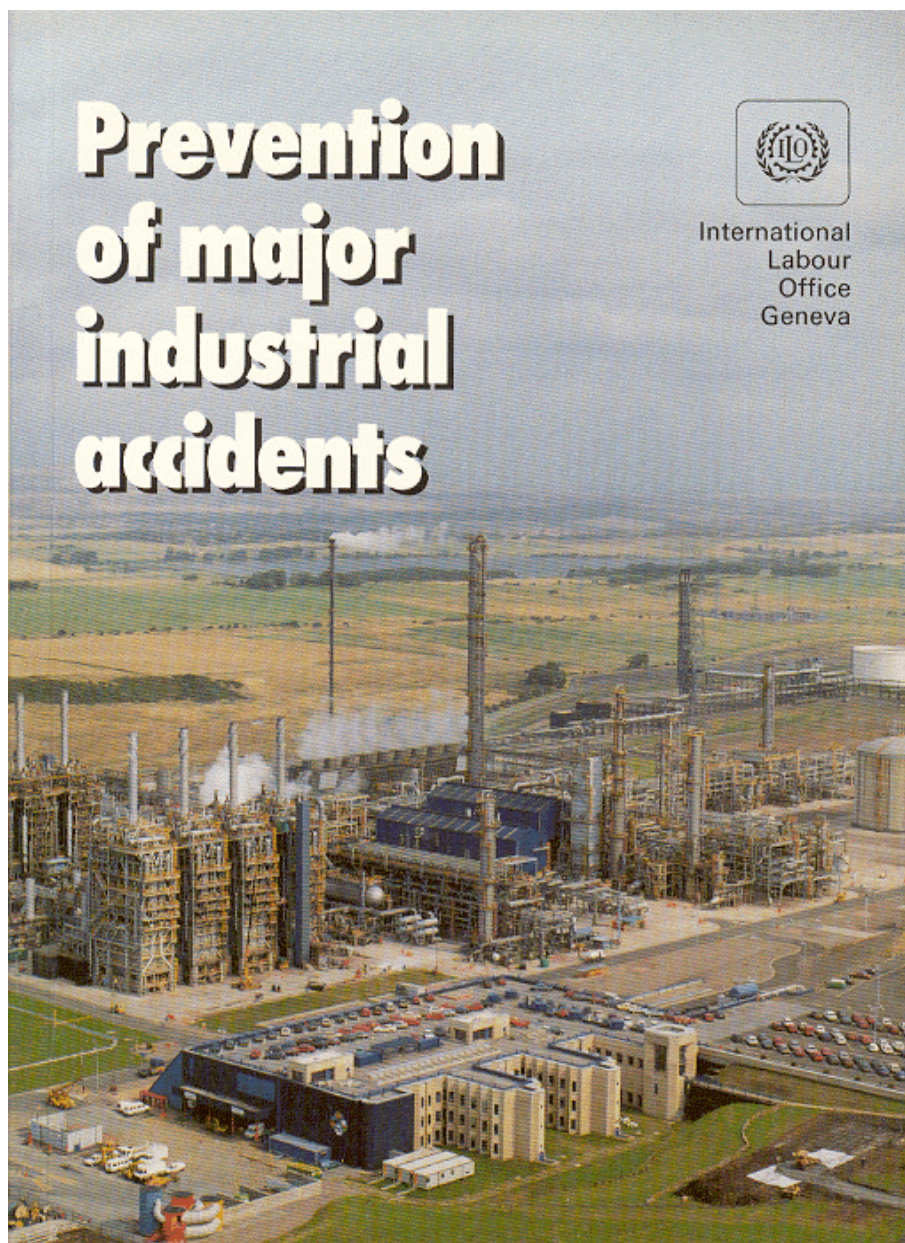


# Prevention of major industrial accidents



International  
Labour  
Office  
Geneva



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The International Programme for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment (PIACT) was launched by the International Labour Organisation in 1976 at the request of the International Labour Conference and after extensive consultations with member States.

PIACT is designed to promote or support action by member States to set and attain definite objectives aiming at "making work more human". The Programme is thus concerned with improving the quality of working life in all its aspects: for example, the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases, a wider application of the principles of ergonomics, the arrangement of working time, the improvement of the content and organisation of work and of conditions of work in general, a greater concern for the human element in the transfer of technology. To achieve these aims, PIACT makes use of and co-ordinates the traditional means of ILO action, including:

- the preparation and revision of international labour standards;
- operational activities, including the dispatch of multidisciplinary teams to assist member States on request;
- tripartite meetings between representatives of governments, employers and workers, including industrial committees to study the problems facing major industries, regional meetings and meetings of experts;
- action-oriented studies and research; and
- clearing-house activities, especially through the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) and the Clearing- house for the Dissemination of Information on Conditions of Work.

This publication is the outcome of a PIACT project.

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*Cover photographs:*

Exxon Chemical's ethylene plant, Fife (Scotland).

