

VISION ZERO

Impressions from Implementation of Vision Zero in the South Americas

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PRACTICE



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Vision Zero is a success story and every story has a beginning. My personal recollection of the story of Vision Zero is linked to the work of Helmut Ehnes in his role of Secretary General of ISSA Mining. I met Helmut during a visit he made to Chile in the early years of the decade of 2010 to promote Vision Zero in the Mining industry. According to different sources, the Vision Zero initiative started in 2008 with its adoption by DGUV, followed by ISSA Mining in 2012 and by BG RCI in 2014. In 2015 Vision Zero was subscribed by all Prevention Sections of ISSA and it went global in 2017 in the World Congress held in Singapore.

Since then, according to statistics available at the time of this presentation (Figure 1), over 16,000 companies, partners and trainers have pledged their efforts to sustain Vision Zero strategy in every continent.

Figure 1. Commitment with Vision Zero worldwide - November 2023



	Africa	Americas	Asia& Pacific	Europe	Total
Companies	584	593	950	9032	11159
Partners	180	198	220	3124	3722
Trainers	236	296	273	553	1358
Total	1000	1087	1443	12709	16239

Implementation of Vision Zero in the South Americas

Vision Zero in Peru

Minsur, a Peruvian mining company was the early adopter of Vision Zero in 2013. According to Belisario Perez, Corporate Health and Safety manager of Minsur, with Vision Zero strategy the company has achieved a 78% reduction in loss time injuries and ZERO fatal accidents between 2016 and 2022.

Professional associations (ISEM - *Instituto de Seguridad Minera del Peru* and IIMP- *Instituto de Ingenieros de Minas de Peru*) have supported Vision Zero adoption in mining companies in Peru.

Vision Zero in Argentina

The official launch was in March 2018, supported by the *Superintendencia de Riesgos del Trabajo* (SRT) with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote Vision Zero in Argentina. The website of SRT has several documents to support the implementation of Golden Rule 4 - Ensure a safe and health system in micro and small companies and to provide them with best practices to prevention of accidents in their workplaces.

Vision Zero in Colombia

In September 2018 Vision Zero officially launched in Colombia with the support of Social Security institutions and Occupational Safety and Health consultants. In 2019 Vision Zero was adopted by Grupo Energia Bogota to reinforce their prevention strategy of serious and fatal accidents. Based on a two-phase plan with priority in risk mitigation, phase one started with 7 steps, followed by a 6 steps design for phase two. A three-year assessment of this strategy reports ZERO fatal accidents and a 68% reduction in loss time injuries.

Vision Zero in Chile

Vision Zero was introduced to the mining sector in Chile in 2012. *Mutual de Seguridad CChC*, one of the non-for-profit organizations that provides Health and Safety Insurance to Chilean companies subscribed Vision Zero in 2013 and two years later the Chilean Chamber of Construction (CChC) adopted Vision Zero as their strategy to control serious and fatal accidents in the construction sector. In November 2017 Vision Zero was officially launched at a country level with the support of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security. CChC fatal accident control strategy included the signature of a written commitment by its members and a visible sign of their pledge by using a blue bangle with the words ZERO fatal accidents in Construction (Figure 2).

“ Over 16,000 companies, partners and trainers have pledged their efforts to sustain Vision Zero strategy in every continents. ”

Figure 2. Vision Zero bangle and photos of commitment to ZERO fatal accidents in Construction



- ⇒ Leadership is important - so is Followership. We need Leaders willing to “follow” the Vision Zero Strategy.
- ⇒ Government support is important - but it’s not enough.
- ⇒ Local OHS Professionals Associations are a key element of success. They can provide validation, support and dissemination of the Vision Zero Strategy.
- ⇒ Local Business Associations (Mining, Construction, Lime, Supply Chain, etc.) are vital for acceptance and implementation of the Vision Zero Strategy.
- ⇒ A Local Champion (a company with a success story) is a strong ally for implementing the Vision Zero Strategy.

CChC has developed a website (cerofatales.cl) that provides multiple resources to support the implementation of Vision Zero in its associated construction companies. One of these resources is an annual report of fatal accidents in the construction sector, analyzed by type of construction process linked to fatal accidents and by the corresponding Golden Rule (GR) that can support prevention efforts.

Another initiative developed by CChC is a “Best Practice” annual contest for their associated companies. To support Vision Zero implementation, to entry the contest a best practice has to be aligned to one of Vision Zero-7GR.

Personal Impressions on implementation of Vision Zero in the South Americas

Based on our experience on implementing Vision Zero in South America my personal impression is that as a group of health and safety professional committed to “spreading the word” of Vision Zero strategy we must acknowledge the following key success facts:



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