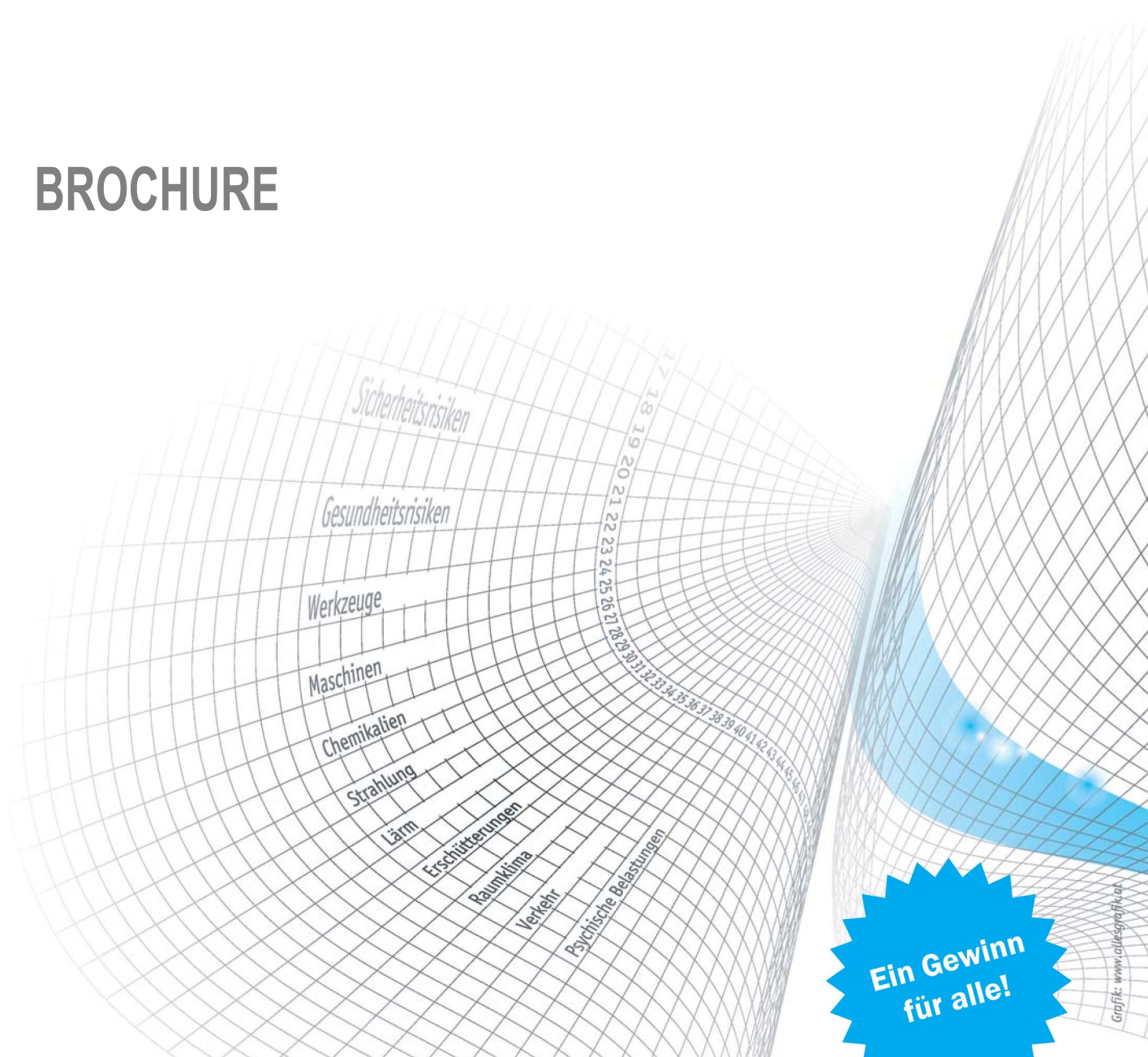


AUSTRIAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STRATEGY 2007 – 2012

BROCHURE



SUMMARY

Austrian Occupational Safety and Health Strategy with all projects of the working groups (as of end of 2008)

Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour

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Austrian Occupational Safety and Health Strategy 2007- 2012

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AUSTRIAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STRATEGY 2007- 2012

Preface

The Austrian Occupational Safety and Health Strategy involves all actors of health and safety at work and, essentially, those whose issues touch upon this subject. Joint planning within the framework of the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy is designed to achieve optimum utilisation of the resources of the individual institutions, promote cooperation and coordinate the individual targets so as to ensure optimum protection of safety and health at work.

Dr Martin Bartenstein, the former Federal Minister of Labour, commissioned the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board to conceive the national Occupational Safety and Health Strategy 2007 - 2012.

In order to prepare run-up to decisions the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board established the "Occupational Safety and Health Strategy" Expert Committee. The Expert Committee compiles proposals on subject matters as well as structural suggestions for handling the subjects.

