



NEWSLETTER

On Occupational Safety and Health & Working Environment

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National Institute of Labour Protection of Vietnam-CIS/ILO Collaborating Centre

Ensure safety and health for fishermen on new offshore fishing boats

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Currently, fishing boats are mainly wooden ones which equipped with simple equipments, safety and health for fishermen still largely ignored and have not yet put enough consideration. Besides, the disregard and limited awareness of fishermen in everyday life resulted in fire, explosion and occupational accidents which might damage property and stole lives as they working on the fishing boats.

The Government recently has promulgated supporting policies for manufacturing steel-clad, wooden-clad and new material fishing boats. During the process of manufacturing new fishing boats, the issues on safety labour and labour hygiene, ensuring safety and health for fishermen need to be concerned sufficiently.

In order to obtain opinions and recommendations from science managers and researchers, proposals from fisheries trade union and fishermen which will be considered as the basis for the program on manufacturing new fishing boats and regulations for State administration on occupa-



Mr Dang Ngoc Tung, member of Party Central Committee, President of VGCL gives an opening speech at the workshop

tional safety and health in aquatic exploitation, on August 15th, 2014 in Da Nang and August 18th, 2014 in Nha Trang, the National Institute of Labour Protection (NILP) cooperated with the Trade union of Agriculture and Rural Development to organize workshop: “Ensuring safety and health for fishermen on new offshore fishing boats” with the participation of researchers, trade union federations, local departments of agriculture and rural development, fisheries trade union from Quang Binh Province to Binh Thuan Province.

Giving introductory speech at the opening ceremony, Dr Do Tran Hai, General Director of NILP emphasized: “Vietnam’s fishery sector not only helps fishermen to have a good life but also brings a large budget for the country. However, it is still lacking the safety regulations and standard systems for fishing boats, also decisions related to safety and health for fishermen”.

At the workshop, participants focused on assessing the real situation of safety and health of fishermen, hazards for their health, accidents, incidents happen currently on fishing boats.

Participants discussed and reached a consensus that Government’s policies in the past few years have facilitated to develop the fishery and off-



Dr Do Tran Hai, member of Presidium of VGCL, General Director of NILP gives an introductory speech at the workshop

shore fishing boat system. It is positive to manufacture new fishing boats by using new materials, improving living standard, ensuring equipment safety, working conditions and health of fishermen working on fishing boats.

However, the solutions to ensure health and safety of fishermen, safety for vessels are needed to be synchronized at design and manufacture steps, especially providing the personal protective equipments and rescue equipments. Besides, it is necessary to ensure living conditions and provide sufficient comforts for fishermen on fishing boats.

The participants consented to petition to the Government, relevant ministries and sectors to pay attention on vocational training, safety training, rescue

and salvage for seamen and to have appropriate policies for maritime rescue and salvage. To diversify means of media and communication for mariners on fishing boats, to attach the importance of promoting laws and policies to guiding safety for fishermen. To reorganize the production activities, provide supporting policies for fishermen and other social security policies such as ensure health services, education, stable price and market for their products.

The workshop is considered as the basis for relevant authorities to review, promulgate technical safety regulations for fishing boats, regulations on labour safety and health for fishermen in order to ensure safety and health for offshore fishermen.

Working environment and health situation of plastic recycling workers in Southern Vietnam

MSc. Ngo Thi Mai et al

Sub-Institute for Labour & Environmental Protection in the South Vietnam

The study focuses on learning about emissions of toxic gases in the environment from enterprises having full plastic recycling process or those having such process as a part of the manufacturing process (mainly packaging plastics as LDPE, HDPE and PP) and on preliminarily examining the health status of plastic recycling workers.

1. Research subject and methodology

1.1. Research subject and scope

- Toxic gases in the working environment of 7 plastic and

plastic materials manufacturing enterprises (mainly packaging plastics such as LDPE, HDPE and PP) in Ho Chi Minh City and Long An province.

- Workers: 40 workers (34 males and 6 females) at 4 plastic recycling enterprises.

