

## Message from the Chairman

**Welcome to the first edition of the new European safety and health newsletter. The newsletter is designed for the many thousands of occupational safety and health professionals working across Europe.**

The newsletter is being published by The European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organisations (ENSHPO). ENSHPO brings together health and safety professional organisations from the current EU member states, applicant countries, and other European countries. It includes professional organisations such as IOSH in the UK, VDSI in Germany and AIAS in Italy.

At present, there are just over 20 organisations who are members of ENSHPO. At our recent meeting in Belgium, we welcomed our newest member country, Bulgaria.

Our members meet twice a year at various locations within Europe and are involved in some of the following activities:

- Developing a European certification standard for occupational safety and health manager
- Developing a Safety Card
- Working closely with European stakeholders

- Increasing the membership of ENSHPO in order to have European states represented by a single network.

The Network will also shortly be re-launching the ENSHPO website [www.enshpo.eu](http://www.enshpo.eu) where further information will be available soon.



**Bruce Phillips**  
Chair – ENSHPO

The newsletter is being electronically published in English. It is being distributed nationally by countries to its members. Member countries are free to translate the newsletter into local languages and are being encouraged to do so. It is planned to produce three editions of this newsletter each year. We value your comments on this newsletter and are happy to receive your feedback and comments. Perhaps you may wish to submit an article to the ENSHPO Secretariat for consideration.

Please forward your comments, suggestions, inquiries, future articles to the Secretariat at the address below.

The Secretariat: Miss Laurence Dufour.  
[Laurence.Dufour@iosh.co.uk](mailto:Laurence.Dufour@iosh.co.uk) or tel 0044 (0) 116 257 3208.

## NEWS



### Commission consults on OSH Strategy 2013-2020

**The European Commission has just launched a public consultation on a new OSH Strategy 2013-2020.**

At the very end of May the Commission published the long delayed consultation paper and the evaluation of the OSH

Strategy 2007-2013. Announcing the consultation, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Laszlo Andor said occupational standards in the European Union are a reference for the rest of the world". The Strategy 2007-2012 set a target of a 25% reduction in accidents. Speaking earlier this year, at a European Trade Union Institute conference, Commissioner Andor said the targets set in the 2007-2012 Strategy had been achieved and resulted in a sustainable and uniform reduction in accidents at work and occupational disease. However because the figures available to the Commission from national Governments are not sufficiently

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## NEWS



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precise, it is not clear that 25% accident reduction target was achieved. Also the Commission expresses some concerns about progress on occupational health.

The announcement of the consultation on the 2013-2020 Strategy will be welcomed by OSH professionals and trade unionists, with trade unions having expressed concern at

the delay in publishing the new draft Strategy. To view the consultation documents and to submit observations and comments click on the following link

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=699&consultId=13&furtherConsult=yes>

The closing date for submissions is August 26th.

## EU-OSHA survey finds job insecurity biggest cause of stress

**An opinion poll of European workers has found that more than half believe work-related stress is common in their workplace, while seven workers in ten listed job insecurity or reorganisation as the cause of such stress.**

The opinion poll, which was published by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), also found that 52% of workers expect that the number of workers in their workplaces aged 60 or over will increase by 2020. The poll, which was carried out in 31 European countries (the 27 EU member states and four EFTA member states), sought the opinion of workers aged 18 and over on work-related stress and perceptions about workers aged 60 or over. Over 16,000 workers were interviewed for the poll.

Topping the list of perceived causes of work-related stress was job insecurity or reorganisation which was listed by 72% of workers. Next to job insecurity or reorganisation was hours

of work or work overload, listed by 66%. Other causes listed were bullying or harassment (59%), lack of support from superiors and colleagues (57%), lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities (52%) and limited opportunities to manage work patterns (46%).

Stress associated with job insecurity or reorganisation was highest in countries where public debt exceeded 90% of GDP. Female workers were more likely than male workers to say stress was common in their workplace: 54% compared to 49%. Workers aged between 18 and 54 are more likely to perceive stress as a common problem, than older workers: 53% compared to 44%. Among work groups, healthcare workers at 61%, topped the list saying stress was common in their workplaces.