Moreover, it summarises the evaluation of the targets achieved by the working groups and submits proposals for improvement measures to the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Board.

Subject areas

With respect to the strategy, five subject areas were defined which are covered by five specific working groups. The topics of the subject areas are listed below:

- Risk assessment and hazard awareness
- Accident prevention
- Prevention of work-related and occupational diseases
- Instruction and advanced training and information concerning occupational safety and health, improving the activities of prevention experts
- Raising awareness of occupational safety and health.

Co-operating institutions

The five working groups are composed of representatives of institutions directly or indirectly involved in occupational safety and health, such as ministries, state

Strategy

governments, accident insurance companies, social partners, stakeholder groups, safety engineering and occupational health centres, research centres, universities, regulatory agencies, companies, associations etc.

Foundations for the Austrian Occupational Safety and Health Strategy

All relevant institutions concerned with occupational safety and health are being involved via the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board, Occupational Safety and Health Strategy Expert Committee, and working groups. Further elements of the strategy are:

- Occupational Safety and Health Strategy – Annual work planning of the Labour Inspection
- Occupational Safety and Health Strategy – Targets defined on an international and EU level
- EU Community Strategy – Council resolution
- Gender aspects of the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy: Fact Sheets 42 and 43 of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Detailed information on the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy

Structure and procedure

As regards content and structure, the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy has a broad basis (see subject areas and co-operating institutions).

It assists the persons involved with the formation of networks and cooperations, exchange of know-how and information, as well as the targeted use of their strong points.

Such bundling ensures an effective and efficient implementation of the core elements and the targets of the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy, while at the same time optimising temporal and human resources.

The Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board decides on the staffing of the "Occupational Safety and Health" Expert Committee and on proposals submitted by the Expert Committee or the working groups. This also applies to the evaluation phase.

Strategy

The "Occupational Safety and Health Strategy" Expert Committee works on the basis of the applicable law. It prepares proposals for the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board. These are related to:

- Subject areas of the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy with individual projects
- Working group management and working groups
- Criteria for the evaluation and measurement of target achievement.

The five working groups develop proposals for individual projects in the subject areas:

- Project description with targets, procedures and indicators for the measurability of target achievement
- Ranking of projects by priority
- Identifying the institutions that mastermind and cooperate in projects.

Core elements, targets and implementation

Occupational Safety and Health Strategy: Core elements

- Improvement and adaptation of the legislation on occupational safety and health
- Proper application and enforcement of the regulations concerning occupational safety and health
- Integration of occupational safety and health into educational systems (schools, universities of applied sciences, universities)
- Quality improvement of the access to preventive services
- Support of small enterprises with the aid of intelligible information and practical guides.

Occupational Safety and Health Strategy: Targets

- EU-wide reduction of accidents at work by 25%
- Reduction of occupational and work-related diseases
- Appropriate equipment of the labour inspectorates
- Support through policies of public health and health promotion at work
- Defining and implementing national occupational safety and health strategies.

Strategy

Occupational Safety and Health Strategy: Implementation

- Focus on demographic changes and new employment trends (self-employed, migrants etc.)
- Improving health supervision, rehabilitation and reintegration of employees
- Coherence of occupational safety and health, public health and employment policy
- Training and instruction in the occupational safety and health sector
- Dissemination of good practices
- Compilation and distribution of guides and simple tools
- Access to qualified prevention specialists
- Economic incentives in occupational safety and health
- Measurable targets for reducing accidents at work and occupational diseases, in particular in high-risk sectors
- Effective enforcement of occupational safety and health by the regulatory authorities.

Progress evaluation

- Evaluation of the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy is carried out by means of progress review. Target achievement is verified by means of assessment, measurement or rating (PERFORMANCE = TARGET?). The evaluation is based on standards, quantitative or qualitative indicators as well as statistical, structural or systematic data.

Further relevant information for the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy

- Information of the EU Agency about GEM, young persons, new risks, stress, high-risk areas such as construction sites, occupational safety and health management, occupational safety and health campaigns, good practice etc.:
EU-Factsheets: <http://osha.europa.eu/publications/factsheets/>
- Failure management – Reporting of near-accidents and unsafe conditions
- Instruction and advanced training – Demands on instructors and trainers in occupational safety and health:
ENETOSH: http://www.enetosh.net/webcom/show_article.php/ c-136/ nr-1/i.html

Projects of the five working Groups

Summary of projects

Working Group 1 – Risk assessment and hazard awareness	
No.	WG 1 Projects
01	<p>Review of evaluation in the cleaning trade Focus campaign of the Labour Inspection (2008)</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
02	<p>Folder “Principles of Risk Assessment” Conception, printing and distribution of a folder containing elements of risk assessment for the usage of SMEs (2008)</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
03	<p>Questionnaire „Risk Assessment in SMEs” Conception of a questionnaire and enquiry about the implementation of risk assessment in SMEs in practice (2008-2009)</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
04	<p>Workshop in the frame of the European Week 2008 Planning and performing a workshop on the occasion of the European Week 2008 – subject “Workers’ participation in risk assessment” (2008)</p> <p>Status: finalised</p>
05	<p>Questionnaire „Risk Assessment” for investigation by the Labour Inspection, the Labour Inspection of agriculture and forestry and the Labour Inspection of transport Common investigation of legal requirements of risk assessment by labour inspection authorities (2008-2009)</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>

