

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

P.K. Abeytunga

Vice President and Director General



CCOHS

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

Mandate

- ▶ The act to create the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) was based on the concept that all Canadians have "... a fundamental right to a healthy and safe working environment."
- ▶ The Act mandates CCOHS to promote health and safety in the workplace in Canada and the physical and mental health of working people in Canada.



CCOHS Council of Governors

- ▶ CCOHS is governed by a tripartite council representing governments (federal, provincial and territorial), employers and labour
- ▶ The Council of Governors assists in delivering a trustworthy and complete occupational health and safety service, and ensures that the services CCOHS delivers are unbiased



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CCOHS: Canada's National Resource for Occupational
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CIS 2007

Products and Services

Designed in cooperation with national and international occupational health and safety organizations with an emphasis on promoting an integrated comprehensive approach to the creation of healthy workplaces



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Types of Service

- ▶ Inquiries Service
- ▶ OSH Answers Service
- ▶ Training and Education Service
- ▶ Publications Service
- ▶ Health and Safety Programs and Management Systems



Types of Service – Cont.

- ▶ Chemical Health and Safety Information Services
- ▶ MSDS Service
- ▶ General Health and Safety Information Services
- ▶ Communications Service



SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



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Inquiries Service

- ▶ Free, direct, and confidential access to occupational health and safety information, in English or in French, to all Canadians, via dedicated CCOHS specialists
- ▶ Telephone, email and in-person



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Inquiries Service - Impact

- ▶ Since its launch in 1978, the Inquiries Service has answered over 382,000 questions, covering subjects from ergonomics to avian flu to workplace bullying
- ▶ 58% of survey respondents said that their use of CCOHS information relates to current or future changes to the workplace that may result in improved health and safety



OSH Answers Service

- ▶ Global Web-based information service consisting of easy-to-read question and answer documents to understand, identify and deal with workplace health and safety concerns
- ▶ Currently there are more than 670 topics covering 3,500 questions and answers



OSH Answers - Impact

- ▶ 2.5 million unique visitors from 145 countries accessed 6.6 million OSH Answers documents, in 2006/07
- ▶ 92 requests to reproduce OSH Answers for education and training use, resulting in almost 400,000 additional documents



Training and Education

- ▶ High quality and dependable service to fulfill the health and safety related training and education needs of Canadian workplace participants
- ▶ Delivery formats include Web based e-courses, classroom training, workshops and presentations



Training and Education - Impact

- ▶ In response to rising e-course demand, CCOHS nearly doubled the number of e-course offerings, from 12 to 23, on topics such as lockouts, workplace violence, and emergency response planning
- ▶ Over 11,500 participants in 2006/07



Training and Education - Impact

- ▶ CCOHS has also developed 5 customized e-courses, working in close partnership with participating organizations to deliver timely and relevant training material



Publications

- ▶ Practical, pocket-sized reference guides that respond to the need in Canadian workplaces for reliable, comprehensive and accessible occupational health and safety information
- ▶ Designed for on-the-job use as a reference tool and information source



Publications - Impact

- ▶ Since its debut, the library has expanded to 18 titles, from the *Cold Weather Workers Safety Guide* to the *Wellness in the Workplace Guide*
- ▶ Nearly 20,000 publications are sold each year for use in the workplace



Health and Safety Programs and Management Systems

- ▶ **OSH Works** is a Web-based Occupational Health and Safety Management Service that will help organizations maintain and enhance their existing OHS programs, as well as understand and meet the requirements of the national and international OHSMS standards such as OHSAS 18001 and CSA Z1000



Health and Safety Programs and Management Systems

- ▶ With OSH Works, organizations will be able to integrate occupational health and safety responsibilities into everyday business management
- ▶ OSH Works is currently in pilot testing and will debut in Fall 2007



Chemical Health and Safety Information Systems

- ▶ Comprehensive information service on all aspects of chemical safety to fulfill the needs of Canadian workplaces
- ▶ Service includes six comprehensive databases, a software system, and specialty projects serving national and international stakeholders and interests



