

The latest outlook on Chemical Industry in Turkey is as follows:

- Ensuring the recording of the unrecorded economy
- Studies for the improvement of the investment on OH&S
- The Process of harmonization with EU Regulations

Goal of the companies must be: Safety and Productivity, recent and Future Investment in Safety, Contacts with Government Bodies, insurers and OH&S professionals

According to the survey about worldwide occupational injuries; Turkey unfortunately happens to be 1st in Europe and 3rd in the world.

Large corporations and the ones that have joint venture with foreign companies are very sensible about OH&S procedures and hire professionals while investing on safety equipment.

Occupational injury happens every 6 minutes, and every 6 hours employee loses his life due to these incidents in Turkey.

50% of these injuries can be prevented very easily

48% of these injuries can be prevented by working systematically (taking safety precautions)

2% cannot be prevented.

These incidents occur mostly in small and medium sized enterprises. Since;

- They are less safe, apply unsafe practices
- They have poor knowledge of OH&S
- They have fewer budgets for OH&S
- Low compliance with laws, rules and regulations
- Higher incidence of occupational injury and day losses
- Higher severity of injuries

Main goal should be reaching and dealing with these enterprises.

Survey must be done 100 small business operators in suburbs of Istanbul or Ankara at different industries;

Metal manufacturing, electrical work, leather finishing, textiles, printing, restaurants, plastics, shoe manufacturing, etc.

This survey should be done by university students who already have safety knowledge.

Face to face interviews must be on these topics:

- Educational background
- Business experience
- Number and the type of staff

What Government has done, and future plans

Turkish Government and ILO (International Labor Organization) had a Project ISAG. It was funded by European Union ISAG 1 has been completed in 2006

It was a good example of teamwork of university, government and the industry

Since it has intensive industrial area, and University of Kocaeli helped for this project, Pilot area was selected in Kocaeli;

Result was great, ISGUM Kocaeli laboratory was established, many seminars were given, many laboratories upgraded

Now ISAG2 project is on the way:

Main strategy is developing the concept of OH&S.

Main Procedure is social dialog.

This New Project has:

Mobile Laboratories (6 Buses that are fully furnished with medical and chemical testing instruments), establishing PPE Test Labs, and enforcement of regional Labs (Istanbul, Adana, İzmir, Zonguldak, and Kayseri)

The recent global economical crisis affected the Turkish Industry along with many other industries around the world. During this turmoil, the companies went on cutting their budgets mostly on OH&S expenditure. At this point, students of universities and technical schools must voluntarily work with the government and industry in order to upgrade Occupational Health and Safety.

OH&S = Occupational Health & Safety