The poll found that 52% of workers expected the proportion of workers aged 60 and over in their workplace to increase by 2020. The belief that there will be an increase in the number of workers aged 60 and over was highest in workplaces employing 50 or more people. Those in non-manual roles were more inclined to think the number of workers age 60 or over would increase.

Amongst the problems workers polled saw were that older workers would be:

- More accident prone
- Less productive
- Suffer more from work-related stress

## At last agreement on Electromagnetic Fields Directive

**After nine years of discussion, the European Commission, the European Council of Ministers and the EU Parliament have agreed on the provisions of the new Electromagnetic Fields Directive.**

The new Directive, which is expected to be published in the European Official Journal around the beginning of July, will

replace the Electromagnetic Directive 2004 which never came into force. According to the Commission the new Directive updates the text of the 2004 Directive to take account of new scientific evidence particularly in relation to exposure limits of MRI scans in hospitals.

Outlining the provisions of the Directive, the Commission says it defines a protection system that graduates the level of risk in a simple and easily understandable way. The Directive will contain technical annexes setting out exposure limit values but will give member states the option of maintaining or adopting more favourable provisions for the protection of workers. The aim is that the new Directive will be transposed into national law throughout the Community by July 2016.



## FEATURE



# ENSHPO Professional Register

**One of the most concrete achievements of ENSHPO has been the establishment of the European register of safety professionals.**

It reached its third anniversary in the summer of 2012 when the first registered European Occupational Health and Safety Managers (EurOSHM) renewed their registrations, which are valid for 3 years. The register currently has 210 members.

ENSHPO developed the register to establish a harmonised minimum level of qualification and experience of safety professionals across the European Union and beyond, so that employers taking on a professional on the register as either employee or consultant can be sure that the person is competent.

The register has two levels; the manager (EurOSHM), a graduate level professional, is competent to work at a strategic level developing, introducing, monitoring and improving safety management systems particularly in high risk and complex industries; the technician (EurOSHT), with technical qualifications, works at a practical level devising, introducing and monitoring state of the art risk control measures in a range of small and medium-sized organisations, or working in an OHS department under a safety manager.

The standards against which the two levels are assessed can be found at [www.euroshm.org](http://www.euroshm.org). They cover the basic level of education, OHS training, experience as a safety professional, continuous professional development requirements and a code of conduct.

Rather than duplicate the national certification processes going on in each European country, ENSHPO assesses those national processes to see if they meet the ENSHPO standards. If they do comply, ENSHPO accepts those with the approved qualification without further assessment. Eight European countries have so far passed through that approval process. Two of them, Italy and Russia, took advantage of that assessment to upgrade their national qualification schemes to fully meet the ENSHPO standards. Where their country has not been approved, the applicants have to go through a full assessment by the ENSHPO Certification Committee (CeC) to check whether they meet the more stringent ENSHPO criteria. All those applicants passing the national or individual assessments are entered onto the register, administered by IFE in Switzerland.

After three years of experience of running the assessment processes centrally through IFE it was decided at the end of 2012 that it would be more efficient to delegate the full individual applicant assessment to the national associations which are members of ENSHPO, provided that they could convince the CeC that their assessment process was rigorous and effective. Five countries are now going through that further assessment, which should be completed by the middle of 2013.

The challenges for the future are to bring in more countries and to spread the word about the existence and value of the system to European employers and regulators to gain their support. *(Contributor: Andrew Hale, Hastam, Email: [andrew.hale@hastam.co.uk](mailto:andrew.hale@hastam.co.uk))*





FEATURE



# Periodic inspection of equipment: the regulations in Bulgaria

**There are regulations in every European country on the periodic inspection of work equipment. In this article we look at the Bulgarian regulations on the inspection of lifting equipment, and electrical equipment.**

## Lifting equipment

The rules or regulations governing the periodic inspection of lifting equipment in Bulgaria are set out in the *ORDINANCE for the safe operation and technical surveillance of the lifting equipment*.

An initial technical surveillance by an independent authorised body is required after the equipment registration.

