

NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH POLICY – MAURITIUS

The Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, in consultation with all stake-holders and in particular with the employers and workers organisations, has formulated a national safety and health policy, henceforth called policy. This policy has been formulated on the basis of a national tripartite conference held from 29 to 31 October 2001.

The Government of Mauritius recognizes that workers are its most valuable asset and that health and safety is one of their fundamental rights.

The objectives of the policy are:

- (i) To encompass all the occupational safety and health issues in all sectors including the public and private sector that may have direct or indirect, inherent or potential occupational safety and health hazards on the health and safety of employees arising from their workplace.
- (ii) To consolidate the prevention of accidents and work-related illnesses through consultative mechanisms at enterprise and national level; abiding to all legal provisions and regulations and providing the relevant information, education and training.

The policy further elaborates that:

- (a) All relevant legislations shall be complied, enforced and reviewed periodically;
- (b) The employer shall be responsible for the safety and health at work of his employees through safe systems of work;
- (c) Designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers shall provide adequate information on the product for the user;
- (d) Onsite and offsite emergency planning and preparedness in major hazardous installations shall be devised and implemented;
- (e) All stakeholders including employers shall provide appropriate education, training and information;
- (f) Specific measures shall be taken concerning physical, chemical, biological, electrical and ergonomic hazards at the workplace;
- (g) Arrangement shall be made for an effective system of information at the workplace;
- (h) Action shall be taken to consolidate the consultative mechanism at national and enterprise level;
- (i) The progressive development of procedures and methods for the proper recording, notification and investigation of occupational accidents, occupational diseases,

commuting accidents, dangerous occurrences and incidents in all branches of economic activity shall be promoted;

- (j) Employees shall co-operate with their employers in the application of occupational safety and health measures and comply with all procedures and practices relating to safety and health at work.

The policy shall be periodically reviewed to respond adequately to the introduction of new processes and machinery, modern technologies and manufacturing techniques. The progressive application of the policy shall be considered subject to availability of financial, human and technical resources.