

*Guidelines  
on occupational  
safety and health  
management  
systems  
ILO-OSH 2001*



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE · GENEVA

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## Foreword

The protection of workers against work-related sickness, disease and injury forms part of the historical mandate of the ILO. Disease and injury do not go with the job nor can poverty justify disregard for workers' safety and health. The ILO's primary goal is to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. We have summarized this as "decent work". Decent work is safe work. And safe work is also a positive factor for productivity and economic growth.

Today, technological progress and intense competitive pressures bring rapid change in working conditions, work processes and organization. Legislation is essential but insufficient on its own to address these changes or to keep pace with new hazards and risks. Organizations must also be able to tackle occupational safety and health challenges continuously and to build effective responses into dynamic management strategies. These *Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems* will support this effort.

The *Guidelines* were prepared on the basis of a broad-based approach involving the ILO and its tripartite constituents and other stakeholders. They have also been shaped by internationally agreed occupational safety and health principles as defined in relevant international labour standards. Consequently, they provide a unique and powerful instrument for the development of a sustainable safety culture within enterprises and beyond. Workers, organizations, safety and health systems and the environment all stand to benefit.

The ILO is pleased to have led the exercise of drawing up these *Guidelines*. I am confident that they will become an invaluable tool for employers and workers and their organizations, national institutions and all those who have a role in ensuring that workplaces are also safe and healthy places.

Juan Somavia  
Director-General

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