Chemical Database Highlights

- ▶ **CHEMpendium** is a collection of essential databases that meets the broad needs of environmental, health and safety practitioners
- ▶ **Impact:** Approximately 75,000 records were viewed via the Web in 2006/07



Chemical Database Highlights

- ▶ The **CHEMINFO** database, with summarized, authoritative and understandable information on workplace chemicals, provides key health and safety information needed to control workplace exposures and prevent accidents, and includes scientifically supported regulatory classifications
- ▶ Impact: CHEMINFO is accessed almost 1,000 times, every day



Chemical Database Highlights

- ▶ The Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (**RTECS**) contains toxicological information with citations on more than 165,000 chemical substances from 2,500+ sources. CCOHS offers English, French and Spanish versions
- ▶ Impact: Web users accessed RTECS information more than 41,000 times in 2006/07



Chemical Database Highlights

- ▶ **IPCS INCHEM** compiles chemical-related health, safety and environment documents and databases from several international organizations
- ▶ **Impact:** On average, 182,000 visitors from 170 countries read and use INCHEM information every month



Chemical Database Highlights

- ▶ **IPCS INTOX**, a collaborative project with the World Health Organization, gives poison control centers access critical information when dealing with the diagnosis and management of poisoning or with the health aspects of chemical incidents
- ▶ **Impact:** In 2006/07, over 67,500 visitors from over 145 countries used the website



Chemical Database Highlights

- ▶ The **Domestic Substances List (DSL)** and the **Non-Domestic Substances List (NDSL)**, created by CCOHS, are an important way for government to be aware of new substances and to assess them for safety before widespread use occurs in Canada
- ▶ Impact: Government regulators and enforcers, MSDS writers and regulatory compliance specialists find that the DSL/NDSL database helps them to meet their compliance requirements



Chemical Services – MSDS Writer Software

- ▶ **MSDS Writer** is a new initiative to help Canadian small- and medium-sized businesses create and maintain product safety data sheets
- ▶ Pilot testing of the software will begin in 2007



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Chemical Services – Special Projects

- ▶ WHMIS Classification Discrepancy Project
- ▶ Pan-Canadian WHMIS Hazard Communication Symposium
- ▶ Health Canada Ad Hoc Expert Working Group
- ▶ And more - recognizing CCOHS' expertise in chemical health and safety information



MSDS Service

- ▶ MSDS Management Service helps clients quickly and easily access data sheets for all products specific to their workplace, in a secure Web-based database
- ▶ Clients represent a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, government, automotive and hospitality
- ▶ Access to over 450,000 data sheets from 740 manufacturers/suppliers



General Health and Safety Information Services

- ▶ Provides a comprehensive service of information and supports work-related health and safety initiatives on all areas of workplace health and safety to improve the total health of the individual – mental, physical and psychosocial



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General Health and Safety Information Services

- ▶ Services include Canadian EnviroOSH Legislation PLUS Standards, Bibliographic databases and the ILO Encyclopaedia, the Academic Support Program, Canadian Health Network, along with special projects such as Enhancing OSH in Brazil



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Canadian EnviroOSH Legislation PLUS Standards

- ▶ Provides employers and works with all the legislation in one place, making cross-jurisdictional comparisons very easy
- ▶ **IMPACT:** Almost 500 organizations in Canada and internationally rely on this service



Bibliographic databases and ILO Encyclopaedia

- ▶ OSHLINE is a CCOHS database of references to occupational health and safety journal articles, reports and conference proceedings
- ▶ ILO Encyclopaedia is a collaboration between the ILO and CCOHS in which CCOHS delivers the encyclopaedia with the CIS/ILO database in English and French on the Web
- ▶ IMPACT: Used by 100s of organizations in the world, including research institutes, universities, health & safety associations, government, and industries



