circles

KOSHA Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute started publishing OSH Research Brief in

September to provide domestic and international scientific information in the field of Occupational Safety and Health and latest high-level information on institutions and policies to safety and Health leader groups who decide and execute safety and Health policies such as the Government, National Assembly, the management, labor organizations and academic circles. Various periodicals are being published in the domestic Occupational Safety and Health field, but most of them are addressed mainly to workplace safety and Health personnel, workers and business owners, so the contents are made of mainly inclusive and job-related information.

The OSH Research Brief to be published focuses on the contents useful to safety and Health leader groups such as major pending questions and issues in the domestic and international Occupational Safety and Health fields, trends of policies and institutions, research papers and legal trends, which are expected to be helpful in deciding and executing Occupational Safety and Health policies.

The Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute will publish and distribute OSH Research Brief every month, and it will be available in the form of e-book and PDF file anytime through homepage (<http://oshri.kosha.or.kr>).

of the 14 countries in the Asian region for 2 weeks from July 2 to July 13, 2007 by cooperation with ILO in order to help build the Industrial Safety and Health Act and systems being implemented and formulate occupational accident prevention policies and facilitate activities in each country of the Asian region.

The main contents of the invitation training were: introduction of Korea and KOSHA activities (including education of the Korean language), introduction of Korean Occupational Safety and Health policies and systems, education of occupational accident prevention technologies in each field, field trip to best workplaces of Korean Occupational Safety and Health activities, and inquiries into culture to facilitate understanding of Korea; various educational programs were provided.

This year, as part of cooperative projects for improving the level of the Occupational Safety and Health technologies of the developing countries in the Asian region, KOSHA will conduct invitation training 3 times (32 persons) and technical consultation (8 times) to secure international trust on our country and carry out international cooperative projects vigorously to contribute to enhancement of the status of KOSHA.

KOSHA dispatched 2 experts to Mongolia last May to conduct Occupational Safety and Health education for the personnel of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor of Mongolia and related agencies, and also carried out technical support for prevention of dust and occupational diseases. In addition, KOSHA dispatched education experts to Vietnam to conduct education of occupational accidents many times for the government officials of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare to instill the importance of Occupational Safety and Health in persons in charge of policies.

Furthermore, KOSHA is currently conducting invitation training for 4 government officials of Vietnam and Indonesia for about 1 month from June 18 to July 13, and as a cooperative project with WHO, we invited 2 occupational Health experts of Vietnam and Mongolia to conduct professional technical education in each field for 2 weeks from July 2 to July 13.

KOSHA has been contributing to the improvement of Occupational Safety and Health of the target countries and enhancing the status of Korea as a member country of OECD since 2001 by conducting total 32 times (137 persons) of training including 14 times (119 persons) of invitation training and 18 times (18 persons) of training through projects of technical support for the developing countries in the Asia region which lack the understanding of occupational accident prevention.

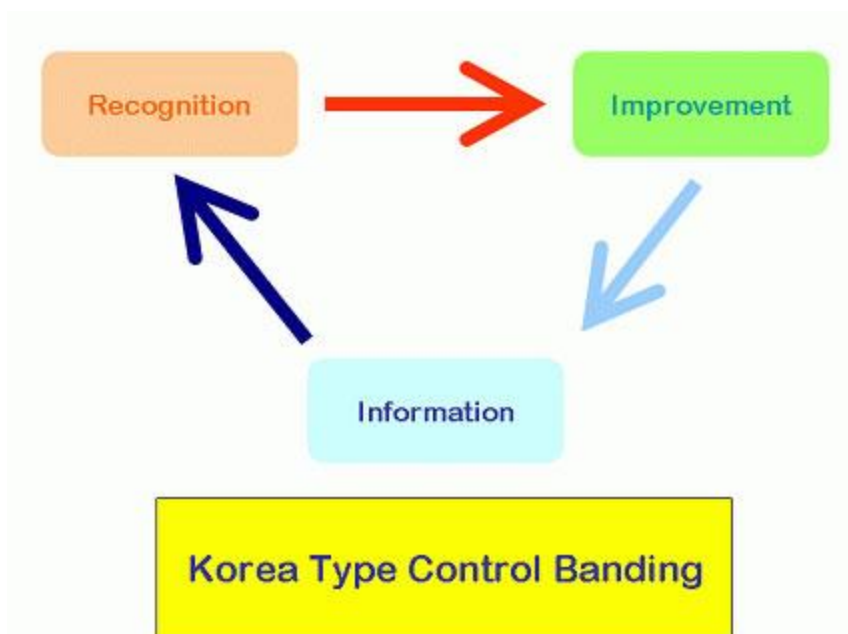


- KOSHA is implementing Korea type Control Banding Project

Sept. 2007

KOSHA is implementing Korea type Control Banding Project

It will be easy to find out whether chemical substance is harmful or hazardous



Development of tools whereby it is easy to find out whether chemical substances are harmful or hazardous in actual use is in full swing.

