

# JOINT RESOLUTION

OF THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY, THE FEDERAL ECONOMIC CHAMBER, THE FEDERAL CHAMBER OF LABOUR, THE TRADE UNION FEDERATION, THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRIAN INDUSTRIES, THE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE, THE CONFERENCE OF THE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE INSTITUTIONS

## ON THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGY 2007 – 2012

THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGY IS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF WORKERS AND PROTECT THEIR HEALTH ON A SUSTAINABLE BASIS

Gesundheitsrisiken

Werkzeuge

Maschinen

Chemikalien

Strahlung

Lärm

Erschütterungen

Raumklima

Verkehr

Psychische Belastungen

A benefit  
for all!

AN INITIATIVE OF FEDERAL MINISTRIES, SOCIAL PARTNERS,  
REPRESENTATIVE BODIES AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE INSTITUTIONS

Vienna, 23. September 2009

The efficient achievement of the goals of the Austrian Occupational Health and Safety Strategy demands the involvement of all stakeholders in the field of occupational health and safety as well as all institutions dealing with health and safety issues.

In accordance with the relevant legal provisions, the individual institutions have to optimise the use of their resources through coordinated planning within the framework of the Occupational Health and Safety Strategy; cooperation is to be promoted and the individual goals are to be adjusted to each other in order to ensure the highest possible degree of safety and health at the workplace.

The Occupational Health and Safety Strategy is to foster the establishment of networks and encourage cooperation, promote the exchange of know-how and information, and enable all stakeholders to make the best possible use of their respective assets.

This concentration of forces is to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the core elements and goals of the Occupational Health and Safety Strategy, based on the best possible use of time and human resources.

In particular, the following prevention targets are to be reached, with due consideration given to gender and age aspects:

**1. Reduction of occupational accidents, age-related diseases and occupational diseases.** Factors to be taken into consideration:

- sectors with special accident risks (accident-prone sectors), such as the construction industry, the electrical industry, forestry, the timber and metal working industries;
- the special situation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- muscular and skeletal disorders, considering age, sex, corporate culture and sector;
- skin diseases, considering age, sex, corporate culture and sector (focus on work in wet environments);
- Psychological stress factors.

**2. Improvement of hazard evaluation and counselling by prevention experts.** Factors to be taken into consideration:

- establishment of the initial situation, followed by targeted support and assistance measures, especially for SMEs;
- hazard evaluation as an essential contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Occupational Health and Safety Strategy;
- quality standards for the further training of workers specialising in prevention issues and prevention experts.

**3. Awareness building and training in the field of occupational health and safety.** Factors to be taken into consideration:

- employees, in particular employees of SMEs;
- safety commissioners and works council members responsible for safety issues;
- increased emphasis on occupational health and safety issues in schools, apprenticeship training, colleges of applied sciences and universities;
- experience gained with successful preventive measures;
- strengthened prevention efforts and improved assistance in cases of harassment at the workplace (internal and external violence).

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