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THE DECLARATION OF BOSTON

BOSTON, 18 OCTOBER, 2012



issa

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION

Section on Prevention in the Construction Industry



THE STATE OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AND HEALTH BEST PRACTICES

BOSTON, 18 OCTOBER, 2012

A NEW BASELINE FOR SUSTAINABLE WORK -- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS one of the main activities of the International Section on Prevention in the Construction Industry of the International Social Security Association of the ISSA ("Construction Section") has been to convene *the International Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry* to assess the state of prevention and best practices in construction safety and health;

WHEREAS the XXIXth International Symposium (2009) of the 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 Construction Section concluded that when these actions are implemented they will result in sustainable working conditions for those employed in construction; and among these actions the following actions were found to be particularly important:

- ❑ Evaluation of many years of experience of implementing safety and health policies in accordance with ILO Convention 167 of 1988 (with Recommendation 175 and Code of Practice of 1992 on OSH in construction) demonstrates that mandatory anticipation of risks during the design phase for the life cycle of the construction, introduction of safety and health in the planning and procurement stage of construction and clear coordination of duties for safety and health between all actors in the construction process results in very substantial prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses;
- ❑ Mandatory training for workers and supervisors is a very effective safety and health tool;
- ❑ A sustainable approach to maintenance, repair, renovation and demolition of existing structures is achieved by planning for and anticipating unexpected hazards in place within those structures.

WHEREAS some major construction projects have demonstrated that under optimal conditions, construction on a very large scale can be performed with less than one injury or illness per one million hours worked (500 full-time workers annualized) by applying actions consistent with the recommendations of the Declaration of Brussels.

NOW THEREFORE, THE XXXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE ISSA CONSTRUCTION SECTION RESOLVES THAT:

1. A new benchmark of excellence for **sustainable work and sustainable development** is established based on the experience of the Olympic Delivery Authority. This shall be known as **Going Beyond Gold in the Construction Industry**. The signatories of this Declaration are committed to adopting this standard.
2. **Going Beyond Gold** is achieved by applying actions consistent with recommendations of the Declaration of Brussels:
 - Active dedication to sustainable work and development by the owner/client;
 - Careful attention to safety, health and environment during the design, planning, procurement and construction phases, including the life-cycles of the structures;
 - Strong integration of safety and health staff in all aspects of the construction process;
 - Recognition and accommodation of a diverse and multi-cultural workforce;
 - Mandatory safety and health leadership training for all supervisors, and mandatory safety and health training for all workers;
 - Empowerment of all workers to enforce safety and health, including strong support for young and vulnerable workers;
 - Involvement of the regulator in all aspects of the planning and construction phases, and the extensive use of a safety case approach to prevent risks;
 - Continuous monitoring recordkeeping of safety and health performance measures, including hazardous occurrences, injuries and illnesses, and taking corrective actions immediately when indicated.
3. All signatories and actors involved in construction activities are called upon to dedicate themselves to **Going Beyond Gold** for every construction project.
4. Public clients should require their contractors to execute large construction projects with the aim of **Going Beyond Gold**. Neither workers nor the environment should be harmed in the construction of public facilities, and the public clients should use their authority to be a model for sustainable work in sustainable development.
5. The principal contractors should develop partnerships with their subcontractors and other small companies to help them achieve **Going Beyond Gold** through coordination, exchange of information, technical assistance in adopting best practices, etc.
6. The ISSA Construction Section should collect information on the state of safety and health performance based on projects where the clients/owners required the adoption of the **Going Beyond Gold** and best practices and present the results at the next Symposia of the Section.
7. A solid framework has been established based on international best practices for both mandatory safety and health planning, coordination and programming and for mandatory and portable safety and health training for supervisors and workers (especially peer to peer training), and the signatories herewith call upon all governments to adopt regulations that implement this framework.

Explanatory Notes

The Declaration of Brussels can be found at <http://www.issa.int/Resources/Resources/The-Declaration-of-Brussels>

As used here, ILO Convention 167 builds on the ILO *Occupational Safety and Health Convention* (No.155), and is supported by the ILO *Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention* (No.187).

The experience of the Olympic Delivery Authority for the construction of the 2012 London Games, produced a composite reportable injury and illness rate of 0.15 per 200,000 hours worked (0.75/one million hours). <http://learninglegacy.london2012.com/themes/health-and-safety/index.php>. The Health and Safety Executive has produced a number of research reports documenting the actions taken to achieve this safety and health performance. See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/london-2012-games/research-reports.htm>

The lessons learned from London can be found at <http://learninglegacy.london2012.com/index.php>

Going Beyond Gold is meant to signify «better than best.» It was first established by the British Safety Council in celebration of the safety and health record of the London2012 construction, and is used here with permission from the British Safety Council and the Olympic Development Authority. For more information see the website <https://www.britsafe.org/opinion-events/policy-research/going-beyond-gold>

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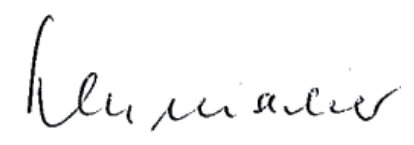
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