

Preface

Besides chemicals, major industrial (process) accidents and construction works, there is hardly a more important specific occupational safety and health subject than the achievement of safety in the use of machinery.

Safety in the use of machinery necessitates an effort in two different areas:

First of all at the *manufacturer's* place in order to ensure the design and construction of adequately safe machinery (taking the intended use into consideration) being placed on the market accompanied by safety relevant information, and second at the *user's* place in order to ensure a controlled and risk-minimized use of the equipment under the responsibility of the employer.

Many countries have approved legislation and published guidelines, including standards, which promote the achievement of the safe use of machinery in the framework of surveillance by competent authorities and assistance from expert institutions, including Notified Bodies (third-party institutions).

Regarding efforts on regional levels, it is evident to set focus on the European Union (EU) who has approved product specific legislation on machinery, harmonizing the safety related requirements to be met by the manufacturers (Machinery directive 2006/42, former Directive 98/37 and Directive 89/392). EU has also approved minimum requirements to be met by employers concerning the use of machinery at work (Use of work equipment directive 2009/104—codified version of directive 89/655 as amended—being a daughter-directive of the Framework directive 89/391 on health and safety at work).

As mentioned above, the achievement of safety in the use of machinery starts at the manufacturer place at the design and construction stage before the machinery is placed on the market, which is the principal subject of this publication—based on the EU Machinery directive 2006/42.

Through the *ILO code of practice* “Safety and health in the use of machinery”, published in 2013, the principles and approach of the European legislation will be spread out as a global strategy—in particular, based on the machinery risk assessment as the key issue for reaching the demanded level of health and safety.

The ILO publication is of course also dealing with the responsibility of employers, and again the risk assessment and risk reduction processes (at the workplace) come into focus. Such workplace machinery risk assessment will in general require appropriate contributions from manufacturers, for example through the accompanying instructions, about possible hazards, implemented protective measures and any residual risks, and recommendations for additional protective measures to be implemented by the user.

As a conclusion, you could emphasize that in future, the design of safe machinery and the communication by the manufacturer of associated risk assessment aspect for the safe use of machinery are going to be the key elements—as ever before—in the endeavour of avoiding any risk at the use of machinery.

It is worth mentioning that ILO (the International Labour Organization), having its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, is the only tripartite UN agency, where workers and employers together have an equal voice with governments in its deliberations. The ILO code of practice on the safe use of machinery was drawn up at a meeting in late 2011 by a group of 24 experts appointed after consultation of the governments, the Employers' group and the Workers' group of the governing body.

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