



Safety and health good practice online

A step-by-step guide to accessing good practice information on the web

**Do you need to know how to handle chemicals safely in your workplace?
Or how to find out about effective strategies to prevent work-related stress?**

Getting hold of information about good practice in occupational safety and health (OSH) couldn't be easier, using the European Agency's comprehensive network of websites.

With literally thousands of links, http://europe.osha.eu.int/good_practice/ is your gateway to reliable occupational safety and health information from around the world. Supported by leading OSH experts, the Agency is constantly searching the web to provide the practical information that people with occupational safety and health duties need to reduce workplace health and safety risks.

Finding your way around

Just click on a category or country to get started.

http://europe.osha.eu.int/good_practice/



Search by **country**...
EU Member States, EFTA countries, Australia, Canada and the USA ...

or by **sector**...
You can find information from across the EU and beyond on:
■ Construction;
■ Health care ...

or by **subject**...
■ Accident prevention;
■ Musculoskeletal disorders;
■ Dangerous substances;
■ Stress at work.

Need to prevent musculoskeletal disorders?

Suppose you're a safety representative working in a garage. You and your colleagues do a lot of lifting. Click on 'MSD-reports' and you will find relevant publications from around the world. For example, "Europe under Strain" is a TUTB report describing trade union actions to combat work-related MSDs.

Print problems solved – a practical example

Imagine you're the manager of a small print shop in Ireland and you want to find information about using chemicals safely in the workplace. Visit the Irish Focal Point's good practice pages and you'll see that the Health and Safety Authority has published a general guide "Use Chemicals Safely".

Sector solutions

Working in a particular sector, you want quick access to information relevant to you. This too is available. For example, if you work in the healthcare sector, you may have concerns over needle stick injuries. Just click on "health-care" then "list of topics" and "biological hazards needle stick injuries" to have a list of over 30 key documents immediately accessible.



Agency publications – free to download

The Agency also runs an active publications programme producing everything from factsheets to specialist information reports and covering a wide variety of safety and health problems. Recent reports have dealt with accident prevention, successful OSH campaigning, and the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders. All of the Agency's publications are available free of charge online at <http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/>.

European Week for Safety and Health at Work

The European Week for Safety and Health at Work is an annual information campaign to raise awareness of health and safety risks and promote effective good practice in Europe's workplaces. Organised by the European Agency and its network of national Focal Points, the Week takes place every October and is supported by a multilingual website.

European Week themes have included:

- Preventing stress and psychosocial risks (2002);
- Accident prevention (2001);
- Preventing musculoskeletal disorders (2000).

Promoting practical solutions – European Good Practice Awards

As part of the European Week, the Agency runs an annual competition for enterprises in Member States who have made innovative interventions to improve safety and health in the workplace. The awards are presented at the Week's closing event in November and the good practice examples are published by the Agency in print and on the web.

Good practice online forum

To help anyone wanting to discuss an OSH issue or find out more information on a specific subject, the Agency has launched a free online forum at http://europe.osha.eu.int/good_practice/forums/. This multilingual forum is an excellent way of sharing information on practical solutions to workplace safety and health problems.

Funding of good practice projects for SMEs

The Agency is supporting many national and trans-national projects to reduce the risk to workers' health and safety in small and medium enterprises. Watch the website for details of future schemes.

Help for intermediaries

The Agency recognises that intermediaries (those who help enterprises to reduce the risks to workers), need access to good practice too. A guide on how to run successful OSH campaigns is available from the Agency's publications page.

How to contact us

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Translation

While we try to provide as much information as possible in all Member State languages, we can't translate all the information available. Machine translation tools are available through the Agency's site.



Search facilities

The Agency's site has a powerful Altavista search engine to help users.

Introduction

This section provides links to discussion fora for occupational safety and health issues.

Comments

Comments and suggestions about the contents and structure of the Agency's web site are welcome. You can use either this form or email you comments to information@osha.eu.int

Discussion fora

Good Practice Online Forum

The Good Practice Online Forum (GPOF) aims to provide a channel for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) professionals and practitioners across the European Union to exchange experiences and share their expertise in a variety of OSH topics, which are related to enterprise level. It is hoped that the Forum will also provide feedback for the Agency as to what OSH practitioners at enterprise level perceive the priority topics to be, and, therefore, where their information needs lie. In summary, the main aims of the Forum are to:

- Encourage the dissemination of good practice information
- Promote discussion among practitioners and the exchange of useful experiences and expertise
- Identify existing areas of concern among practitioners
- Identify new areas of concern that could be an input into the Agency's Work Programme

http://europe.osha.eu.int/good_practice/