

## **STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL SYSTEMS' CAPACITY**

Several steps may be initiated to strengthen the National OSH systems' capacity for dealing effectively with the prevention of occupational accidents and occupational and work-related diseases.

Various means and ways may be developed to achieve this, which may include, amongst others, an improved collaboration of all relevant governmental institutions and competent authorities dealing with the adequate prevention of accidents and serious injuries and the prevention, early detection, treatment and compensation of occupational and work-related diseases.

The Ministry of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms, representing the State as the biggest employer, is undoubtedly a key player in strengthening the structures and methodology of the National System for recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases.

We believe that OSH data are essentially vital as they serve as performance indicators for monitoring the status-quo and measuring the progress. They are also important for both national and international comparisons and analyses in order to unfold preventive approaches and strategies.

In this perspective, Safety and Health Committees established in all Ministries and Departments should have on their agenda any occupational accident, dangerous occurrence and occupational disease. This will ultimately pave the way for mapping the recording of occupational accidents and diseases as well as notification to the competent authorities.

A proper recording mechanism should be established in all Ministries and Departments which will create a database of OSH data not only limiting to the recording of occupational accidents and diseases but also for the retrieval of vital information.



**"In God we trust.  
All others must bring data."**

- Dr. W. Edwards Deming

With the theme "OPTIMIZE THE COLLECTION AND USE OF OSH DATA" for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2017, it is an opportune moment for us to reflect on the structures and methodology in place for the collection and use of OSH data.

The Ministry of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms is fully committed to seek harmonization of the national system for data collection with international standards in this collective effort.

As a responsible employer, for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, this Ministry reaffirms its determination to safeguard the well-being of all public officers and to enhance their productive capacity.



**Back up your position  
with data. You don't  
win arguments  
by saying, 'I think.'  
You win by saying,  
'Let me show you'.**



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**MINISTRY OF CIVIL SERVICE AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS**

**WORLD DAY**

FOR

**SAFETY AND HEALTH**

AT WORK

**2017**



**OPTIMIZE THE COLLECTION  
AND USE OF OSH DATA**

**A Contribution to the  
Implementation of Sustainable  
Development Goal 8**

## INTRODUCTION

On September 25th 2015, the United Nations (UN) adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each sustainable development goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

Sustainable Development Goal No. 8, in particular, provides for the promotion of “inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Among the different targets, target 8.8 focuses on the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers. The indicator for Target 8.8, relies on “Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status”.

Therefore, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), came up with the theme “**OPTIMIZE THE COLLECTION AND USE OF OSH DATA**”.



The capacity to collect and utilize reliable OSH data has become indispensable for the fulfillment of the commitment for implementing and reporting on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015.

The Republic of Mauritius, being a member State of ILO, has ratified multiple ILO OSH conventions that require establishment of mechanisms to collect and utilize reliable OSH data for the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases.



OSH data are vital for setting priorities and measuring progress in various aspects of Safety and Health, both at organizational and national levels, for:

- ◇ The detection of hazards and risks;
- ◇ The development of OSH preventive programmes;
- ◇ The identification of hazardous sectors;
- ◇ The implementation of policies at all levels; and
- ◇ The elaboration of comparative national statistics and reports, and the contribution to national and international figures and awareness raising.

## NATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR RECORDING AND NOTIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS AND DISEASES

National systems for recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases are traditionally used for compensation purposes.

The state empowers the competent authorities to issue regulations or orders having the force of law in relation to the system and appropriate procedures should be established by the competent authorities for:

- ◇ Notification of occupational accidents and diseases & commuting accidents;
- ◇ Investigation of accidents causing injuries;
- ◇ Production of annual statistics on occupational injuries, diseases, and fatalities; and
- ◇ As appropriate, notification of dangerous occurrences and suspected cases of occupational diseases.



A national system should aim at, amongst others, providing comprehensive and reliable data on the incidence of occupational accidents and diseases for the design of preventive OSH measures and also incorporating an harmonized system of definitions and classifications of occupational injuries and diseases.

## CHALLENGES FOR THE COLLECTION OF RELIABLE OSH DATA

There are various challenges that need to be addressed to establish effective recording and notification systems providing reliable OSH data. In many countries, availability of reliable data on occupational injuries and disease is conditioned by under-recording and under-reporting and are associated to:

- ◇ Complexity of procedures for recording and notification and paperwork;
- ◇ Measurement errors and timing of record retrieval;
- ◇ Reluctance to report immediately or use of private physicians;
- ◇ Discrepancies between recorded and notified cases of injury and compensation claims, etc. .

Most countries face the constraints of under-recording and under-reporting of occupational accidents and diseases, some countries complement statutory notification with data collected from other sources to obtain a fuller picture and assess OSH status and progress.

In view to supporting member States in improving their recording and notification systems of occupational accidents and diseases both for prevention and compensation purposes, the ILO has published a number of instruments and technical tools, which can be found at [www.ilo.org/safeday](http://www.ilo.org/safeday).



“Be the change you want to see in the world.

- Mahatma Gandhi

...of Health and Safety.