The rules on periodic inspection provide that:

- Cranes
- Electric hoisting trolleys running on rail tracks, which are not mounted on cranes
- Elecpfers, which are not mounted on cranes
- Excavators designed to work with a hook, grab or electromagnet
- Hoisting equipment
- Hoisting baskets for lifting people
- Mobile workstations
- Construction and other hoists for lifting persons or persons and goods and goods that are covered by the Ordinance
- must be inspected every two years.

If a crane has been in operation for more than 16 years, inspection is required every year.

## Electrical equipment

Portable electrical equipment, like grinding and drilling machines are checked almost daily. For example if there is a problem with the tool, the operator reports it to the designated electrical technician who must repair the equipment immediately. Inspection is, so to speak, on demand.

Art. 217 of Ordinance 7 of 23.09.1999 on minimum health and safety of the workplace and the use of work equipment provides that necessary measurements be made in accordance with applicable regulations and with the frequency specified by the employer for the assessment risk.

Frequency of laboratory measurements to verify the protection against electric shock in electrical equipment with voltage up to 1000V and the grounding resistance of lightning protection system governed by the regulations: impedance  $Z_s$  of the loop "phase - protective conductor" - but at least once every five years.

Control measurements to verify the protective grounding system - not longer than: once per year - for the grounding resistance to ground; Five years - for the resistance of the neutral conductor

to ground - in networks with directly earthed star point, which is used zeroing

Control measurements to check safety switches with zero sequence currents and dangerous voltages in power systems with voltage up to 1000V, not longer than:

- Once per year - for resistance to ground the protective earthing;
- Every five years - for electrical connection between housing protect consumers and protective earthing protection for zero sequence currents;
- Every five years - for the electrical connection between the protected housing and consumer safety switch for hazardous voltage, and the absence of electrical connection between the body of the protected consumer and protective earthing.

Control measurements to check the insulation resistance of circuits with low voltage compared to the other circuits of the power supply - not longer than three years.

Control measurements of resistance and the voltage value in lighting systems - at the following intervals:

- Every three years - the measurement of insulation resistance of wires and cables;
- Once per year - measuring the value of goods and the tension in the individual sections of the wiring.

Resistance of the grounding of lightning protection systems – no longer than:

- Once per year - for buildings and outdoor facilities for first-class lightning protection and lightning protection systems Class I (Level of lightning I);
- Two years - for buildings and outdoor facilities of the second category of lightning and lightning protection systems of Class II (Level Lightning II);
- Three years - for buildings, outdoor facilities and open spaces of the third category of lightning and lightning protection systems of Class III (for lightning protection levels III and IV).

Frequency of laboratory measurements to verify the protection against electric shock in power systems with voltages up to 1000 V, with the temporary nature of the installation and operation governed by the regulations: For electrical installations, temporary installation and operation:

- For each initial commissioning of systems, equipment, machinery, installations and more.;
- After any relocation and commissioning of a new workplace equipment, machinery and others.;
- After repairs and renovations affecting the effectiveness of zeroing.

(Contributor: Doytchin Doytchev, National Association for Health and Safety at Work. For further information click on the following link [www.nahsu.com](http://www.nahsu.com)).



COUNTRY PROFILE: ROMANIA



VICTORIA, ROMANIA

Romania, located at the intersection of central and southeastern Europe, is the European Union's eastern border. The population of the country is more than 21 million. The workforce in 2012 was 58.5% (>12.2m), greater than in Spain, Malta, Italy, Hungary and Greece. The workforce structure is: 8.6% working in agriculture, 28.8% in industry, 26.3% in private services and 16.3% in public services (such as education, culture, health, public administration). (For more information visit [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product\\_details/publication?p\\_product\\_code=KS-SF-12-040](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-SF-12-040))

### Legislation

The main OSH legislative enactments are the:

- Health and Safety at Work Law no. 319 /2006, which implements the European OHS Framework Directive ([https://osha.europa.eu/fop/romania/rol/legislation/legea\\_securitatii\\_si\\_sanatatii\\_in\\_munca\\_nr\\_319\\_2006.shtml](https://osha.europa.eu/fop/romania/rol/legislation/legea_securitatii_si_sanatatii_in_munca_nr_319_2006.shtml)).
- Health and Safety at Work Law no. 319 /2006 General Application – HG (GD) no. 1425/ 2006. (<http://www.mmuncii.ro/pub/imagemanager/images/file/Legislatiei/HOTARARI-DE-GUVERN/HG1425-2006.pdf>)

