

Risk assessment on board small fishing vessels

2007 Ergomare Day
Lorient

<http://osha.europa.eu>

Tim Tregenza
Work Environment Information Unit



Ø Background

Ø Risk assessment step by step

Ø Challenges to effective risk assessment

Ø The Agency's risk assessment campaign

- Ø **Fishing is dangerous – it has high accident incidence**
- Ø **Fishing is bad for your health – it has a high percentage of workers with longstanding health problems or disabilities from work-related disease**
- Ø **Legal, effective, cost-efficient prevention can ONLY be achieved through following a risk assessment and prevention process**

- Ø **Framework directive (89/391) gives general principles of prevention**
- Ø **This include a management process and hierarchy of control measures**
- Ø **“Daughter” directives (e.g. fishing vessels 93/103) simply add more specificity and should always be taken in the context of the framework directive**
- Ø **Framework and daughter directives give minimum standards**

- Ø The framework directive shall apply to all sectors of activity (art. 2)**
- Ø The EMPLOYER shall have a duty to ensure the safety and health at work (art. 5)**
- Ø The employer shall take measures necessary... including provision of the necessary organisation and means (art. 6)**
- Ø The employer shall be in possession of an assessment of the risks to safety and health at work (art. 9)**

The hierarchy of prevention (art. 6)

<http://osha.europa.eu>

Ø Avoid risks

Ø EVALUATE RISKS that cannot be avoided

Ø Combat risks at source

Ø Adapt the work to the individual

Ø Adapt to technical process

Ø Replace the dangerous with the less dangerous

Ø Develop an overall prevention policy

Ø Giving collective measures priority over individual measures

Risk assessment step by step

<http://osha.europa.eu>

- Ø **Look for the hazards**
- Ø **Decide who may be harmed and how**
- Ø **Evaluate the risks and decide on action**
- Ø **Take action!**
- Ø **Review the findings**

Look for the hazards

Ø **What can cause harm?**

Ø **Cover all relevant activities**

Ø **Check records (e.g. the accident book) to identify problems**

Ø **Ask the workers!**

Ø **A hazard is anything that can cause harm**

Ø **The risk is the chance (i.e. probability) of harm being done.**

Decide who may be harmed and how.

Ø Think about everyone who may be hurt.

Ø Certain categories of staff run a higher risk than others. Mostly their vulnerability is linked to their physical state or their age. A specific risk assessment may be required.

Ø The prevention process MUST be holistic, considering in particular

Gender issues

New and young workers

Workers with disabilities

(Im)migrant workers

Evaluate the risks and decide on action

Ø **Calculate how likely it is that the hazard will result in harm or injury, and how severe that injury is likely to be. Consider what control measures are currently in place and whether they are sufficient.**

Ø **The focus for cost-effective and sustainable risk management should be on collective protection and preventative measures.**

Take action

- Ø **Risk assessment is only the first step to successful risk management.**
- Ø **After completing the risk assessment, list the preventive measures needed in order of priority, then take action, involving the workers and their representatives in the process.**
- Ø **Targeting the underlying problems is the most cost-effective way for risk management.**

Review the findings

- Ø **Evaluate which aspects of the interventions worked and which not**
- Ø **Ensure that the control measures in place actually work**
- Ø **As ways of working change, so do the hazards and risks**
- Ø **When a significant change takes place, check to make sure that there are no new hazards**
- Ø **Repeat the assessment when necessary**

5 challenges to effective risk assessment

<http://osha.europa.eu>

- Ø **Perceived as a “one-off”, not a process**
- Ø **Seen as complicated**
- Ø **Failing to ensure adequate coverage**
- Ø **Lack of workforce participation**
- Ø **Lack of “competence” in carrying out the risk assessment**

Risk assessment is part of a process

<http://osha.europa.eu>

- Ø **Risk assessment is part of the occupational safety and health management process**
- Ø **It is not a “one off” paper exercise that is then filed**
- Ø **The assessment must be revisited periodically to ensure currency**
- Ø **Assessment cannot be seen in isolation from the rest of the preventive process**
- Ø **Without taking action following the assessment, the assessment is pointless**

- Ø Risk assessment is the way to identify what will harm workers and how, and what needs to be done**
- Ø The assessment should be proportionate to the level of danger – the chance of harm occurring and the amount of harm if that event happens**
- Ø By overcomplicating it, this encourages spending on unnecessary “consultants”**

- Ø Risk assessment is intended to protect ALL workers affected**
- Ø It must cover ALL tasks and processes (e.g. cleaning)**
- Ø It must cover ALL workers and their issues**
- Ø If not done properly, the risk assessment can give a false sense of security**

- ∅ **There is a legal obligation to involve the workers in identifying hazards and solutions**
- ∅ **Responsibility remains with the employer**
- ∅ **Workers do the job, and so may know the (hidden) risks**
- ∅ **Workers know what solutions will work**
- ∅ **Failure to consult will cost time and money in the long run**

Having the competence to carry out the assessment

<http://osha.europa.eu>

Ø To carry out a risk assessment, the person needs to know about:

The enterprise

The hazards and risks

The risk assessment process

Ø You cannot contract out the legal responsibility

Ø Contracting out the assessment process can be costly, without increasing prevention

What is the message of the risk assessment campaign?

<http://osha.europa.eu>

The European campaign on risk assessment aims to promote an integrated management approach that takes into account the different steps of risk assessment

And, convey clearly that risk assessment:

Is not an objective in itself but a powerful tool for identifying the need for preventive measures

Is a partnership approach; everyone in the workplace has a contribution to make

The main objectives of the campaign are to:

**encourage stakeholders at all levels to actively participate
raise awareness of the legal responsibility and the practical
need to assess risks in the workplace**

promote a simple stepwise approach to risk assessment

demystify risk assessment and the risk assessment process

encourage enterprises to carry out their own risk assessment

**promote the involvement of everyone in the workplace in risk
assessment, not only employers (or experts)**

improve access to good practice, tools and resources

Ø **Dedicated campaign website**

<http://ew2008.osha.europa.eu>

About the campaign

Why risk assessment?

Campaign materials, logo and slogan

Ideas for action

Press information pack

Napo

Our partners

Ø **Web single entry point on risk assessment**

Ø **Links to good practice resources**

Risk assessment is not.....

<http://osha.europa.eu>

Ø **Complex**

Ø **Bureaucratic**

Ø **Only for experts**



<http://osha.europa.eu>

Tim Tregenza

Tregenza@osha.europa.eu

**All our information is free to access on
the web site**

<http://osha.europa.eu>