1.2. Research methods and techniques applied

The study was conducted according to the descriptive cross-cutting method.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Surveyed results of toxic gases in working environment

Toxic gases investigated in working environment include conventional gases and some toxic gases specific to plastics industry. The survey of toxic gases was conducted on a large scale with multiple parameters in order to screen common toxic gases in plastic facilities and then divided into 3 major groups of substances which are VOCs, conventional gases and toxic additives used in plastic industry dispersed into the environment. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Survey results for toxic gases in working environment

No	Parameters (mg/m ³)	OH Stand. a/b	Facility 1	Facility 2	Facility 3	Facility 4	Facility 5	Facility 6	Facility 7
1	Benzene	5/15	0,0054	0,010	0,0061	0,0052	0,0048	0,0052	0,011
2	Bromodichloromethane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Bromoform	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Carbon tetrachloride	10/20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Chloroform	10/20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Chlorobenzene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Dibromochloromethane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	1,2- Dichlorobenzene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	1,4-Dichlorobenzene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Tetrachloroethene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	1,2- Dichloroethene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	1,1 - Dichloroethene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Cis - Dichloroethene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Trans - Dichloroethene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Dichloromethane	50/100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	1,2- Dichloropropane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Ethylbenzene	-	0,0050	0,011	0,0057	0,0056	0,0056	0,0052	0,0120
18	Styrene	85/420	0,0030	0,0056	0,0051	0,0041	0,0022	0,0022	0,0053

19	Toluene	100/300	0,019	0,020	0,021	0,020	0,0170	0,0153	0,0241
20	1,2,4- Trichlorobenzene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	1,1,1- Trichloroethane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	1,1,2- Trichloroethane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Trichloroethene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Vinyl Chloride	1/5	0,0042	0,0044	0,0039	0,0045	0,0031	0,0030	0,0080
25	m-Xylene	-	0,0071	0,0084	0,0098	0,0091	0,0078	0,0070	0,0088
26	p-Xylene	-	0,0087	0,0087	0,0090	0,0092	0,0084	0,0091	0,0091
27	o-Xylene	-	0,0056	0,0051	0,0060	0,0060	0,0050	0,0050	0,0069
29	CO	20/40	12,0	15,0	11,0	13,0	16,8	15,6	16,4
30	CO ₂	900/1800	1550	1600	1450	/	/	/	/
31	SO ₂	5/10	5,4	5,7	6,0	5,9	0,29	0,25	0,28
32	NO ₂	5/10	0,6	0,2	0,6	0,15	0,35	0,16	0,19
33	NO	10/20	1,3	1,5	1,2	1,5	/	/	/
33	Di (2-ethylhexyl)Phthalate (DEHP)	-	0,049	0,043	0,041	0,041	-	-	-
33	Diethyl phthalate (DEP)	-	0,0018	0,0016	0,0023	0,0030	0,0015	0,0011	0,0034
36	Di (n-butyl phthalate) (DBP)	-	0,0041	0,0028	0,0028	0,0027	0,0017	0,0011	0,0066
37	Total VOC	-	0,0580	0,0732	0,0666	0,0637	0,0539	0,0520	0,0852
38	Total Xylene	100/300	0,0214	0,0222	0,0248	0,0243	0,0212	0,0211	0,0248
39	Total Phthalate	-	0,0549	0,0474	0,0461	0,0467	0,0032	0,0022	0,0100

Note:

OH Stand. - Occupational Health Standards in accordance with Decision 3733/2002/QD-BYT

"a/b", where: a - Standard for 8-hour time weighted average (TWA), b - Standard for parameters measured by time-period at maximum value (short-term exposure limit - STEL)

"-": Not found or not specified in OH Standard.

"/": Not surveyed.

The results show that:

- At the pre-heating stage to transfer plastic to the molten state, plastic film coating processes etc., usually arouse plastic smell mixed with the smell of some volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The survey results of VOCs emissions in these areas show that the composition of the VOC includes different substances. Among 27 VOCs surveyed in a number of plastic recycling facilities, the most common and specific compounds in plastic facilities (including full plastic recycling and plastic recycling as a part of the manufacturing process) are

solvent vapors such as Benzene, Toluene, Styrene, Xylene, Vinyl chloride, etc., however, all concentrations are much lower than the OH standards stipulated in Decision No 3733/2002/QD-BYT [5].

- Toxic gases such as CO, NOx, SO2 are required to be monitored in many industries because of their major dispersion in working environment. Compared with the monitoring results observed in many other industries such as paper production, rubber production, etc., the measured concentrations are within the limits allowed by the OH standards stipulated in

Decision No 3733/2002/QD-BYT, similar to this survey results.