- Several Government decisions transpose into Romanian legislation a number of EU Directives, such as those on construction sites, chemical substances, workplaces, work equipment, PPE, noise, explosive atmospheres, and asbestos. (For further information click on the following link [https://osha.europa.eu/fop/romania/rol/legislation/hotarari\\_guvern.shtml](https://osha.europa.eu/fop/romania/rol/legislation/hotarari_guvern.shtml))

### Health and Safety Authority

The OHS legislative authority is the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly (<http://www.mmuncii.ro/nou/index.php/en/#>).

Work Inspection is the public authority that enforces the OHS legislation. Work Inspection is represented in every Romanian county and in Bucharest by Labour Territorial Inspectorates. The main functions of Work Inspection (through Labour Territorial Inspectorates) are to:

- Enforce the labour, health and safety and market surveillance legislation;
- Offer consultancy for employees and employers for implementing the legislation;
- Inform the competent authorities about deficiencies and abuses regarding the law application;
- Propose to Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly improvements in legislation.



## COUNTRY PROFILE: ROMANIA



The public insurer for work accidents and professional illness is National House for Pensions and Social Insurances.

### Voluntary OHS organizations

There are a number of voluntary OSH organisations. These include the:

- Romanian Association for Occupational Health and Safety (ARSSM). ARSSM is the first non-governmental OHS organization in Romania. It has over 53 members; most of them are OHS external service companies from all major Romanian cities, work doctors and OHS specialists. The ARSSM's main objectives are to offer a networking platform for its members, to develop good practice guides on various OHS domains of interest, organize OHS training programs for middle and senior level management and to develop programs for implementing OHS management systems. The association is based in Bucharest and has two branches, one in Craiova and one in Braila. (For more information click on the following link [www.arssm.ro](http://www.arssm.ro))
- Institute of Risk Management and Occupational Health & Safety (IMRSS) is a non profit and non government organization for health and safety professionals in Romania and Eastern Europe. IMRSS aims to set the health and safety standards, support, develop and connect members with resources, guidance events and training in Romania and Eastern Europe. IMRSS is the voice of the health and safety, risk management profession, and campaigns on issues that affect millions of people in Romania and Eastern Europe. (For more information click on the following link [http://www.imrss.ro/docs/IMRSS\\_flyer\\_en.pdf](http://www.imrss.ro/docs/IMRSS_flyer_en.pdf))
- Professional Association for Occupational Health and Safety of Timisoara (APSSMT) is an organization based in Timisoara and is focused on trainings and workshops on OHS, fire safety and environmental protection.

### Useful tips

- Romanian legislation includes 33 mandatory prevention and protection activities for companies, regardless of size and activity. Companies with more than 50 employees must have an internal OHS technician and those over 250 employees an internal OHS manager.
- Legal requirements for OHS technician: technical or technological high school studies, and an 80 hours OHS training course.
- Legal requirements for OHS manager: degree in engineering, an 80 hours OHS training course (same as technician), and postgraduate 180 hours training course.



- External services are certified by Labour Territorial Inspectorates and they need at least one full time OHS manager employed.
- Most Romanian organizations (public and private) have an OHS external service to undertake prevention and protection activities.
- Every Labour Territorial Inspectorate has a slightly different way of implementing OHS legislation. They have the authority to do this.
- Work inspectors place emphasis on personnel's OHS periodical training books. In Romania periodical (monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly) OHS training is mandatory.

Safety culture in Romania is quite low but is in permanent improvement being empowered by multinational companies that operates in Romania. (Contributor, Catalin Crisan, Romanian Association for Occupational Health and Safety (ARSSM); e-mail: [office@arssm.ro](mailto:office@arssm.ro); website: [www.arssm.ro](http://www.arssm.ro) (only in Romanian))

### ENSHPO NEWS ALERT

Watch the web,  
[www.enshpo.eu](http://www.enshpo.eu)  
 for the re-launch of the  
 ENSHPO website  
 in September.