What VISION ZERO Means

Being the basic prevention strategy of the ISSA, VISION ZERO is the vision of a world without occupational accidents and work-related diseases. Its highest priority is to prevent fatal and serious work accidents and occupational diseases. VISION ZERO is the goal of a comprehensive culture of prevention.

VISION ZERO is about nothing less than our life and health – our most valuable asset. But not only that: it is also about the success of enterprises, efficient production, and motivated, productive employees. Although it is sometimes also called a vision or a philosophy, VISION ZERO is in fact a strategy for more efficient prevention that is based on results and characterised by values.

ISSA’s VISION ZERO Strategy

Accidents at work and occupational diseases are neither determined by fate nor unavoidable – they always have causes. By introducing the VISION ZERO strategy at workplaces, these causes can be eliminated and work related accidents, harm and occupational diseases can be prevented. Seven Golden Rules have been developed to establish this strategy successfully at workplaces.

The ISSA’s VISION ZERO strategy is flexible and can be adjusted to the specific safety, health or well-being priorities for prevention in any given context. Thanks to this flexibility, VISION ZERO is beneficial to any workplace, enterprise or industry in all regions of the world.

VISION ZERO Guide: Electricity Industry

The energy sector anticipates major changes in the future as the use of alternative sources of energy continues to increase at a steady pace, seriously impacting grid load demands. These changes will ultimately compel massive extensions to the grid, leading to a considerably higher risk of accidents, just as in the fifties and sixties.

In conjunction with such issues as electric mobility, we also face new challenges associated with the growing use of direct current. The effects of direct current on the human body – unlike those of alternating current – have not yet been sufficiently researched.

In response to these challenges, several ISSA Electricity projects were launched and are summarized here towards the goal of realizing VISION ZERO:

In 2015, we published a Guidance Document supporting and empowering middle level managers in the electricity industry. The response to this publication was so positive, that we are currently developing a corresponding executive seminar in collaboration with the ISSA Mining and ISSA Education & Training Sections. This seminar will also bear the VISION ZERO brand as part of the overall VISION ZERO strategy.

A second project currently in planning will deal with the roles and responsibilities of contractors and subcontractors in the electricity industry. For this purpose, we have set up an international working group to define the roles of clients and contractors in terms of the health and safety principles recognized the world over.

Although we can neither see, smell nor hear the risks harboured by electricity, we can certainly feel them – and once we do, it is already too late. Our vision: No person should ever be killed or severely injured, or suffer illness due to work-related causes.

Based on the “VISION ZERO Guideline” developed by the Special Commission on Prevention of the ISSA and the International Section on Prevention of the ISSA, the ISSA Electricity Section has created a short VISION ZERO Guide to assist you in designing a suitable working environment to ensure that related fatalities, injuries and diseases are eliminated from the electricity industry.
**Golden Rule 1:**

Take Leadership – Demonstrate Commitment!

Be a leader – wave the flag! Your conduct as a leader is decisive for the success or failure of occupational safety and health – OSH.
Golden Rule 2:
Identify Hazards – Control Risks!

Risk assessment serves as the essential tool for the timely, systematic identification of hazards and risks and to implement preventive actions. Accidents, injuries and near misses should be evaluated as well.

Golden Rule 3:
Define Targets – Develop Programs!

Success in occupational safety and health does not come on its own. It requires clear goals and concrete steps for implementation, which should be established in a program.
Golden Rule 4:
Ensure a Safe and Healthy System – Be Well Organized!

Systematically organising occupational safety and health in your operation is a good recommendation. It pays off and is not all that difficult.

Golden Rule 5:
Use Safe and Healthy Machines and Equipment!

The classic: Safe production facilities, machines and also workplaces are essential for working without accidents. Health effects have to be considered as well.
Golden Rule 6: Improve Qualification – Develop Competence!

Invest in the training and skills of your employees, and make sure that the required knowledge is available at every workplace!
Return on Prevention

The issue is whether workplace prevention has a micro-economic effect that benefits a company’s bottom line. In order to study this question, in early 2010 the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) and the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Energy, Textile, Electrical and Media Products Sectors (BG ETEM) launched a research project called “Calculating the International Return on Prevention for Companies: Costs and Benefits of Investments in Occupational Safety and Health”. The results of the 19 participating countries and 337 interviewed companies are presented in a report in consolidated form. According to the companies interviewed, spending on occupational safety and health is an investment that “pays off” for companies. The Return on Prevention (ROP) is assessed to be 2.2.

Useful Links

www.issa.int
Official website of the International Social Security Association

www.issa.int/prevention-electricity
Official website of the ISSA Electricity Section

www.mediainprevention.org
Official website of the International Media Festival for Prevention with a great selection of film and multimedia products on prevention

www.visionzero.global
ISSA’s resource on VISION ZERO and the Seven Golden Rules

https://www.issa.int/en_GB/resources/all-publications
Final report of the study “Calculating the International Return on Prevention for Companies”
ISSA – International Section for Electricity

The Section was founded in 1971 and is located in Cologne, Germany. The Section’s work is based on the collaboration of more than forty members from twenty countries. Its objective is to promote occupational health and safety in the electricity area as regards the commercial production and distribution of electricity and gas worldwide.

The Section encourages international exchange of information and experience among experts through symposia, workshops, international working groups and trainings on safety and health with regard to crucial issues of occupational safety and health protection in this sector.

A further key activity of the section’s work is the organization of the International Media Festival for Prevention, which takes place every three years in the framework of the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. The Festival provides a comprehensive overview of films and multimedia productions from all over the world regarding occupational safety and health.