Preventing occupational risks in road transport and logistics
Findings from EU-OSHA´s activities

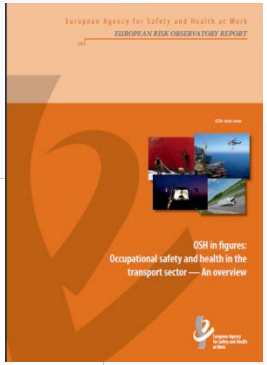
Elke Schneider & Sarah Copsey
EU-OSHA, Bilbao

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Brief description - role of EU-OSHA

- European body based in Bilbao
- Key role to support the collection, sharing and exchange of information on occupational safety and health
- Governing Board of governments, employers and workers organisations
- Working with a network of ‘focal points’ in EU member states, candidate countries and EFTA. And with key organisations worldwide

Summary of findings from EU-OSHA Risk Observatory `OSH in Figures Transport Sector‘ report



- More and more **women**
- Transport workforce is **ageing**
- High proportion of migrant workers
- Multiple exposures to **physical, psychosocial & organisational** risks
- Exposure to **dangerous substances** and biological agents – underestimated and **underassessed**!
- **Varying working hours** (working evening, shifts, at night, weekends)
- **Violence** is an increasing risk – and **underreported**!
- **Health problems**: insomnia, digestive, long-term fatigue, musculoskeletal, asbestos-related, hearing loss, infectious diseases, accidents due to falls.
- **Technological equipment** – distractive and challenging
- **Working at clients premises and on the road** – limited scope for adaptation and healthy lifestyles
- **Speed of change and growth** a particular challenge for OSH

http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/transport-sector_TERO10001ENC/view

Publications

…

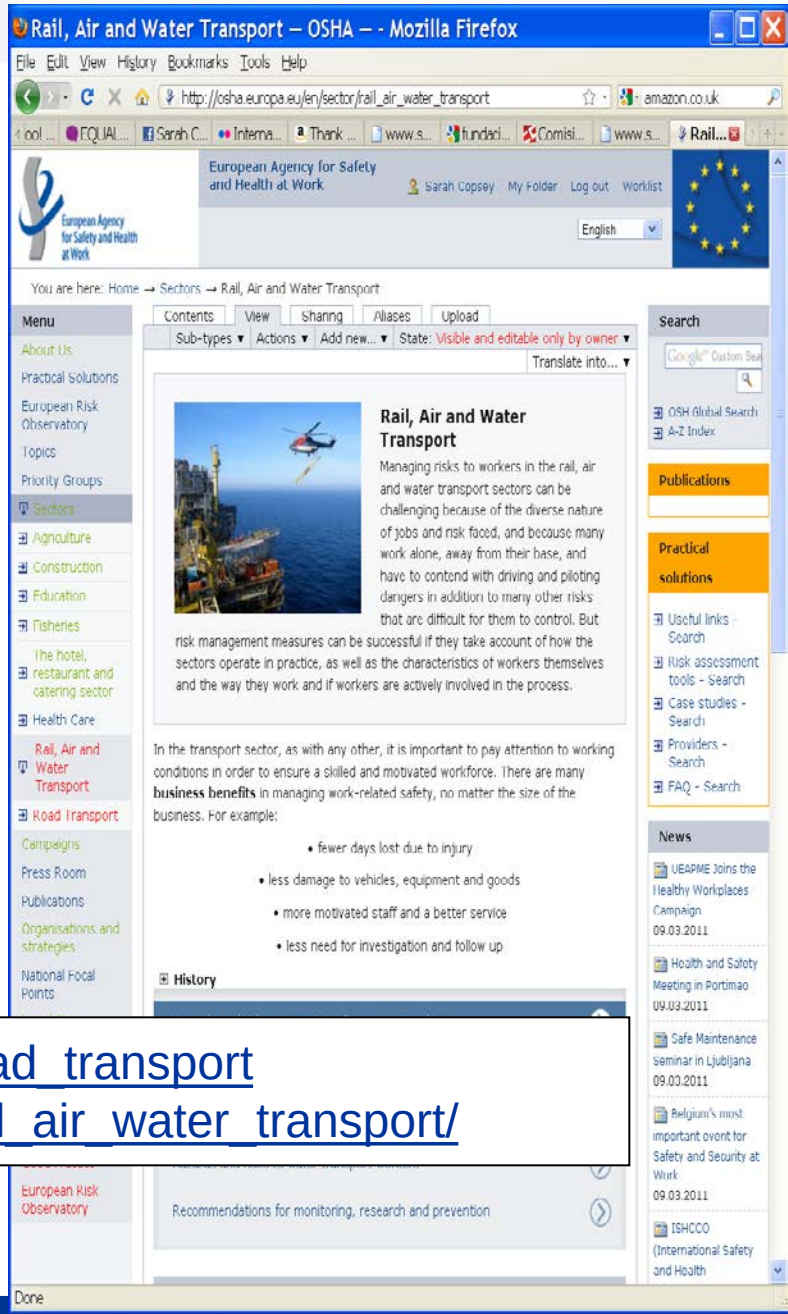
- Case study report - Managing occupational risks to road haulage and bus drivers
- Delivering the message - Review of OSH programmes and campaigns in road transport
- Review of available good practice guidance for taxi drivers
- Review of available GP guidance motorbike & bicycle couriers
- Review of some specific accidents in the sector: good practice lessons

