

Safety in Projects (HSE) Memorandum

HSE – Health Safety Environment

Workplace safety is regulated in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Arbo-wet) and the annexed policy rules, acts, legislations and interpretations.

Branch organizations guarantee safety in the workplace applying their own customized regulations (Branch RI&E – Risk Inventory and Evaluation (b)), in accordance with the EU and local government legislation. In case Branch RI&E is not provided, the existing Health and Safety legislation remains in force for the specific branch.

Generally Safety policies are based on:

- 1) Economic interests (goal-orientated);
- 2) Individual interests (care for the employees);
- 3) Company interests (corporate responsibility).

The coordination of each distinctive area of interest requires a specific approach. The instruments used for this purpose ensure that the legal requirements are met in any case. In other words, in case of force majeure, the employer will be exonerated of liability.

In all other cases the employer is responsible for the fulfillment of all the safety obligations required by the law and by the best practice. These are the cases where the competence of a Safety expert can assure the legal requirements in matter of “Duty of Care” are met.

Dynamic Safety System

With the correct mix of instruments, the Safety process can be set up and coordinated in a relatively simple way, so that both the requirements of efficiency and of corporate responsibility are met, without considerable extra costs on the other hand.

For example, Safety is everyone’s right and also everyone’s duty. The Board of Directors and the Top Management are the flagmen of Safety and are both active and visible participants in the organization of Safety. The Safety coordinator is their representative and is provided with the necessary autonomy for setting up and steering the Dynamic Safety system.

General Safety Plan of Action

- 1) Management commitment
- 2) Determine quality criteria of organization’s HSE
- 3) Legal framework
- 4) Evaluate suppliers and contractors according to HSE criteria (VCA, OHSAS 1801)
- 5) Evaluate safety plans of contractors
- 6) Agree upon a consultation structure with management and contractors
- 7) Determine policy enforcement

a: www.arbonieuwestijl.nl

b: www.rie.nl

c: Dutch Civil Code, art. 7.658: Occupational Health and Safety Act “good employment practices”
art. 7.6.11, etcetera