

OWLinks is brought to you by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Institute to enable leaders and professionals to keep abreast of the latest WSH developments and trends from around the world.

SPOTLIGHT



ergo@WSH

We have a new name!

Check out the new feature on lifting posture!

The WSH Institute launched this mobile application on ergonomics at the 2012 Singapore WSH Conference to raise awareness of good postures.

Since then, more than 5,000 WSH professionals and the general public have downloaded the app.

What's new

- New feature to evaluate lifting posture by taking a video
- New FAQ section
- New app name ergo@WSH (formerly known as ergo@work)
- Bug fixes for better usability

Available on App Store and Google Play from March 2013. Download it today for a safer and healthier you!

Start

Middle

End

For more information, please visit [HERE](#).

Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

1. Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012 - 2022
 2. Understanding workplace management of safety and health, psychosocial risks and worker participation through ESENER
 3. Promoting safety and health in a green economy
 4. Safety survey reveals lab risks
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Australian work health and safety strategy 2012 - 2022

Date of publication: October 2012

Source: Publications and Resources, Safe Work Australia

Author: Safe Work Australia

Synopsis:

The Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022 sets the vision of healthy, safe and productive

working lives and four outcomes to be achieved by 2022 through seven action areas, such as healthy and safe by design, supply chains and networks, leadership and culture, government, etc.

Agriculture, road transport, manufacturing, construction, accommodation and food services, public administration, health care and social assistance are some of the priority industries identified for preventive intervention. Some key work-related disorders that Australia will focus on include musculoskeletal disorders, mental disorders and cancers.

The strategy aims to achieve a 20% reduction in fatal work injuries, 30% reduction in incidence of claims with 1 or more weeks off work, and 30% decrease in claims for musculoskeletal disorders with 1 or more weeks off work.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Understanding workplace management of safety and health, psychosocial risks and worker participation through ESENER

Date of publication: April 2012

Source: Reports, EU-OSHA

Authors: RAND Europe, Cardiff University, et al

Synopsis:

This report is a summary of 4 areas of in-depth study based on the findings of the 2009 Europe-wide establishment survey on health and safety at the workplace, the European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) where 36,000 interviews were conducted, covering 31 countries.

The 4 areas studied were: i) management of health and safety at work; ii) worker representation and consultation on health and safety; iii) factors associated with effective management of psychosocial risks; and iv) management of psychosocial risks – drivers, obstacles, needs and measures taken.

ESENER found that the level of systematic workplace safety and health (WSH) management decreased with the size of enterprises, particularly for those with fewer than 100 workers. However, this was only true in certain EU countries, providing evidence that ‘favourable contexts’ for WSH management could be fostered even in the smallest enterprises. Enterprises with greater worker representation for WSH were found to be more likely to tackle both general WSH risks and psychosocial risks. This outcome was particularly evident when worker representation was combined with strong management commitment.

Psychosocial risks such as work-related stress, bullying/harassment and violence, were highlighted as a new and emerging risk for occupational safety and health. The report cited lack of awareness, resources, technical support and sensitivity as the main barriers for psychosocial risk management. The study found that establishments with good management of general WSH risks also tend to manage psychosocial risks more

comprehensively.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Promoting safety and health in a green economy

Date of publication: April 2012

Source: Report, International Labour Organization

Author: SafeWork (ILO)

Synopsis:

The report looks at the WSH perspective of “green jobs” and “greening” of current industries, production processes and jobs. While green jobs improve the environment, revitalize the economy and create new employment opportunities, they may also present a number of known and unknown risks for workers. The report summarises potential WSH risks in green jobs and the greening of traditional sectors. A green building project would have hazards associated with green jobs like solar panel installations, as well as traditional hazards like falls from height, cement, electricity, confined spaces, etc.

ILO highlights the criticality that the safety and health of workers are integrated into policies for the creation of green jobs when developing a green economy. A multi-disciplinary approach is required, integrating environmental aspects with WSH and public health, while at the same time, taking into consideration the well-being of the surrounding communities. A true green job must integrate safety and health into design, procurement, operations, maintenance sourcing, use and recycling, policies and decision-making. By “greening” the traditional sectors with the right measures, it will provide a major opportunity to make them safer and healthier, as well as energy efficient and environmentally sustainable.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Safety survey reveals lab risks

Date of publication: January 2013

Source: Nature

Author: Richard Van Noorden

Synopsis:

A study commissioned by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) indicated that laboratory researchers in USA were not as safe as they had thought to be. Although 86% of the 2,400 scientists surveyed said they believed their laboratories were safe places to work in, 46% of them had experienced injuries ranging from animal bites to chemical inhalation. It also revealed that 42% of junior scientists worked alone in the laboratory daily.

There were also mixed attitudes on the value of safety training, inspections and safety rules. About 67% of the respondents felt that laboratory inspections improved safety, with more senior scientists convinced on safety inspections than their junior peers. Some two-thirds of the researchers felt that safety training had focused too much on compliance of regulations than on improving laboratory safety. There were others (20%) who felt that laboratory safety rules had created a negative impact on their laboratory productivity.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Other Useful Resources:

- [Risks and Trends in the Safety and Health of Women at Work](#) (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work)
- [Foresight of New and Emerging Risks to Occupational Safety and Health Associated with New Technologies in Green Jobs by 2020 – Phase I](#) (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work)
- [Approaches to Safe Nanotechnology](#) (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)
- [Emerging risks and new patterns of prevention in a changing world of work](#) (International Labour Organization)