## **Prevention of major industrial accidents**



**An ILO code of practice**

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# **Prevention of major industrial accidents**

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An ILO contribution to the  
International Programme  
on Chemical Safety of UNEP,  
the ILO and the WHO (IPCS)

**International Labour Office    Geneva**

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## Preface

The potential for major industrial accidents, which has become more significant with the increasing production, storage and use of hazardous substances, has emphasised the need for a clearly defined and systematic approach to the control of such substances in order to protect workers, the public and the environment.

In accordance with the decisions taken by the Governing Body of the ILO at its 244th Session (November 1989), a meeting of experts was convened in Geneva from 8 to 17 October 1990 to draw up a code of practice on the prevention of major hazards. The meeting was composed of seven experts appointed following consultations with governments, seven experts appointed following consultations with the Employers' group and seven experts appointed following consultations with the Workers' group of the Governing Body<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Experts appointed following consultations with governments:*

- Mr. A. C. Barrell (Chairman and Reporter), Director, Technology Division, Health and Safety Executive, Bootle (United Kingdom).  
Dr. C. Chavalitnitikul, Director, National Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions and Environment, Bangkok (Thailand).  
Mr. K. C. Gupta, Director-General, Directorate General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes, Bombay (India).  
Mr. C. A. W. A. Husmann, Head of the Department of Chemical Safety, Directorate General of Labour, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Voorburg (Netherlands).  
Mr. E. Kozlov, Chief, Safety and Rescue Work Branch, State Commission for Emergency Situations of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Moscow (USSR).  
Mr. D. McDaniel, Area Director, Dallas Area Office, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Dallas (United States).  
Mr. M. A. Orellana Wiarco, Gerente de Seguridad e Higiene Industrial Institucional, Petróleos Mexicanos, Mexico City (Mexico).

*Experts appointed following consultations with the Employers' group:*

- Dr. O. Cardozo, Federation Venezolana de Cámaras y Asociaciones de Comercio y Producción, Caracas (Venezuela).  
Dr. R. Gehringer, Director, Hoechst AG, Frankfurt (Germany).  
Mr. M. Girard, General Secretary, Union patronale et interprofessionnelle du Congo, Brazzaville (Congo).  
Mr. M. B. Nathani, Head of Safety, National Refinery, Karachi (Pakistan).  
Mr. E. O. Olowo-Okere, President, Federation of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors in Nigeria, Lagos (Nigeria).  
Mr. R. Romero Xolocotzi, Technical Secretary, Cámara Nacional de la Industria del Hierro y del Acero, Instituto Mexicano del Hierro y Acero, Mexico City (Mexico).  
Dr. I. Rosenthal, Corporate Director, Safety, Health, Environmental Affairs and Product Integrity, Rohm and Haas Company, Bristol, Pennsylvania (United States).

*Experts appointed following consultations with the Workers' group:*

- Mr. P. Aro, Safety and Health Adviser, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions, Helsinki (Finland).  
Ms. C. Brighi, Health and Safety Environment Department, Italian Confederation of Workers' Unions (CISL), Rome (Italy).  
Mr. S. M. Maculuve, Secretary for Health and Safety, Ports and Railway Workers' Union, Organisation of Mozambican Workers, Maputo (Mozambique).

## Prevention of major industrial accidents

This meeting of experts finalised and adopted this code of practice based upon a draft prepared in the Office. The meeting decided that the title of the code should read as follows: *Prevention of major industrial accidents*.

The practical recommendations of this code of practice are intended for the use of all those who have responsibility for the prevention of major industrial accidents. The code is not intended to replace national laws, regulations or accepted standards. It has been drawn up with the object of providing guidance to those who may be engaged in the framing of provisions relating to the control of major hazards in industry: competent authorities; works managements; emergency services; and government inspectors. The code should also offer guidelines to employers' and workers' organisations.

Local circumstances and the availability of financial and technical resources will determine the speed and extent of implementation. Furthermore, these provisions should be read in the context of conditions in the country proposing to use this information and the scale of operation involved. In this regard, the needs of developing countries have also been taken into consideration.

The text of the code was approved for publication by the Governing Body of the ILO at its 248th Session (November 1990).

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Mr. K. Mahmood, Secretary for Health and Safety, All Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions, Lahore (Pakistan).

Dr. S. L. Passey, Secretary, Indian National Trade Union Congress, Department of Health, Safety and Environment, New Delhi (India).

Mr. J. Valenti, Safety and Health Department, United Steel Workers of America, Pittsburgh (United States).

Mr. A. Wojcik, President, Sailors' and Fishermen's Union, Warsaw (Poland).

### *International governmental and non-governmental organisations represented:*

United Nations Environment Programme.

World Health Organization.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals.

Commission of the European Communities.

International Agency for Research on Cancer.

International Social Security Association.

International Organisation for Standardization.

International Organisation of Employers.

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