



Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene

IIOSH

2006

THE INFORMATION CENTRE

The IIOSH Information Centre is the Israel's primary source of OSH information. It supplies the public, particularly the safety community and other interested people at industrial plants, with reliable up-to-date information according to their requests. Every answer is being tailored to the inquirer's needs and educational level. The centre's information scientists use an extensive network of OSH information resources that includes numerous international and local databases, a library, personal expertise of the IIOSH staff and, when necessary, authoritative sources elsewhere. For this purpose the Information Centre maintains working contacts with many relevant organizations in Israel and abroad.

The IIOSH is the official representative of the International Labour Organization Information Center in Israel (CIS ILO).

The centre's main activities include:

- Provision of up-to-date information, usually free of charge, in response to written or verbal requests from workers, managers, OSH professionals, or members of the public, submitted by means of mail, fax, telephone, e-mail or via the Internet;
- Maintenance of constant ties with recognized suppliers of OSH information worldwide;;
- Acquisition, processing, translation, cataloging and systematization of information within the entire area of safety and health at work, using databases, professional literature, other printed and electronic sources;
- Development and maintenance of specialized local databases;
- Maintenance and ongoing updating of the service library containing thousands of books and periodicals;
- Preparation and production of professional publications on selected topics, intended for a countrywide circulation, including information sheets and FAQs;
- Maintenance and constant updating of the Israeli OSH-related legislation and standards register;
- Participation in surveys and applied research in the field of OSH.

Every year the Centre answers over 5500 written and verbal information requests.



The centre's establishment and current operation have been facilitated by financial support provided by the *Workplace Health and Accident Prevention and Research* fund of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour and the *Manof* Foundation of the National Insurance Institution.

THE INFORMATION CENTRE IN FIGURES
YEAR 2006

5,600	Written and verbal answers
57,000	Full text microfiche and digital items
50,000	Entries in the local database
6,000	Books and magazines
37	Extensive databases containing millions of items
2,300	Enterprises, factories, organizations receive safety information handouts
5,000	ILOOSH bimonthly magazine subscribers read the information centre's selected answers.
160	International Hazard Datasheets on Occupations
35	International Chemical Safety Cards
50	Selected answers presented at the Institute's Internet site

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WRITTEN ANSWERS BY THE SUBJECT
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2006

	Subject	Amount of inquiries	%
	Total	2956	100
1	Machinery – equipment – tools	350	11.8
2	Energy (electricity, gas, water)	323	10.9
3	Industrial processes	78	2.6
4	Chemistry	713	24.1
5	Physics - radiation	69	2.3
6	Medicine	57	1.9
7	Personal protection equipment	96	3.3
8	Legislation	633	21.4
9	Fire protection	60	2.0
10	Construction works	144	4.9
11	Ergonomics	53	1.8
12	Environment	106	3.6
13	Other (occupational health, statistics, s. management etc.)	274	9.3



The human factor and the occupational safety - work related stress

In the recent years the Institute's information centre set up the foundations of the work related stress subjects. The major portion of the activity concentrated mainly on the provision of the basic information intended to promote the awareness to the subject, development of the training frameworks for various target populations and the creation of an extensive and continuously updated information database backed by international sources relating to the work related stress and the human factor in the occupational safety.

In 2006 - 2007 these three aspects of the work related stress activity were assigned even higher promotion priority by the Institute's management, stipulated by the requirement that it will be based on the methodology of the Israeli Standard 18001 "Occupational health and safety specifications" which closely follows the ILO Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (ILO-OSH2001).

In addition, the work related stress issues were discussed on a dedicated session during the bi-annual Institute's Safety convention in December 2006 and raised considerable interest among the members of the safety community taking part in the convention.

Currently the major portion of our activity is focused on the promotion of the tools that assist in coping with work related stress. We are continuously updating our resources with the world's most advanced trends and adapting them to the circumstances. We have disseminated extensive information relating to the ways of handling work related stress by organizations, increased the number of the workshops on the subject, the training events length and improved the contents, added a section on the work related stress to the guidance on the implementation of the systems of the occupational safety management. This guidance will be forwarded to thousands of workplaces, carrying the most advanced information on hazards assessment. This process follows the ILO Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems adopted in Israel.

A major effort is dedicated to the adaptation of the available information to the local circumstances. Thus, we have distributed a leaflet "Post Stress Disorder" to the managements and to the workers in the north of Israel following the stressful months of the war in Lebanon in order to facilitate a timely recognition of the phenomenon and thus to mitigate the damage likely to be caused to the workers affected.

Concurrently, we have deepened our involvement into developing specific subjects dealing with the work related stress: distributing information regarding the connection between the work related stress and the absence from work, its effects on the productivity of the organization and on the economy - on the organizational level, and the work related stress effects on the health - on the individual level.



