



**XXXIst International
Symposium of the
ISSA Construction Section**

Berlin, 8 to 10 June 2022

**VISION
ZERO**

Safety.Health.
Wellbeing.



Declaration of Berlin



As a result of the

**XXXIst International Symposium of the
ISSA Construction Section**

“How to reach Vision Zero in Construction”

Berlin, 8 to 10 June 2022





Implementation of the 7 Golden Rules of Vision Zero

The state of construction safety and health best practices

WHEREAS, for the past 60 years, one of the main activities of the International Section on Prevention in the Construction Industry of the International Social Security Association (ISSA Construction Section) has been to convene a series of 30 *International Symposia on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the Construction Industry* to assess the state of prevention and best practices in construction safety and health.

WHEREAS this is the 30th anniversary of Council Directive 92/57/EEC, which established minimum requirements for health and safety and clarified the responsibilities of all industry actors in upholding such requirements, beginning with the project owner/client.

WHEREAS the XXIXth International Symposium (2009) of the ISSA Construction Section resulted in the Declaration of Brussels which defined eight essential actions of best practices in construction safety and health.

WHEREAS the XXXth International Symposium (2012) of the ISSA Construction Section resulted in the Declaration of Boston which concluded that when implemented these actions will result in sustainable working conditions for those employed in construction.

WHEREAS, in 2017, the ISSA together with the International Labour Organization and the Institution for Occupational Safety and Health launched the Global Vision Zero Campaign to eradicate work-related disabilities and deaths by applying its 7 Golden Rules, which the ISSA Construction Section adapted to the special characteristics of the construction work environment.

WHEREAS the XXXIst International Symposium (2022) of the ISSA Construction Section concluded that vast changes have occurred in the intervening decade, including:

- Much greater recognition that risk is not distributed evenly but rather is concentrated among employers and workers with limited skills, experience, and safety and health resources.
- More attention should be given to gender-specific and multi-cultural needs on construction sites.
- Significant globalization of construction, with continued exploitation of migrant workers.
- Introduction of digitalization and new management practices have created new opportunities and challenges.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic, resulting in opportunities to institutionalize many new practices favorable to workplace safety and wellbeing.
- A significant increase in mental health indicators support the need for greater awareness of stress and psychological fatigue among construction workers.

NOW THEREFORE, the XXXIst International Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section resolves that:

- All actors in the construction sector agree to embrace procedures consistent with the **7 Golden Rules of Vision Zero** with the aim of ensuring safety everywhere in construction.
 - Rule 1:** Take Leadership – Demonstrate Commitment
 - Rule 2:** Identify Hazards – Control Risks
 - Rule 3:** Define Targets – Develop Programs
 - Rule 4:** Ensure a Safe and Healthy System – Be Well-Organized!
 - Rule 5:** Ensure Safety and Health in Machines, Equipment and Workplaces
 - Rule 6:** Improve Qualifications – Develop Competence
 - Rule 7:** Invest in People – Motivate by Participation



Safety performance can be greatly enhanced by application of digital technologies such as BIM, robots, drones, etc. and virtual modeling of difficult work tasks.

The ISSA Construction Section adaption of the 7 Golden Rules are tailored to the unique characteristics of construction worksites, which are temporary, with multiple employers and specialty trades working simultaneously under constantly changing conditions, in the Vision Zero Guide „7 Golden Rules for the Construction Industry“.

- Good safety and health practices pay! They are an essential part of a quality control system that increases productivity, competitiveness, and value.
- Safety begins with the project owner/client, who sets the tone for a positive jobsite culture and achieving outstanding safety and health performance. The owner/client should:
 - a) Ensure that the architect it selects to design the project considers safety and health hazards (prevention through design).
 - b) Assess safety and health performance of the contractor(s) it selects to perform the work, including both lagging and leading indicators.
 - c) Ensure the contractor(s) maintain a rigorous safety and health program, to include active involvement of its workers.
- All employers and workers should demonstrate skills and safety knowledge. The industry should explore whether certification or licensing schemes should be adopted to ensure that qualifications are maintained. The industry should also explore the need for ensuring that worker's health is compatible with the job to be performed.
- The first responsibility of the employer (prime contractor, subcontractor, etc.) project leader is to secure the project site and within it to ensure that all persons employed on the project perform their work in a safe and healthful manner.
- Safety and health performance begins with an assessment of potential risks and the implementation of appropriate controls to mitigate the risks. This should be performed every day and for every project.
- OSH programs should be inclusive and sensitive to gender and multi-cultural differences. Ergonomic solutions are important in this regard.
- Mental health and recognition of psychological stress should be essential elements of workplace OSH programs.
- Safety performance can be greatly enhanced by application of digital technologies such as BIM, robots, drones, etc. and virtual modeling of difficult work tasks. When introducing those, however, it has to be kept in mind that such technologies can also be applied to monitor and control the workforce, and that it can have an impact on the availability and quality of workplaces.
- Best practices for improving safety performance include training of frontline supervisors to be better communicators as safety and health leaders, mentoring of subcontractors which tend to be smaller, specialized employers with limited resources, and self-employed workers; and empowering employees to be actively engaged in reporting hazards/injuries without fear of reprisal.



- Information should be provided to all small employers (e.g., those with 20 employees or less) about the abundant OSH resources available to them, mostly at no cost.
- Looking ahead, the industry should focus its attention on several newly emerging issues identified during the symposium, including:
 - a) Challenges with the supply chain in an increasingly fragmented world and the need for more locally sourced products;
 - b) Greater emphasis on sustainable construction solutions;
 - c) Adaption to increasingly severe environmental restrictions;
 - d) Need for new standards and practices to protect personal privacy and autonomy.



Looking ahead, the industry should focus its attention on several newly emerging issues, including greater emphasis on sustainable construction solutions.

Prof. Karl-Heinz Noetel

President ISSA Construction Section

(on behalf of all participants and organizations involved in the XXXIst International Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section)

Explanatory Notes

The Declaration of Brussels can be found at https://ww1.issa.int/sites/default/files/documents/administration/2Declaration_of_Brussels_en-35925.pdf

The Declaration of Boston can be found at https://ww1.issa.int/sites/default/files/documents/prevention/2-Declaration-of-Boston_en-36154.pdf

The Global Vision Zero Campaign can be found here: <https://visionzero.global/>

The Vision Zero Guide for the Construction Industry can be found at: <https://ww1.issa.int/prevention-construction/publications>



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INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION

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