Academic Support Program

- ▶ Offered to universities and colleges as a tool to educate students and to assist the institutions in their own occupational health and safety efforts
- ▶ Includes access to a wealth of databases at a significant discount
- ▶ **IMPACT:** More than 2.7 million students and 450,000 staff from 103 institutions have access



Canadian Health Network

- ▶ CCOHS works with other leading Canadian health organizations as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide a wide variety of free, reliable, up-to-date and relevant e-health promotion, disease, and injury prevention information
- ▶ IMPACT: Canadians can now access the information they need to help prevent disease and make healthy choices for themselves and their communities



Enhancement of Occupational Health and Safety in Brazilian Industry (EOHSBI)

- ▶ CCOHS is leading the development of an OSH information portal appropriate for workplace participants in Brazilian industry.
- ▶ **IMPACT:** The tools developed for the project are expected to have a positive impact on improving health and safety in the workplaces of Brazil.



Public Policy Investigation in Chongqing, China

- ▶ CCOHS joined with key legal and governmental organizations in Chongqing, China to address the issues of injury prevention and insurance for migrant workers.



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Communications Services

- ▶ To promote occupational health and safety in Canada
- ▶ To develop and strengthen stakeholder relations
- ▶ To promote CCOHS and its products and services



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Communications Services

- ▶ Project highlights include the *Bringing Health to Work* portal, the Health and Safety Report e-newsletter, North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, the Dick Martin Scholarship Award and a 2-day Pan-Canadian Forum, "*Emerging Health & Safety Issues from Changing Workplaces*"
- ▶ Awareness of CCOHS as a "go to" resource continues to grow
- ▶ Various collaborative Web efforts contribute to CCOHS' increased visibility and trusted reputation



Bringing Health to Work

- ▶ A Web portal that provides Canadians with free and easy access to resources and tools for creating and promoting healthy workplaces
- ▶ Impact: the portal has been accessed over 50,000 times



Health and Safety Report

- ▶ A free monthly e-newsletter from CCOHS that aims to increase awareness and importance of Canadian workplace health and safety
- ▶ Impact: Almost a 40% growth in subscribers year over year - a total of more than 16,000 – representing 100+ countries
- ▶ Impact: 83% said they use the information to make their workplaces safer



NAOSH Week

- ▶ CCOHS presents a complimentary series of recorded webinars for North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week to provide information and knowledge that support prevention initiatives
- ▶ CCOHS is also responsible for the NAOSH Week website



Dick Martin Scholarship Award

- ▶ The CCOHS Council of Governors established this annual, national award for post-secondary students to foster interest in the field of workplace health and safety.
- ▶ Impact: A total of \$7,750 was contributed to this year's awards



Forum 2007

- ▶ CCOHS is hosting a national forum to explore health and safety issues that are emerging from changing workplaces.
- ▶ It is anticipated that, similar to the first forum held in 2005, the event will help stimulate creative solutions among Canadians to help ensure people can be safe and healthy at work.



Website Collaborations

- ▶ CCOHS maintains a tri-national website to facilitate communications among the Working Group of Government Experts in Occupational Safety and Health members from Canada, USA and Mexico
- ▶ CCOHS continues to work with the Cross-Canada Youth Advisory Committee to enhance JobOne.ca, a national website for young workers. The site was accessed more than 207,000 times in 2006/07.



CCOHS in the News

- ▶ CCOHS' profile is being continually raised by an increasing amount of media coverage and re-use of CCOHS information and materials.
- ▶ In 2006/07, 111 media sightings involving CCOHS were reported
- ▶ More than ever, CCOHS information is being widely distributed through website links and blog references



CCOHS Continues to Advocate for Workplace Health and Safety

- ▶ From its first official day of operation in January 1980 as Canada's National Occupational Health and Safety Centre, CCOHS continues to provide essential and helpful information on workplace health and safety conditions to assist all Canadians in reducing injuries and illnesses



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