Multimodal transport and workplace handling of dangerous goods

The IIOSH information centre is a major source of information on all aspects of the transport of dangerous goods in all modes. Since the preparation of the dangerous goods shipments, being an intrinsic part of the workplace processes, is normally carried out at the premises of the plants, the transport of dangerous goods is treated by the Institute as a very important occupational safety subject in industry.

Following are some of the major subjects pertaining to the multimodal transport of dangerous goods dealt with in 2006:

- Consultation and provision of required information, including regulatory updates around the world, to various governmental offices, such as Environmental, Interior, Transport and to the emergency services. Some of the advisory activity is provided as a background for the current or future legislation processes.
- Obtaining new professional literature in the field and updating the existing sources (printed and electronic).
- Provision of support to the workplace staff involved in the transport of dangerous goods through assistance on the classification, selection of suitable packagings, the rules of packing, shipment documentation, and the like.
- Providing active professional support to the Institute's training department and participating in actual basic and refresher training of the industrial and transport sectors relevant staff.
- Continuation of the pilot project on the preparation and publishing of the instructions in writing to the drivers carrying dangerous goods compliant with the format and contents required by the relevant Israeli legislation. The individual instructions in writing are prepared in easy to understand and use layout suitable not only for the use on the roads but also for the dangerous goods movement within the premises of the industrial enterprises.
- Implementation of various aspects of GHS in cooperation with the relevant national authorities.
- Implementation of the national standard 2302 related to the classification, marking and packaging of dangerous substances.



SPECIAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In 2006 the Institute continued its long standing policy of bringing to light, developing and promoting specific forefront issues, ideas and subjects in the field of the occupational safety in the framework of the special projects, such as:

1. The Institute's 12th Convention on the Occupational Safety and Health.

The convention took place in Tel Aviv, on December 26 - 27, 2006, and in each day sessions of this two day duration event took part 1000 participants, of whom about 600 are the safety officers. The opening section, presided by Mr. Menahem Schwartz, the director of the Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene, commenced with the speech of Mr. Eliyahu Ishay, deputy prime minister and the minister for Industry Trade and Labour who praised and encouraged those dedicating their efforts to the occupational safety and its promotion.

During the convention and its numerous sessions the following issues were discussed, inter alia: work related stress, occupational safety in agriculture, occupational health and hygiene, the integration of the safety and the quality, ergonomics, occupational safety management, occupational medicine, education, and so on. Various panels were organized for the benefit of the participants, including the panel "You ask the authority comments", etc. The closing session of the convention was actually in a form of a public trial on a subject pertaining the occupational safety; the trial was based on a simulated accident at an industrial plant where the work had been carried by sub-contractors and dealt with relevant legal issues.

Concurrently with the convention, an extensive campaign was carried out by the Institute, its major issue being the prevention of the occupational diseases at workplaces.

2. The improvement of the occupational safety at the construction sites.

The project's objective is to improve the occupational safety for those working at height and the occupational hygiene where the stress is being made to carry out the tests to identify the exposure to the silica dust and noise at some 1800 construction sites in Israel.

The project is being carried out as a joint undertaking of the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and one of the major funds of the National Insurance Institute of Israel, which funded the participation in the project of 5 additional instructors alongside with the Institute's instructors and 2 of the Institute's mobile training units . The project will be completed in December 2007.



3. The Implementation of a self sufficient occupational safety and hygiene system in some 1000 small and medium sized workplaces.

This innovative and distinctive project is being carried out by the Institute in cooperation with the Manufacturers association and funded by the National Insurance Institution.

The project is designed for and aimed at small and medium workplaces employing between 25 to 100 employees. The participation in the project is free of charge and is conditioned only by the plant management's commitment to implement the self sufficient safety system and following the management representative appointment to coordinate the activity involved in the project.

The participating workplaces are coached by the Institutes instructors who will instruct them on the following:

- The basics of the safety system and implementation of practical tools that will lead to the reduction of hazards and to on-going improvement in the occupational safety level at a specific workplace.
- Instruction and guidance in carrying out safety self audits and work station hazard evaluations using the "Job Safety Analysis" method to identify and mitigate the occupational hazards at the workplace in general and at the defined working stations, in particular.
- Assistance in carrying out the instruction of the management and the workers. At the same time the workplaces will have an unlimited access to a wide range of professional tools to assist them to carry out the safety analysis and hazard evaluation aimed at executing a systematic follow up of the implementation of the recommendations and tasks in all areas of the occupational safety and the workplace management.
- The workplaces participating in the project are issued a prestigious participation certificate carrying, among others, the ILO logo.

Since the project started and to present day we have been involved in more than 500 workplaces.

4. The Development of two educational software modules for the mobile training units.

The project description:

The educational computer software programs were developed for the four Institute's mobile training units for construction and industry applications, each in a number of languages.

(a) for the industrial applications: the following subjects were selected: manual handling of loads; safety in operating dangerous appliances and their protection; safety in using tools and lifting devices; fire safety. The software is being developed in the Hebrew and the Russian languages.