- For specific additives used in the plastic industry, this is one of very few studies that have examined the composition of the additives used in the plastic industry which emit into the air. The plastic industry uses many different additives including Phthalates group commonly used to increase the hardness, toughness and transparency of plastic. However, these substances are the agents that could cause hormonal disturbances, a current topic of interest for studies in the world [4].

In this study, some sub-

tances of the Phthalate Ester group were surveyed. Although in current Vietnamese standards there are only allowable values for Dibutyl Phthalate measured in 8-hours of work at

2 mg/m³, measured in a random case at 4 mg/m³ (not surveyed in this study), taking US-OSHA documents as reference, the proposed occupational exposure limits for DEHP, DBP

in the working environment are at 5 ppm [1]. Thus, the surveyed concentrations of Phthalate Esters in the working environment of plastic facilities still meet allowable standards.

Table 2: Comparison of VOCs and Phthalate emissions in facilities having full plastic recycling processes and those having such process as a part of manufacturing processes

Parameters	Unit	Full plastic recycling					Partial plastic recycling			
		Facility 1	Facility 2	Facility 3	Facility 4	Mean	Facility 5	Facility 6	Facility 7	Mean
Total VOC	mg/m ³	0,0580	0,0732	0,0666	0,0637	0,0654	0,0539	0,0520	0,0852	0,0637
Total Xylene	mg/m ³	0,0214	0,0222	0,0248	0,0243	0,0232	0,0212	0,0211	0,0248	0,0224
Total Phthalate	mg/m ³	0,0549	0,0474	0,0461	0,0467	0,0488	0,0032	0,0022	0,0100	0,0051

Comments and discussion:

As can be seen, the compositions of VOCs emissions in partial plastic recycling area of large plastic facilities as well as in small and medium full plastic recycling facilities are the same, including the solvent vapors of Benzene, Toluene, Styrene, Xylene, Vinyl chloride, and that their emission levels are similar at the time of measurement.

However, the levels of Phthalates emissions into the air are apparently different. Compared to mean values, it could be seen that the total Phthalates concentration (including DEHP, DEP and DBP) in full plastic recycling facilities is 9.6 times higher than the total Phthalates concentration in areas that have plastic recycling as a part of manufacturing processes in large plastic facilities.

In addition, there is a notable difference in the concentrations of DEHP emission: in the large plastic facilities having partial plastic recycling, the DEHP emission was not detected in

the air of working environment, but its concentration among 3 Phthalates investigated at full plastic recycling facilities was of the highest.

2.2. Health examination results of plastic recycling workers

The total number of examined workers is 40 including 31 males, 6 females and 3 incomplete examination records. Thus, statistics on the workers' health was based on complete examination records.

The health examination results of plastic recycling workers showed that the proportion of workers having eye diseases is very high, accounting for 43.25% of the examined workers. Existing survey data is not really adequate to conclude or make assumptions about the relationship between the working environment and high eye diseases (accounting for nearly a half of examined workers). However, the survey of this research has identified in many plastic recycling facilities that the working environment is quite dark with low lighting

intensity, much lower than OH standards. This could be one of the reasons contributing to the increase of eye problems for plastic recycling workers.

In addition to eye diseases, some workers have lumbar-hip syndrome, nerve pain and osteoarthritis pain, accounting for 18.92%, which also need attention. As shown in the survey, workers have to transport manually by hand or shoulder bags of recycled plastic beads weighing 30-50kg to warehouses or on the delivery vehicles without weight reduction means. This daily work could be one of the reasons causing lumbar-hip syndrome, nerve pain and osteoarthritis pain for workers.

The number of workers suffering from internal medicine diseases (stomach, duodenum, urinary, etc.) accounted for a total rate of 13.51%. According to previous studies by the same group of authors on evaluation of microclimate conditions at plastic recycling facilities in the South [6], the remarkably high temperature factor in the work-

ing environment has affected significantly the workers' heat sensation and hot working condition may be one of the causes contributing to the increased rate of those diseases. According to the Occupational Health documents (Prof. Dr. Hoang Van Binh), the hot working conditions in industrial plants may be an additional factor causing some diseases for workers, such as kidney disease, urinary and gastrointestinal diseases [2].

