

October 2018

## Community news

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### ► An agreement on the revision of the Carcinogens Directive

On 11 October the European Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on the second revision of the 2004/37/EC directive concerning the protection of workers against risks related to exposure to carcinogenic or mutagenic agents during work.

The Chair of the parliament's employment committee, Marita Ulvskog (S&D, SE), said: "In a joint effort with the Austrian presidency and with the technical support of the European Commission, we have been able to conclude this pragmatic agreement, thanks to which eight other carcinogenic substances will be covered by the directive, including diesel-engine exhaust gases. We can be proud of this agreement, which will prevent more than 100,000 deaths due to cancer over the next 50 years."

Cancer risk for workers is the main cause of work-related deaths in the EU.

[To find out more](#)

### ► REACH: An NGO denounces the poor quality of the registration dossiers

32% of the chemical substances produced or imported in the European Union since 2010 in quantities greater than 1,000 tonnes per year do not comply with the REACH Regulation. This is according to the European Environment Bureau (EEB), based on a joint study by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung, BfR) and the German Environment Agency (UBA). On average, more than three out of 10 substances widely on sale failed to pass a test on evaluation of the dossiers which are supposed to contain data concerning the toxicity of these substances for the environment and humans, in order to guarantee their safe use.

Four out of 10 reports submitted did not comply with the legal requirements regarding the evaluation of mutagenic effects (the potential for causing gene mutations) and 34% were deficient with regard to the effects on fertility. Only 31% met the REACH requirements regarding toxicological and ecotoxicological information. The remaining percentage were dossiers for which further research needed to be performed.

The ECHA, based in Helsinki, is swamped by about 40,000 registration dossiers (out of around 150,000 molecules in circulation). It was able to "verify the conformity" of only 1,780 of them, it said.

[To find out more](#)

### ► New fact sheets on nanomaterials and practical tools for managing dangerous substances

EU-OSHA has created two new fact sheets related to the campaign on "Healthy Workplaces - Controlling the use of dangerous substances":

- [Practical tools and guidance on dangerous substances in workplaces](#): presented in a database, to ensure efficient safety and health management;
- [Manufactured nanomaterials in the workplace](#).

Visit the [Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances](#) website.

## Standardization

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### ► October 2018: What's new in health and safety at work standardization?

New standards publications, new works, registration of new subjects or comity creations... Below is the result of the monitoring that EUROGIP does, as part of its standardization activity in health and safety at work.

Download the "What's new in OSH Standardization?" of October 2018

To find out more, please write to Saphia Fortassi, [fortassi@eurogip.fr](mailto:fortassi@eurogip.fr)

### ► Register for the sixth EUROSHNET Conference on standardization, testing and certification

Registration has started for this European conference on the theme "Be smart, stay safe together - Innovative products and workplaces", which will be held from 12 to 14 June 2019 in Dresden (Germany).

The conference is organized within the framework of the EUROSHNET network, a joint project by Eurogip and INRS (France), KAN and DGUV (Germany), CIOP-PIB (Poland), FIOH (Finland) and INSHT (Spain) which brings together occupational health and safety experts involved in standardization work.

Papers, workshops and interactive programmes will give those attending the 2019 conference an opportunity to discuss their experience and communicate concerning what they expect of innovative products and work stations.

To find out more

### ► Start of work on the ISO 23617 standard "Demographic transition and population ageing"

From 5 to 7 November 2018 in Hangzhou Shi (China), ISO/TC 314 "Ageing Societies" will begin work on the ISO 23617 standard "Demographic transition and population ageing - Recommendations for social inclusion by adapting the working conditions of older workers".

This standard will provide recommendations for managers, decision makers, human resources and training managers and managers involved in creating work environments regarding the following two aspects of the employment of older workers:

- Quality of work for older workers, by enhancing management and working conditions.
- Working conditions of older workers (risk prevention to protect health, support for motivation, recognition of experience, transmission of knowledge and greater involvement of the elderly in the working world).

The standard is expected to cover the following fields: lifelong learning - occupational conversion; workplace design (physical accessibility, secure environment); workplace technologies; work practices; workplace relations; proposed case studies.

### ► Continuation of the ISO's work in the field of occupational health and safety management

The permanent Technical Committee ISO/TC 283, "Occupational Health and Safety Management", chaired by Martin Cottam, Group Technical Assurance & Quality Director with the Lloyd's Register, whose secretariat is run by Sally Swingewood of the BSI, met from 17 to 21 September 2018 in Coventry, England. Around 90 experts from 36 participating countries and 10 liaison organizations determined its work programme. Divided up into working groups, they were to write technical texts on two priority topics.