(b) for the construction applications: the training software is being developed in the Russian, Romania, Arabic and Turkish to focus on the following subjects: protection from the height related falls; scaffolding; digging and the soil works connected to construction site preparation; electrical works; exposure to silica dust.

5. The guidance to occupational hazards in selected professions - stage 2.

The stage 1 of the project dealt with some 50 different professions pertaining to the food industry. The stage 2 involves developing hazard datasheets on 160 professions in four sectors, based on a set template which has been recommended by the steering committee of the International Labour organization.

The sectors chosen are:

- Construction;
- Chemistry;
- Process industry;
- Health professions.

6. Development of a training package relating to the fire safety.

In order to enhance the quality of training in a very sensitive area - fire prevention, a training package, one of its kind, was developed in 2005 - mid 2006. The package serves numerous courses in the framework of the Institute that include the subjects pertaining to the fire safety: the safety managers, basic course and the refresher, fire safety representatives, and various other safety activities.

7. Production of an interactive system for the development of awareness and understanding of occupational safety among the school students and new workers.

The project is advanced by the ORT network, which develops the system in its computer centre, in cooperation with the subject matter specialists endorsed by the Institute. The system will apply to 13 areas of learning, "Safety at school" and "Safety at home" among them.

The pilot project has been completed by now, and we continue to expand various areas of leaning.



8. Development of safety self audits for the construction industry.

Within the framework of this project a guidance will be produced for carrying out safety self audits at construction sites. When completed, the self audits, used by the foremen, will serve as diagnostic tools for safety status evaluation at a given construction site.

The self audits are produced on the basis and following the example of the industry safety self audits translated and adapted to the use in Israel from the European Self Audit Handbook for SMEs. Using rich professional experience accumulated in the western world the self audits will be written in the language and level adapted optimally to the end users: contractors, foremen, work supervisors, safety managers, instructors and work inspectors.

9. Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems - the Competent Institute.

The Competent Institute has been established at the Israel Institute for Occupational Safety and Hygiene to promote the implementation of the occupational safety and health management systems in accordance with the ILO Guidelines.

Within the IIOSH the Competent Institute operates in the framework of the special projects department and is headed by the steering committee made up of representatives of various public institutions and government offices.

Among its activities the Competent Institute assists the plants and organizations in adoption of the system of occupational safety and health management, which includes 4 major components:

1. The activities focusing on provision of written information pertaining to the rationale underlying the system of safety management and the means of the system set up at a workplace;
2. Training activities directed at personnel employed at positions related to the occupational safety, occupational safety and health management;
3. Provision of access - by means of the Internet site - to the professional databases, containing, inter alia, forms, sample procedures, question forms and various tools contributing to the implementation and maintenance of the system of safety management;
4. Issue of the participation certificates to the organizations - members in the "club of the organizations using the safety management system".



10. Production of the guidelines relating to the occupational safety in the printing and plastics industry.

The aim of the guidelines is to provide the good practice recommendations for the improvement of the occupational safety in the given industries.

This project is coordinated by the information centre.

11. Production of the safety guidance for the workers employed in metal finishing.

The objective of the project is carrying out survey comparing the safety measures in the metal finishing processes chosen in the west and the ones adopted in Israel and publication of the guidance to the workplaces. In the course of the project the results of the environmental monitoring related to this process were compiled.

IIOSH web activities, 2006

In the course of 2006, IIOSH continued to expand and improve its web site and the Internet-based activities.

- Several new sections were added to the main IIOSH site, such as "Safety in work with electricity" and, in addition, a section relating to technical issues and ergonomics – translated into Hebrew, Russian and Arabic from the technical info sheets prepared by ILO CIS.
- The preparations are being made towards opening additional sections relating to the safety of machinery and to occupational health subjects.
- As an integral part of the occupational diseases awareness campaign, a new section on the occupational diseases has been added to the IIOSH site and promoted through a number of news and other leading portals in Israel.
- The Internet unit of IIOSH was involved in carrying out various important functions in the preparation and in the course of the Institute's 12th convention.
- The IIOSH home page enhanced layout was finalized.
- The expansion of the online library which can be accessed through the Institute's site continued in 2006. The library, consisting of books, booklets, abstracts and the information sheets, was expanded to 991 publications.
- 261 news and announcements, 101 of "this week answers", banners and news in English under the title "OSH Headlines from Israel" appeared on the IIOSH site.
- 12 issues of the electronic newsletter and one issue of the "Safety Management" newsletter were prepared and distributed.



- Hosting and maintaining the professional forum activities continued in 2006: surveillance, screening, editing of the messages, prompting response from relevant professionals inside and outside IIOSH, etc. In 2006 the IIOSH forum hosted a discussion focusing on the noise at workplaces, in the form of questions and answers. The total amount of the forum messages in 2006 reached 12269.
- 17 days of Internet use training events were carried out in 2006.