OSH in figures

Transport - Summary report + 17 country reports

http://osha.europa.eu

Road transport web pages, and also pages covering the other transport sectors



http://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/road_transport
http://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/rail_air_water_transport/

Road transport - European & international cooperation built up since 2008

- European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) - PRAISE
- European Transport Federation (ETF) –various
- European Chemical Transport Association (ECTA) particpation in event 2009, Responsible care in EU chemical land transport
- DG EMPL – guide on driving for work
- UN Decade of Action on Road Safety 2011-20
- NIOSH/ Global occupational road safety initiative
- Other contacts:
  - DG MOVE, European Charter for road safety
  - Eurosafe – EU injury prevention network supported by DG SANCO
  - EU Parliament – committee on transport & tourism
  - ILO – training foundation
  - National contacts (ES, FR, UK, DE, HU, etc.)

Some thoughts..

- Working in road transport requires high levels of professional skill and competence
  - Being able to drive
  - Being able to load and unload
  - Being able to repair technical problems
  - Having certain language skills
  - Carrying out basic administration
  - Acting as "ambassadors" for company
- Major responsibility once on the road
- If society wants motivated and highly skilled road transport workers, more attention should be given to the working conditions of the sector

Preventing occupational risks in road transport and logistics
Risk assessment and worker participation are key!

Elke Schneider & Sarah Copsey
EU-OSHA, Bilbao

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

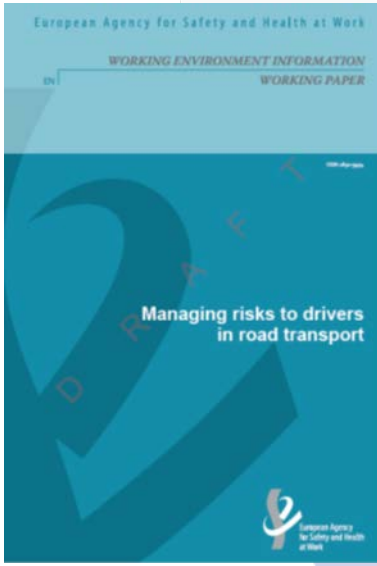
Prevent risks to road transport workers

- Not just driving risks,…
- Broad range of occupational risks to transport workers - not just road safety issues and driving hazards - including:
  - Loading, unloading
  - Falls climbing in and out of cabs
  - Rest and toilet facilities
  - Vehicle design and maintenance
  - Musculoskeletal and vibration related disorders
  - Hot and cold cabs
  - Stress
  - Violence from members of the public
- Drivers NOT a homogenous group: older drivers, young drivers, women drivers, cross-border driving

Worker participation in road transport essential for effective solutions

Drivers - self-employed, very experienced + work independently, irregular hours and away from a fixed base:

- Low involvement in workplace issues
- Limited contact with supervisors or each other
- Limited opportunities for meetings and training
- Feel isolated
- Lack information about what is happening
- Lack of control and support e.g. delivery schedules vs driving safely
- Language barriers



- ✓ **Solutions developed by drivers for drivers**
- ✓ **Ensure approaches are practical but not patronising.**
- ✓ **Allow sufficient time**
- ✓ **discuss, plan, trial, revise and introduce change**
- ✓ **Overcome resistance to change**
- ✓ **Drivers as advocates**

http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/managing-risks-drivers_TEWE11002ENN/view

Inclusive participation in road transport – challenges/needs

- Enabling all to participate... shiftworkers, part-timers, women etc.
- Owner drivers – safety procedures often directly or indirectly under your control - specify reporting requirements, involve them in consultations, meetings
- Customer involvement – delivery sites
- Large organisations: set OSH standards for delivery contractors etc.
- Encourage workers to get involved, including as worker representatives

http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/managing-risks-drivers_TEWE11002ENN/view

Good practice:
Actions to increase women drivers

Transport for London, UK

Problem:

Transport workforce male-dominated - women on the increase – OSH actions male-orientated

(OSH in Figures Transport report)

Actions:

- TforL **women bus drivers** offers suitable working conditions to improve recruitment and retention
- ‘Women mentors’ in the depots to support female drivers; help with childcare costs; and women’s facilities.
- Measures and campaign to prevent violence on buses
- Training for staff and all managers that emphasises zero tolerance of discriminatory behaviour
- Work continues on issues such as flexible work patterns

In another example, following a study, Spanish trade union CCOO produced recommendations for uniforms for female drivers – incl. for pregnant women

A two-way process…

…where employers and employees/employee representatives:

- Talk to one another
- Listen to one another's concerns
- Raise concerns and solve problems together
- Seek and share views and information
- Discuss issues in good time
- Consider what everyone has to say
- Always give feedback
- Make decisions together

Requires collaboration, openness, trust and respect