Lecture 1 Occupational Safety and Health Dr. Muna Merza

**Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health**

***Occupational safety and health (OSH)***

* Is generally defined as the science of the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of hazards arising in or from the workplace that could impair the health and well-being of workers, taking into account the possible impact on the surrounding communities and the general environment.
* The scope of occupational safety and health has evolved gradually and continuously in response to social, political, technological, and economic changes.

***Employers’ responsibilities:***

The safety and health policy should reflect the responsibility of employers to provide a safe and healthy working environment. The measures that need to be taken will vary depending on the branch of economic activity and the type of work performed; in general, however, employers should:

1. Provide and maintain workplaces, machinery, and equipment, and use work methods, which are as safe and without risk to health as is reasonably practicable.
2. Ensure that, so far as reasonably practicable, chemical, physical and biological substances and agents under their control are without risk to health when appropriate measures of protection are taken.
3. Give the necessary instructions and training to managers and staff, taking account of the functions and capacities of different categories of workers.
4. Provide adequate supervision of work, of work practices, and of the application and use of occupational safety and health measures.
5. Institute organizational arrangements regarding OSH adapted to the size of the undertaking and the nature of its activities.
6. Provide adequate personal protective clothing and equipment without cost to the worker when hazards cannot be otherwise prevented or controlled.
7. Ensure that work organization, particularly with respect to hours of work and rest breaks, does not adversely affect the safety and health of workers.
8. Take all reasonable and practicable measures to eliminate excessive physical and mental fatigue.
9. provide, where necessary, for measures to deal with emergencies and accidents, including adequate first aid arrangements.
10. Undertake studies and research or otherwise keep abreast of the scientific and technical knowledge necessary to comply with the obligations listed above.
11. Cooperate with other employers in improving occupational safety and health.

***Workers’ duties and rights:***

1. Take reasonable care for their own safety and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions.
2. Comply with instructions given for their own safety and health, and those of others, and with safety and health procedures.
3. Use safety devices and protective equipment correctly (and not render them inoperative).
4. Report promptly to their immediate supervisor any situation which they have reason to believe could present a hazard and which they cannot themselves correct.
5. Report any accident or injury to health which arises during or in connection with work.
6. Request and obtain, where there is cause for concern on safety and health grounds, inspections and investigations to be conducted by the employer and the competent authority;
7. Know about workplace hazards that may affect their health or safety.
8. Obtain information relevant to their health or safety, held by the employer or the competent authority; and
9. Collectively select safety and health representatives.

***Management responsibilities in OSH training:***

It is the responsibility of management to:

* 1. Give each worker practical and appropriate instruction, taking account of his or her skills and professional experience, in each case defining the objective to be achieved in terms of ability to perform a specific function.
  2. Provide training involving the acquisition of knowledge and know-how to be applied in a specific job and corresponding to the qualifications required; this may consist of initial training for entry to a particular trade or profession, or adaptive training associated with a modification of the workstation, the introduction of new methods or a transfer to another job.
  3. Give refresher courses to update the knowledge acquired through training.
  4. Provide further training, thus enabling workers to acquire new knowledge, supplement existing knowledge, or specialize in a particular area by acquiring more detailed knowledge.