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10 Reasons Why Your CEO Should be Convinced to Take OSH Seriously

Objectives of the International Section of the ISSA for Electricity, Gas and Water

- Reduction in the number of electrical accidents
- Improvement of safety standards for electrical-related occupations
- Achievement of best practice safety and health policies throughout the electricity, gas and water supply industries, as well as within electrical installation workshops

The Section will endeavour to achieve these principal objectives through close cooperation with its members from European and overseas countries.

Words of Appreciation

The impetus for the creation of and the content of this leaflet resulted from a lecture by Dominique Vacher, President of DVConseils (www.dvconseils.fr), to whom we would like to express our sincere appreciation for permitting us to use his ideas.



Investing in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) pays off

An ISSA study from 2009 and other studies (e.g. OPPBTP in France in 2014) reveal that, for every €1 invested in prevention, the payback will average €2.2.

OSH reflects on business mastery

Statistics at the macroeconomic level (e.g. ILO 2016), as well as those at the local enterprise level, reveal a direct correlation between OSH performance and competitiveness. In other words, the rate of accident frequency reflects on the level of control you have over your activities and, consequently, over your business.

Good OSH performance leads to excellence

By implementing the actions necessary for good OSH performance, you will, at the same time, be laying the foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) excellence. The principles and actions put into practice for OSH work for all other fields, as well.

Employees prefer to work in a company that meets its CSR

Given the choice between two companies, 70% of young job-seekers would prefer the one that “makes sense”. When asked in an open question survey to describe the company they envisioned for their future, those responding desired one that is both humanely (as related to OSH performance) as well as ecologically responsible.¹

Happy employees perform better

According to a study by the Think Institute for the Spinoza Factory (2017), a happy employee is 37% less absent, 50% more motivated, 25% more involved and 33% more efficient.



A responsible company reassures its shareholders or, for SMEs, its bankers

OSH performance reassures shareholders or, for SMEs, bankers. 61% of investors and 48% of companies worldwide have implemented strategies that integrate environmental, social and governance criteria.²

A responsible company reassures its insurers

Good OSH performance implies that your activities are under control and that there are no adverse events. This initially results in a reduction of occupational safety and health insurance premiums. It will contribute to reducing other risk-related insurance premiums, as well.

A responsible company avoids penal risk

Preventing an adverse event helps avoid penal risk. That risk may find a company facing legal scrutiny in court for an event potentially under its control. An award paid by the employer to an employee in compensation for such an event has the potential of multiplying 3 to 5 times in just a few years (source: French lawyers).

A company recognized for OSH excellence wins contracts

In calling for tenders, major companies will expect bidders to be capable of controlling all risks, particularly those associated with OSH, quality, environment, delays, costs, etc. Poor OSH performance is commonly interpreted as a lack of business mastery and therefore as a willingness to take risks.

A company that excels in OSH can expect to be labelled “Vision Zero A+”

The receipt of an OSH seal of quality (e.g. ISSA is considering developing a “Vision Zero Label”) allows to transform OSH from a “constraint” into a “business opportunity”, as customers/clients seek out “virtuous” companies.

¹ Survey conducted by the OpinionWay Institute with the “20 Minutes” newspaper for the Union of Employers of the Social Solidarity Economy (UDES), published Thursday, December 7, 2017.

² Study commissioned by HSBC and conducted by East and Partners among 1,731 companies and institutional investors.