

# Points of Industrial Accident Prevention Plan

“11th Industrial Accident Prevention  
Plan of Japan from 2008 to 2012”

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# Legal basis of the plan

Japanese “Industrial Safety and Health Law of 1972”, the basic and comprehensive law for the prevention of workplace accidents and occupational diseases, stipulates in its Article 6 and 8

that the minister for health, labor and welfare shall, in consultation with tripartite labor policy council consisting of representatives from labor and management as well as the public, prepare and make public

” 5-Year Industrial Accident Prevention Plan”.



# The nature and goal of the plan

This plan ,based on the analysis of the former 5 years' situation and problems for the workers' safety and health, indicates to those concerned

(1) **the priority policy and measures**, in coming 5 years, **that government is determined to take** by appropriating budget and mobilizing government personnel

(2) **the measures that should be taken**, in coming 5 years, by **employers, industries and workers, and other all concerned parties**, respectively.

The new 5 years plan , the 11th plan, has started April 1,2008.

The following is the summary of the new plan .



# 1. Term of the Plan

- **5 Years Plan**  
**between FY2008 and FY2012**



# 2. Targets of the Plan

- (1) To reduce the number of workers killed in occupational accidents by **more than 20%** during its term
- (2) To reduce the number of overall occupational accidents during its term by **more than 15%**.
- (3) To **stop the increasing tendency** and make it change to the decreasing pattern of the rate of diagnosis of legal ordinary health examinations for all workers, through the total health promotion

### 3 Social conditions surrounding labor accidents the government's view

#### (1) Change in industry, work structure and workplaces

##### <Industry Structure and Work Structure>

Increase of **Tertiary industry** such as service industry

Increase of **peripheral workers** such as contract workers, short time workers and temporary dispatched workers

Bipolarization of work hours-longer work hours and shorter ones

Increase of **aged workers** due to higher retirement age

Increasing trend of **women workers**



## <Workplace Changes>

More diversified and complicated industrial processes

Introducing new machinery , equipment and raw materials, chemicals

**Diversified risks** of labor accidents

Collective retirement of baby boomers from workplaces and Increasing workers of short time, temporary based employment

Fear of **inadequate transfer of know-how** of safety and health



## (2) Present status and problems

### < Present Status of Labor Accidents >

Number of **fatal labor accidents** have had downturn pattern and met the target of “lower than 1500 cases, while decrease of total number of accidents did not meet target of 20% decrease during 5 years

**Accident frequency rate** is 2 times as high at workplaces with less than 50 workers as that at those with 300 workers or more, and this trend is unchanged

Labor accidents involving **workers of 50 years or more** compose about 60% of fatal accidents and 40% of total accidents

Traffic labor accidents, falls compose high rate of fatal accidents and so do falls, caught or trapped in machinery etc., slip and trip of total accidents

## < Present Status of Occupational Diseases >

**The rate of diagnosis** of ordinary health examinations keep high.

The number of cases recognized as occupational diseases and entitled compensation by workers accidents compensation insurance due to **cerebrovascular disease or ischemic heart disease, so-called "Karoshi"** keeps as high as 300 cases.

60% of workers feel **severe anxiety or stress** in their working lives.

The incidence of mental illness and suicide caused by psychological stress at work is in increasing tendency, and exceeded 200 cases in 2006.

There are still 250 cases annually in new diagnoses of **pneumoconiosis**, and 300 cases in new diagnoses of vibration-related disorders,,\_noise-related disorders and health disorders caused by chemical substances, respectively .

There are about 10 cases of anoxia,20 cases of heat stroke and still no end to organic-solvent and carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Musculoskeletal disorders** such as back pain affect nearly 5,000 workers annually, and account for over 60% of all occupational diseases.

It is feared that the number may increase in line with the more aged workers as well as care workers.

Newly recognized occupational cases of **lung cancer and mesothelioma** due to asbestos is increasing and reached as high as 1,800 cases in 2006.

Future cases of furthermore health problems by asbestos exposure accompanying demolition of buildings/equipments etc., is feared.



## 4 Basic Concept of Safety and Health Measures of the Plan

Consisting of the following two;

\* For decreasing overall labor accidents, to disseminate the method of risk assessment among workplaces and lower the risk through the practice of it

\* To specify jobs, operations , machinery etc., that can be the cause of accidents or have high risk inherently and establish complete measures to prevent accidents due to them



## < Overall Situation of Workplace Safety and Health >

In order to deal with diversified workplace risks, it is important to identify workplace hazards, estimate and evaluate risks and take measures to lower the risks. There are ,however, still small ratio of workplaces that implement these processes because of shortage of staff or lack of knowledge of them.

Voluntary workplace safety and health activities such as OSH education and safety patrol are becoming inactive.

On the other hand, in the wake of dramatical increase of peripheral workers that account for one third of overall workforce now, the rate of accidents in which workers who are not enough experienced are involved ,are on the rise .

As Increase of aged workers, who are deemed vulnerable to labor accidents, are anticipated, measures for aged workers are increasingly significant

# 5 Priority measures for the Prevention of Occupational Accidents

- (a) Promotion of Risk assessment through government guidelines in accordance with the variety of works/operations and the personnel training
  - (b) Promotion of Hazard identification of chemicals as well as Risk assessment of chemical processes by the best use of Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) prepared according to GHS.
  - (c) As the number of accidents related to machine handling is high and grave, to investigate/analyze the cause of accidents by the types of machines/machine operations respectively and establish safety measures accordingly .
  - (d) As the number of accidents due to fall is high and grave, to investigate/establish safety measures for those types of scaffolding or building works that have comparatively high risk.
  - (e) To decrease new cases diagnosed with pneumoconiosis through the comprehensive preventive measures on arc welding, tunnel construction and metal grinding
  - (f) To prevent health impairment due to hazardous chemicals through safety education, work environment control and work control
  - (g) To increase the ratio of companies that are tackling with mental health care program up to 50% or more.
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# **6 Individual safety and health measures in the plan**

- ( 1 ) Promotion of voluntary measures by employers**
- ( 2 ) Measures for specified risks**
- ( 3 ) Measures for the type of business whose labor accident frequency is high**
- ( 4 ) Measures for occupational diseases**
- ( 5 ) Measures for health impairment due to asbestos**
- ( 6 ) Measures for health impairment due to specified hazardous chemicals**
- ( 7 ) Mental health measures and measures for health impairment due to excessive work**
- ( 8 ) Strengthening measures for occupational safety and health control**
- ( 9 ) Industrial health promotion and promotion of workplace amenity**