The results of workers' general health examination have also showed some risks in the workplace that could cause occupational diseases, such as noise exceeding the allowable level in materials grinding area, whereas 100% of workers in small and medium plastic recycling facilities do not wear anti-noise buttons; or high levels of dust may cause respiratory diseases, etc. The study has conducted a survey of deafness, hearing and respiratory function of workers through clinical examination. The results have showed that 100% of plastic recycling workers had normal respiratory function and their hearing not adversely affected. Previously, in Pham Thi Bich Ngan et al.'s study (1994), up to 75% of the examined workers in plastic industry had respiratory morbidity. According to this survey results, 15 out of 24 workers examined had abnormal respiratory function, in which 2 workers had mixture syndrome, 5 congestion syndrome and 8 upper limit syndrome [3]. Thus, the preliminary results of study showed that currently, workers

in the plastic recycling facilities have not been adversely affected in respiratory function and hearing.

3. Conclusion

3.1. There are no convincing evidences of the effects of toxic gases and additives dispersing in working environment on workers' health in plastic recycling facilities.

- The compositions of VOC emissions in partial plastic recycling areas of the large plastic facilities as well as in small and medium full plastic recycling facilities are the same, including the solvent vapors of Benzene, Toluene, Styrene, Xylene, Vinyl chloride and their emission levels are similar at the time of measurement and still within the limits allowed by the OH standards stipulated in Decision No 3733/2002/QD-BYT.

- The total Phthalates concentration in average (including DEHP, DEP and DBP) in full plastic recycling facilities is 9.6 times higher than the total Phthalates concentration in areas having plastic recycling process as part of manufacturing processes in large plastic facilities. Currently there is no hygiene standard for these parameters in Vietnam. However, the measured concentrations are lower than required in the United States (5 ppm).

- The common toxic gases such as CO, SO₂, NO_x have concentrations within the limits allowed by the OH standards stipulated in Decision No 3733/2002/QD-BYT.

3.2. Some diseases having high percentage may be due to other factors in the working environment such as low lighting, poor ventilation, extreme temperature and poor posture at work.

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The delegation of KOSHA experts visited NILP

In the framework of technical co-operation program of the Memorandum of Understanding (2012-2015) between NILP and KOSHA, from August 11 to August 14, 2014 a delegation of KOSHA experts has paid a visit to Occupational Safety Centre (OSC) of NILP in Hanoi. The delegation includes Mr Seungkuk Bang, Deputy Director of Safety Certification Center and Mr Seungsoo Chae, manager, Safety Certification of PPE.

In three working days, the two sides have discussed and shared experiences on testing procedures and certification for PPEs, organizing testing activities; issues regarding to testing system for industrial safety helmets: assessing and comparing results between the labs of

KOSHA and NILP, conforming equipments; issues regarding to testing system for respiratory protective devices: standards for deploying equipments, criteria for testing, methods of testing, testing equipments, methods of adjusting and conforming equipments; organized a workshop on testing the quality of the personal protective equipments, experience on building the labs follow to the international standards, inter-laboratory comparisons, procedures for conforming equipments between the labs of KOSHA and NILP. The KOSHA experts have also visited laboratories of OSC at 216 Nguyen Trai road and 99 Tran Quoc Toan street.

During the working process, some issues on testing the quality of the personal protective

equipments have been asked for supports from KOSHA by NILP such as providing assistance in testing PPEs including documents on testing procedures and equipments, providing information on equipments which can be ordered from Korea and the manufacturers; training OSC staff on testing and conformation; co-operating and assisting OSC in inter-laboratory comparisons, procedures for conforming equipments.

The leadership of NILP and OSC highly appreciated all the support and enthusiastic working spirit of KOSHA experts. Hoping that in the coming time, in-depth co-operation activities will be promoted for the development of the two organizations in particular and of the OSH field in general.



Workshop on testing the quality of the personal protective equipments

Theoretical and practical basis for safety culture and suggesting model of safety culture for enterprises in Vietnam

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The seminar: “Theoretical and practical basis for safety culture and suggesting model of safety culture for enterprises in Vietnam” was held by the National Institute of Labour Protection (NILP) in the morning of 21st October, 2014 in Hanoi.

Attending the seminar is Dr. Do Tran Hai, NILP General Director and seminar chairperson, Dr. Prof. Nguyen An Luong, VOSHA president and many experts and scientists of the OSH field.