KOSHA announced that it is implementing a Korean type banding project to prevent workers from Health hazards due to exposure to chemical substances.

Control banding is a concept for handily forwarding customized information on hazards of chemical

substances to the safety personnel of workplace through a program, such as hazard evaluation of each process according to actual practice of handling chemical substances and information on improvement of standardized improvement based on hazard evaluation.

KOSHA will provide information by work classification in use by selecting over 30 kinds of substances that have caused occupational diseases in this country in recent ten or some years. As early as the end of this year, it plans to provide internet safety and Health information service on kosha.net.

It has been difficult for workplaces of small and middle businesses to conduct hazard evaluation of exposure to chemical substances, but now it is expected improvement measures will be easily drawn up if such control banding is introduced. It is because the processes or chemical substances to be handled are relatively simple.

Meanwhile, control banding is already in use in advanced countries. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is providing Control Banding and the ILO a web service called Chemical Control Toolkit.

- KOSHA and local governments joined hands for prevention of death from suffocation

7 S20 July 2007

KOSHA and local governments joined hands for prevention of death from suffocation

KOSHA signed cooperative agreement with Gyeonggi-do on July 20

In the midst of recent frequent occurrence of choking deaths in airtight space such as manhole, septic tank and storage tank, KOSHA and Gyeonggi-do joined hands for prevention of suffocations. KOSHA and Gyeonggi-do (Governor Kim Moon-soo) signed Cooperative Agreement on Support for Prevention of Safety Accident in Confined Space for prevention of death from suffocation in Gyeonggi-do in the provincial government office on July 20, Friday, at 3 p.m.

Through the cooperative agreement, KOSHA and Gyeonggi-do will jointly implement projects such as technical support and educational support and the development of work safety programs for safe work in confined space for companies awarded with government-supplied projects.

The statistics of occupational accidents show that 149 persons died and 51 were injured due to suffocation in recent 8 years ('99~'06) and 41.6% (62 persons) of the total deaths occurred in summertime (June to August).

This year, 8 cases of death from suffocation occurred by June, with 14 persons dead and 3 persons injured, so the number of deaths increased 2 times compared with the same period of the previous year.

Through the cooperative agreement on prevention of suffocation with Gyeonggi-do, KOSHA expects the number of the deaths from suffocation will decrease by a great deal in the local

government-supplied projects.

This is the first time that a local government signed cooperative agreement with KOSHA for prevention of suffocation.

Three Rules for prevention of choking accidents in airtight space

1. Measure concentrations of oxygen and harmful gases before and during work.
2. Ventilate before and during work.
3. Wear protective gear during rescue work in confined space.



- **Event**

- 40th Congress on Safety and Health at Work was opened well attended by more than 500 people of the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA at Seoul COEX

3 July 2007

40th Congress on Safety and Health at Work was opened well attended by more than 500 people of the Ministry of Labor and KOSHA at Seoul COEX

The 40th Congress on Safety and Health at Work was opened successfully. The Ministry of Labor and KOSHA opened the Congress on Safety and Health at Work attended by more than 500 related persons on 2nd at the Grand Conference Room of Seoul COEX, announcing the start of the Occupational Safety and Health Week.

Under a slogan of 'safe workplace and Healthy society,' a prize giving ceremony was held for government's praising the people of merit of all levels of society who contributed to prevention of occupational accidents and 25 people enjoyed the glory of going up the stage.

The glorious Copper Tower Industrial Medal went to Cha Jun-eun, representative director of Euseong Printers, and the Iron Tower Industrial Medal to Kim Jeong-eung, vice chairman of Hanin Heavy Industries, and the Stone Tower Industrial Medal to Kim Young-min, section manager of

Anyang Posville, Posco Construction, respectively.

Industrial medals were awarded to Kim Yong-woon, representative director of Duyang Industrial and Electrical Co. Ltd., Kim Hyun-seung, site manager of Hanaro opening construction work, Samsung Corporation and Park Yu-hyu, representative director of Seyoung Construction, and Presidential Citations were given to 5 people including Kim Young-im, Jeju Region Dean of Korea Broadcasting and Communications College and 5 groups including Hanhwa Gumi Factory. Prime Minister Citations were given to 6 persons including Park Byung-young, assistant general manager of Jeonnam Eastern Region Instruction Institute and 5 groups including Jinheung Enterprise, Ltd. And this Congress attracted interest as a kind of rehearsal for the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work to be held in Seoul next year with congratulatory addresses by agencies of various levels worldwide including the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, National Safety Council, and Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association

Lee Sang-soo, Minister of Labor gave a congratulatory speech, saying "I hope this meeting to assure a second takeoff for safety and Health at work."

Park Kil-sang, President of KOSHA said, "I ask for positive participation by all to make a safe workplace and Healthy society."



