

Message From Ms. Jacqueline Mugo, Executive Director & Ceo, Federation Of Kenya Employers During The World Day For Safety And Health At The Workplace.

Theme: 'Impacts of climate change on occupational safety and health.'



On this year's World Day for Safety and Health, the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) recognizes the effects of climate change on occupational safety and health. As John F. Kennedy once said, **"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining."** This quote captures the essence of this important day, emphasizing the proactive approach needed to safeguard the well-being of enterprises and workers in the face of climate challenges.

Climate change directly impacts workplaces and workers' through extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and environmental degradation, posing significant challenges to occupational safety and health. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has established key instruments, such as Convention No. 155 focusing on creating safe environments and Convention No. 187 promoting a preventive safety culture. These conventions, along with others addressing specific hazards, supports global workplace safety. In Kenya, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (2007) governs safety measures, defining roles, enforcing compliance, and establishing oversight mechanisms like NACOSH, with detailed regulations and guidelines for various industries and hazards.

The Federation consistently collaborates with employers to improve adherence to the regulations outlined in Convention 155, which are also comprehensively covered in the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 2007 (OSH Act). These provisions encompass ensuring the safety of machinery, equipment, and workplace processes to eliminate health risks. They also emphasize the management of chemical, physical, and biological substances and agents to prevent health hazards when appropriate protective measures

are implemented. Additionally, the provisions stress the necessity of providing adequate protective clothing and equipment to mitigate the risk of accidents or adverse health effects in the workplace.

Employers are in the process of developing instruments for the adaptation of standards, modification and improvement of risk control measures including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) new guidance for risk management and risk communication, early warning systems and surveillance, and have put emphasis on prevention through design and provision of adequate training to the workers.

FKE is committed to supporting our members in navigating the complexities of climate change and its impacts on workplace safety and health. The Federation conducts a comprehensive training program on Safety and Health Management at the workplace that equips employees with relevant practical skills and knowledge to embrace, implement and sustain Safety and Health practices in the organization. Employers should take advantage of this programme to prepare for emerging OSH issues such as: - Conducting Occupational Health & Safety Audits at the workplace, reporting tools and procedures, practical guidelines on risk assessment as well as field visits and de-briefs. FKE also frequently conducts practical and information-sharing forums for members. We encourage employers to take advantage and participate in these forums.

On this World Day for Safety and Health at Work, let us renew our commitment to creating safer, healthier, and more sustainable work environments for everyone. Together, we can build a future where occupational safety, health, and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

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