WG2 drew up a rough version of the ISO 45003 draft standard on "Occupational Health and Safety Management - Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace - Guidelines". It decided to speak not of psychosocial risks but psychological risks. This future standard will refer to the ISO 45001 standard published in March 2018 on OH&S Management systems and to ISO 10075 (parts 1 to 3) "Ergonomic principles related to mental workload". ISO/TC 283, which wants to produce this document quickly, aims at publication within two years.

WG3, for its part, has started writing a draft manual for the implementation of ISO 45001 for SMEs, based on the manual relating to the ISO 14001 standard on environmental management. However, it hopes to write a fairly short document, in simple language, with concrete examples. This manual will not be a standard, and it will therefore not be subject to the specific stages, votes and enquiries of the standardization process. Formal approval by Technical Committee ISO/TC 283 is nevertheless planned before its publication by around November 2019.

The second plenary meeting of ISO/TC 283 will be held from 4 to 8 March 2019 in Texas.

### ► AUSTRIA: On the track of occupational diseases

The list of occupational diseases, the "BK list", currently comprises 53 diseases, the most common of which are noise-induced deafness and skin diseases, followed by diseases of the lungs and respiratory tracts; more than 20% are cancers. In recent years, asbestos-related malignant tumours of the lung and pleura have unfortunately increased.

Many doctors do not know that it is compulsory to report any suspected occupational cancer. If the AUVA receives an occupational disease report, an enquiry is performed to determine whether the person in question has been in contact with harmful substances at work. If the work-related nature of the disease is recognized, the victim is covered by all the accident insurance benefits (medical care, service benefits, medical re-education - for example in the AUVA's Tobelbad rehabilitation clinic, psychological support, etc.).

In practice, it is often difficult to establish a link between work and the disease, as shown by the following example. A patient aged 70 worked as a gardener for more than 40 years until retirement. He was a victim of a mesothelioma even though asbestos exposure is extremely rare in this job. The in-depth enquiry revealed that the insured had been a carpentry apprentice for several months after school and had been in contact with the mineral when cutting screens (for thermal protection in kitchens). This was recognized as an occupational disease (27 B).

[To find out more](#)

### ► LUXEMBOURG: The AAA publishes its first annual report

In a context of modernization and improvement of its communications, the Accident Insurance Organization (AAA) has published its first annual report, which gives an overall view of its functioning, roles and activities, and key data and financial results for 2017.

The AAA gives a reminder that in 2001 it implemented a major reform to compensate the insured more fairly with benefits similar to those of the common law, while maintaining its financial equilibrium. A retrospective analysis shows that this goal has now been achieved. By comparison with 2016, spending has increased only slightly (2.8%). In contrast, revenues coming from contributions payable by employers and non-salaried insured posted more pronounced growth (7%). The single contribution rate for 2016 of 1% of the payroll was thus able to be maintained, and is at an historically low level. As regards the general Social Security regime (which covers everyone working in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg), 15,780 occupational injuries, 3,638 travel injuries and 99 occupational diseases were recognized in 2017. The AAA receives 100 reported cases every day on average, bearing in mind that Luxembourg has 30,665 companies and 406,129 worker-units.

The number of injuries recognized remained stable, despite the significant increase in the labour force in recent years. However, it must be admitted that although the injury frequency rate is at an all-time low, the number of work-related deaths is still high (21).

[Read the annual report](#)

### ► UNITED KINGDOM: A report on the OH&S priorities of the HSE

According to a report by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), mental health problems (primarily stress, anxiety and depression) and musculoskeletal disorders are the priorities at present and will still be so tomorrow. Lung and respiratory problems are also a concern.

These findings are the result of a multiple approach: targeted consultation of the stakeholders, examination of recent documentation, analysis of conclusive data, statistics on health at work and prospective work regarding the future, and gathering the viewpoints of people having medical, healthcare, scientific and regulatory expertise. This should enable the HSE to maximize its impact on the improvement of occupational health within the framework of its strategic priorities defined in 2016.

[To find out more](#)

## Events

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- ▶ 10th International Conference on the Prevention of Accidents at Work, 23-26 September 2019, Vienna (Austria)
- ▶ "Wellbeing at Work in a changing world: challenges and opportunities", 22-24 May 2019, Paris (France)
- ▶ 6th European Conference on standardization, testing and certification in the field of occupational safety and health, 12-14 June 2019, Dresden (Germany)
- ▶ International Symposium on Occupational Safety and Hygiene - SHO 2019, 15-16 April 2019, Guimarães (Portugal)

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