- **New Materials**

- Hazardous Jobs in Construction Industry technical data were distributed

24 July 2007

Hazardous Jobs in Construction Industry technical data were distributed

KOSHA distributed 9 kinds of technical data on accident prevention by job classification in construction industry

KOSHA made technical data which contain the characteristics of accident causes and measures for accident prevention in jobs with frequent occurrence of accidents in the construction industry, and distributed the technical data of 3 jobs (scaffolding work, steel frame work, and waterproofing work) in a total of 9 jobs to the specialty construction companies from the end of July.

In the construction industry, works are done by workers of various job classifications belonging to specialty construction companies, so most accidents occur to these workers on construction sites.

- The statistics of deaths on construction sites surveyed by KOSHA from 2003 to 2006 show that 537 died from the accidents in 9 jobs accounting for 31% of a total of 1,729 deaths. Especially the workers in job classification of scaffolding work and steel frame work frequently suffered from serious injury or death, so such jobs are classified into a hazardous group with a very high rate of death compared with other jobs.

Accordingly, KOSHA will select 9 hazardous jobs with a high frequency of accident occurrence from various jobs of the construction industry and plans to make and distribute technical data to construction companies with the relevant job classification.

* 9 hazardous jobs: steel frame worker, scaffolder, waterproofing worker, electrical worker, welder, reinforcing bar placer, installation worker, earth worker and caisson worker

Technical data on accident prevention by job classification were made into a booklet form by including accident occurrence types, harmfulness evaluation, accident prevention measures and serious cases of accidents. So not only they can be utilized for education of workers of the relevant jobs, but also they are handy for the worker to carry for reference any time.

Of the 9 jobs, we made technical data for 3 jobs of steel frame worker, scaffolder and waterproofing worker, and plan to distribute them to member companies through Korea Specialty Contractors Association and Korea Specialty Contractor Financial Cooperative, and for the remaining 6 jobs, distribution is scheduled around October.



- KOSHA to distribute 5 kinds including 'Wake Up, Safety Consciousness' to workplaces nationwide

13 Aug. 2007

**KOSHA to distribute 5 kinds including 'Wake Up, Safety Consciousness' to workplaces nationwide
'Please receive occupational safety posters free'**

KOSHA will distribute 75,000 posters in 5 kinds free of charge to workplaces nationwide to instill safety consciousness in workers on industrial sites. The posters in 5 kinds were selected from the works of art for which KOSHA offered prizes and were made into a size of A2 sheet (46.8 cm x 63.6 cm) to be distributed.

The contents of the posters include 'Wake Up, Safety Consciousness,' 'Add safety for love of family' 'Foreign Workers' 'Safety Consciousness, Investment for happiness,' and 'Safety is to love the family,' etc.

Especially, 'Foreign Workers, You are representatives of your country' won the best prize, and it was translated into English to be utilized in workplaces where foreign workers are employed.

The workplace which needs the posters can have them provided free of charge by contacting a training and public relation team of the relevant area of any one of 20 offices of KOSHA nationwide.



- KOSHA developed a series 'These are Things you must know'

31 Aug. 2007

KOSHA developed a series 'These are Things you must know'

Information on chemical substances forwarded to workers to be easily understood

Are chemical substances handled in our workplaces really safe? How should we handle them? To answer these questions, KOSHA provide technical information consisting of contents that are easy for workers to understand.

KOSHA developed and distributed a series, 'These are the Things you must know,' which is a collection of information that workers handling chemical substances must know.

The technical data of 'These are the Things you must know' include how to handle chemical substances and safety rules that are indispensable for workers in workplaces dealing with dimethylformaldehyde (DMF).

The safety rules for handling DMF, worker exposure path, major diseases and symptoms, and Health disorder prevention measures are explained in detail, so it will be a great help for workers who have vague consciousness that it is difficult to deal with chemical substances.

- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) publishes 'Comprehensive Analysis and Prospects of Emergency Situations'

4 Sept. 2007

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) publishes 'Comprehensive Analysis and Prospects of Emergency Situations'

Watch out for accidents by bee sting and brush cutter in September

The NEMA has published 'Comprehensive Analysis and Prospects of Emergency Situations, September 2007' in which various emergency situations that occurred in September 2007 and recently were analyzed comprehensively, and copies of which were distributed to central government departments and related agencies for them to take preventive measures.

With Chuseok long holidays coming soon, increase of outdoor activities such as brush cutting and visits to ancestral graves will cause increase of accidents due to bee sting, snake bite and brush cutter. In September last year, a total of 529 accidents occurred due to bee sting, snake bite and brush cutter.

Also, there is a fear of a steep rise of safety accidents in multiple-use facilities such as department stores, large marts, cinemas, traditional markets and terminals. So fire protection departments nationwide will be on duty of special watch during the Chuseok long holidays, checking whether things are piled up on emergency exits of the departments, large marts, etc. and checking on the safety of electrical and gas facilities, and conducting safety checks on fire vulnerable facilities such as traditional markets and shopping streets.

Meanwhile, a natural disaster that could occur in September is the typhoon. During September in recent 20 years, a total of 102 typhoons occurred, and of these 10 caused direct damage to the country, so it was analyzed that an annual average of about 0.5 typhoon is giving impact.