

NEW EXTRANET LAUNCHED FOR OSH PROFESSIONALS ACROSS EUROPE

Have you ever wondered how to find 'people in the know' in Europe? Imagine you could ask all of the OSH experts in Europe a question in a single e-mail!

For example:

- Who out there can cite examples of accidents involving a particular work situation?
- What do the OSH community think are the health / safety implications of a new technology?
- Which OSH experts from other countries will support your own proposals in a standards committee?
- Does anyone have concrete data to back up a view based on anecdotal evidence?
- Can someone verify that a particular product has in fact been certified by a certification body?

Or have you ever tried to simply get into contact with other experts in your specialist area to discuss questions of mutual interest or to obtain data? If your answer is "yes" you should join EUROSHNET (**EUR**ocean **O**ccupational **S**afety and **H**ealth **NET**work), a cooperative network of European occupational health and safety experts active in standardization, testing, certification and/or related research.

Web-based communication platform

An English communication platform has been set up at www.euroshnet.org in order to support communication and the exchange of information within EUROSHNET.

A public area contains information on the network and issues of general interest. A non-public working area is accessible exclusively to registered experts. These can be from European OSH institutions or universities, involved in standardization, testing, certification and/or related research.

The following tools are available in the working area:

discussion fora

 on the following topics:

- Emissions (general aspects, noise, vibration, radiation, hazardous sub-

stances)

- Machinery
- Electrical safety
- Ergonomics
- Personal protective equipment
- Testing and certification/Conformity assessment.

New fora can be set up on the initiative of participants, for the discussion of any questions of interest. Participants may register with specific fora and express their opinions online. They are automatically informed by e-mail of any new entries in the fora for which they have registered – they do not have to regularly log on to keep up to date with EUROSHNET activity.

database of experts containing, for each individual, the photograph, name, institution, address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, fields of expertise, membership of standardization committees and interests and involvement in EUROSHNET fora.

document management system which provides participants with access to documents not available to the general public, such as draft position statements of OSH parties on European standards. Documents can be uploaded by any forum participant.

The communication platform will facilitate the contacts between OSH experts; it will promote discussion and joint activity by a wider group of experts. In this way it will supplement existing personal contact between the OSH experts at standards meetings and other events. EUROSHNET also provides a platform for proposing and organising new OSH-related events on topics of mutual interest.

OSH experts interested in working in EUROSHNET are requested to contact either info@euroshnet.org or **Lee Kenny/HSL**, UK (tel: +44 (0)1298 218300, e-mail: lee.kenny@hsl.gov.uk)

Or just go on-line at www.euroshnet.org to register!

Lee Kenny