Benjamin O. ALLI



FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

SECOND EDITION

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Second edition

Benjamin O. ALLI

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Editor's note

Since the book was written from an occupational health perspective, its title refers to "occupational health and safety", whereas all relevant ILO instruments and programmes use the term "occupational safety and health". Because this book is an updated edition of an existing text the title has not been changed, but for consistency with current usage the term "occupational safety and health" is used throughout its contents, on the understanding that the terms are equivalent.

PREFACE

Occupational safety and health (OSH) is generally defined as the science of the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of hazards arising in or from the workplace that could impair the health and well-being of workers, taking into account the possible impact on the surrounding communities and the general environment. This domain is necessarily vast, encompassing a large number of disciplines and numerous workplace and environmental hazards. A wide range of structures, skills, knowledge and analytical capacities are needed to coordinate and implement all of the "building blocks" that make up national OSH systems so that protection is extended to both workers and the environment.

The scope of occupational safety and health has evolved gradually and continuously in response to social, political, technological and economic changes. In recent years, globalization of the world's economies and its repercussions have been perceived as the greatest force for change in the world of work, and consequently in the scope of occupational safety and health, in both positive and negative ways. Liberalization of world trade, rapid technological progress, significant developments in transport and communication, shifting patterns of employment, changes in work organization practices, the different employment patterns of men and women, and the size structure and life cycles of enterprises and of new technologies.

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