

# DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

## HISTORY

Directorate General that was established as one of the first main service units of Ministry of Labour in 1945, has been assigned to make arrangements related to health and safety at work life in our country.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organizational structure consists of six departments and a center.

- Occupational Health Department
- Occupational Safety Department
- Authorization Department
- Market Surveillance Department
- Publicity and Public Relations Department
- Human Resources and Support Services Department
  - Occupational Health and Safety Center (İSGÜM)

## NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COUNCIL

Council is made up of social partners, universities, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions and organizations for the purpose of forming a platform that provides related parties for explaining their opinions and thoughts about needs, priorities, determination of policies and strategies in the field of occupational health and safety (OHS).

1<sup>st</sup> The Policy Document covering the period between 2006 -2008 and 2<sup>nd</sup> The Policy Document covering the period between 2009 -2013 were published by the Council.

## NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY TARGETS (2009-2013)

- Entering into force of the OHS Law and completion of the relevant legislation studies.
- Informing the public and related parties in order to ensure the implementation of the new legislation and promotional activities carried out by council member institutions and organizations.
- Reducing the occupational accident rate by %20.
- Increasing the determination number of occupational diseases cases which are expectable but not detected, by %500.
- Increasing the number of employees procure services from OHS laboratory by %20.
- Increasing the OHS project, training and promotional activities carried out by National Council member institutions and organizations, by 20%.

## ACTIVITIES

### Legislative Studies

As Directorate General, legislation studies are done in the direction of commitments taking place in the National Programme and with the duties given by Laws by taking into consideration the ILO norms as well. As a result of these studies, 27 EU OHS Directives harmonized with the 20 Implementing Regulations and technical legislation which regulate the working life in the field of OHS harmonized with EU legislation in a large extend.

By this way, a contemporary and dynamic law background is attained which is compatible with progress in working life, meets daily needs to increase the quality of services given in the field of occupational health and safety in our country. This work will be completed by publication of a separate OHS law.

### Authorization and Certification Services

The certification and the authorization process of the institutions and organizations which will train the occupational physicians and occupational safety experts who will work at occupational health and safety services, external joint health and safety units (EJHSU) which will give service in the field of occupational health and safety and community health centers (CHS) which will serve occupational physician services is carried out by the Directorate General.

### Market Surveillance Activities of Personal Protective Equipments

Our Ministry is in charge of market surveillance of personal protective equipments. This activity is carried by Directorate General. It provides the implementation of sanctions when necessary to check whether these products are produced in accordance with the technical arrangement, or if they are safe and to make unsafe products safer while these products are in the market or while they are presented and distributed to the market.

Market surveillance and control activities are implemented in accordance with feedbacks coming from investigation of the accidents, complains of consumers, and denouncement done by citizens or producer firms, risky products taken into consideration by RAPEX which is an established database on international level for unsafe products.

## National and International Studies

General Directorate at the national level give great importance to cooperation with universities, public institutions and organizations, workers' and employers' organizations, professional occupation organizations and nongovernmental organizations to support field research and scientific studies and to improve research capacity about occupational health and safety. In the same way, collaboration and project studies are continued with international institutions and organizations and other countries to follow-up of modern and international standards and to ensure the integration of country implementations.

## National and International Cooperation Examples

- Protocol with Ministry of Health
- Protocol with Ministry of National Education
- Protocol with Ministry of Public Works
- Protocol with Ministry of Agriculture
- Protocols with Communication Faculties
- Protocol with Chamber of Marine Engineers
- Protocol of Cooperation with Germany- Dresden Academy
- Cooperation Studies with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- Protocol with DGUV-German Social Accident Insurance Agency on Cooperation in the Field of Occupational Health and Safety.

## National and International Project Examples

- Improvement of Health and Safety Conditions at Workplaces in Turkey (ISGIP)
- Technical Assistance for Establishment of a Market Surveillance Support Laboratory for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Turkey
- Technical Assistance for Occupational Health and Safety Laboratories
- Improvement of Quality Level of External Occupational Health and Safety Services in Turkey
- Determination and Diagnosis on Occupational Diseases and Increasing the Sensitivity of OHS Professionals in Turkey



*Occupational Health  
and Safety is a Social  
Responsibility*

## OHS Awareness Raising Studies

Importance of the safety culture is indisputable in order to ensure effective improvement and progress on occupational health and safety. For this purpose, General Directorate organizes many events and some of these are listed below.

- The OHS Week which is celebrating each year on 4-10 May
- International Occupational Health and Safety Regional Conference (biennially)
- Seminars about Safety Culture
- OHS Symposiums
- Workshop on OHS
- Sectoral Campaigns
- Trainings on OHS
- Publications
- Projects
- XIX. World Congress on Safety and Health at Work



## Publication and Documentation Studies

For introduction of policy and legislation of Turkey on occupational health and safety, various promotional and informative materials such as OHS Magazine, technical documents, brochures, books, booklets, posters, CDs, spot films for employers, employees and OHS professionals are preparing and disseminating to all social partners freely.



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CENTER (İSGÜM)

İSGÜM which was established in 1968 and organized as a center and 6 regional laboratories is the only official institution which is taking samples of physical and chemical environment at workplaces in Turkey together with making biological analysis among the employees and evaluating its results in terms of occupational health and safety, giving consultation and training services .

6 mobile health vehicles were bought to contribute development of occupational health and safety in Turkey by providing effective and efficient implementation of OHS legislation especially at SMEs. Heart and lung scan, medical laboratory, and hearing screening services are offering by these vehicles.



*Occupational Health and Safety is the Most Fundamental Human Right.*

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**LET'S DEVELOP THE  
OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH AND SAFETY  
CULTURE TOGETHER**