Projects

Working Group 2 – Accident prevention	
No.	WG 2 Projects
01	<p>Review of organisational precautions in the companies for the use of self-propelled work machines</p> <p>Focus campaign of the Labour Inspection (2008)</p> <p>Status: finalised</p>
02	<p>Folder “Prevention of accidents in the construction sector”</p> <p>Conception, printing and distribution of a folder containing elements of risk assessment for the usage of SMEs</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
03	<p>Folder “Prevention of accidents at wood processing”</p> <p>Conception, printing and distribution of a folder containing elements of risk assessment for the usage of SMEs</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
04	<p>Folder “Prevention of accidents in the metal and electrical industries”</p> <p>Conception, printing and distribution of a folder containing elements of risk assessment for the usage of SMEs</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>

Projects

Working Group 3 – Prevention of work-related and occupational diseases	
No.	WG 3 Projects
01	<p>Manual handling of loads in transport and care, 2007 (European Campaign: Lighten the load)</p> <p>Focus campaign of the Labour Inspection in the frame of SLIC's European campaign "Lighten the load" 2007</p> <p>Status: Report finalised</p>
02	<p>AUVAfit</p> <p>Projects by the General Accidents Insurance Board (AUVA) aiming at procedures and participation in the subject "Musculoskeletal and psychological strain in enterprises", 2007-2009</p>
03	<p>Manual handling of loads in retail trade and construction, 2008 (European Campaign: Lighten the load)</p> <p>Focus campaign of the Labour Inspection in the frame of SLIC's European campaign "Lighten the load" 2008</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
04	<p>Conference „Back and psyche under pressure“</p> <p>International Health Symposium on 19th of June 2008, organised by the Chamber of Labour in Upper Austria in cooperation with the General Accidents Insurance Board et al.</p>
05	<p>Workshops during the conference on 19th of November 2008 in the frame of the European Week on risks assessment with the subject "Musculoskeletal and psychological strain"</p> <p>Planning and performing a workshop with the members and the contents of WG 3</p> <p>Status: finalised</p>
06	<p>Guidelines on how to prevent successfully musculoskeletal and psychological strain</p> <p>Develop a concept in consideration of proven strategies on prevention and promotion of workers' health</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
07	<p>Impulses towards stress at work</p> <p>A project by the Austrian Trade Union Federation and human√ware financed by the General Accidents Insurance Board (2008-2010)</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>

Projects

Working Group 3 – Prevention of work-related and occupational diseases	
No.	WG 3 Projects
08	<p>Implementing the controlling feature method (manual handling of loads) at construction sites</p> <p>Project by the Working Group Construction (Porr, Wibeba, Alpin, Habach, Held & Franke, Hoch und Tiefbau Österreich) in order to implement the controlling feature method (manual handling of loads) at defined activities in cooperation between the Labour Inspection and the General Accidents Insurance Board</p> <p>Status: under progress; prospective finalisation 2012</p>
09	<p>„Char with care – healthy hands achieve more“</p> <p>Focus of the General Accidents Insurance Board</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>

Working Group 4 – Instruction and advanced training and information concerning occupational safety and health, improving the activities of prevention experts	
No.	WG 4 Projects
01	<p>Evaluation of training facilities for safety experts</p> <p>Inquiry by questionnaire (2007-2008)</p> <p>Status: finalised</p>
02	<p>Questionnaire on preventive services</p> <p>Common investigation by labour inspection authorities (Labour Inspection, Labour Inspection of agriculture and forestry, Labour Inspection of transport)</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
03	<p>Certification of advanced training</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
04	<p>Sensitising to occupational safety and health at schools providing vocational education</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>
05	<p>Integration of occupational safety and health into vocational education</p> <p>Status: under progress</p>

Projects

Working Group 5 – Raising awareness of occupational safety and health	
No.	WG 5 Projects
	<p>Best Practice Awareness raising campaign for enterprises from enterprises Work healthily and safely – it pays off</p> <p>Status: first article already published, monthly completed in 2009</p>
	<p>Good Practice Practical solutions to minimise strain from manual handling of loads Work healthily and safely – it pays off</p> <p>Status: first article already published, quarterly completed in 2009</p>
03	<p>Sectoral solutions and failure management (near accidents and unsafe conditions)for SMEs</p> <p>Status: Beginning prospectively 2009</p>
04	<p>Explosion protection in SMEs of certain branches</p> <p>Annual Work Plan 2009 Focus campaign of the Labour Inspection</p> <p>Status: ongoing project</p>