The topic of seminar is focusing on main content of the project at VGCL level: “Theoretical and practical basis for safety culture and suggesting model of safety culture for enterprises in Vietnam”. The project is implemented by NILP. On behalf of implementers, Dr. Prof. Nguyen An Luong had presentation which explains the main concept of theory and practice of safety culture. The presentation shows the view point, principle and principal content on which the project used for setting up safety culture in Vietnam. The authors also give the definition of safety culture that employers, managers and employees should have awareness, attitude, perception and behaviour

on OSH; understanding and complying with policy, regulation and law on OSH; also keeping and respecting good traditional value of the nation; self-conscious co-operation in OSH implementation through planning and implementing the program or OSH action plan.

In part two, the authors presented the criterion and content of the model and indicators used to assess the result of application of the model. There are 12 criterions and 23 indicators with mark scale from 10-20 for low level and 40-50 for high level.

The participants very actively discussed and agreed that the definition on safety culture should be shortened while keeping the main meanings. Criterion and indicators are good to help qualifying the level of safety culture of enterprises. However, consideration should be made to add more criterion to reflect the situation such as: criterion on occupational diseases and workers’ health, OSH and environmental protection. Also, mark scale should be adjusted to tailor the weightiness of the criterion.



Dr. Prof. Nguyen An Luong, VOSHA president and presentater at the seminar;



Dr. Do Tran Hai, NILP General Director and seminar chairperson

In conclusion, Dr Do Tran Hai, seminar chairperson, emphasized that the authors have achieved the target of two very important points that suggesting the definition of safety culture in Vietnam, the concept on safety culture, the model of safety culture and its criterions and indicators for assessment. He suggested the participants continuing to commend so that the definition on safety culture is to be shorter and more compact; adjusting mark scale to reflect weightiness of the different criterion; then making application to the enterprises to verify suggested model of safety culture in Vietnam.

Occupational accidents situation in the first 6 months of 2014

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As reported by the Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs, in the first 6 months of 2014, there are 3,454 occupational accidents causing 3,505 victims. Among which, there are 258 fatal cases. Compared to the first 6 months of 2013, the number of occupational accidents increased by 132 cases (equivalent to 3%), the total number of victims increased by 74 people (equivalent to 2%), the number of fatal cases decreased by 65 (equivalent to 20%) and the number of deaths decreased by 25 people (equivalent to 8%).

1. Occupational accidents situation in provinces

1.1. Statistics of provinces with the most fatal occupational accidents in the first 6 months of 2014

No	Provinces	Numb. of OC	Numb. of victims	Numb. of fatal OC	Numb. of deaths	Numb. of severe injuries
1	Ho Chi Minh City	645	646	45	46	71
2	Binh Duong	280	283	17	19	11
3	Ha Noi Capital	90	90	16	18	0
4	Quang Ninh	171	178	16	21	104
5	Thanh Hoa	27	34	13	15	19
6	Long An	181	181	9	9	8
7	Thai Nguyen	54	55	8	10	11
8	Lam Dong	8	9	8	8	1
9	Ha Tinh	15	19	7	7	12
10	Hai Phong	75	78	7	7	42

1.2. Examples of major occupational accidents in the first 6 months of 2014:

- The accident occurred due to fire at 11.30pm in January 15, 2014 causing 06 deaths and 01 seriously injured in the Dong Vong Coal Co. Ltd., Trung Vuong ward, Uong Bi town, Quang Ninh province;

- The accident occurred due to gas suffocation at 10:30am in April 11, 2014 causing 03 deaths and 03 wounded in Vinh Phat JSC., Phu Bai Industrial Zone, Huong Thuy Town, Thua Thien Hue province;

- The accident occurred due to stone rolling at 1:30pm in April 23, 2014 causing 02 deaths at Dong Thung stone mine belonging to 125- Cencol Investment and Building JSC., Thanh Thai Street, Dong Tho Ward, Thanh Hoa City, Thanh Hoa province.

2. Analysis of cases from the investigation reports of occupational accidents

Based on the analysis of occupational accident investigation reports, the Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs provides some evaluations as follows:

2.1. Analysis of fatal occupational accidents by type of production facility:

Limited Companies accounted for 30.86% of fatal accidents and 28.74% of deaths; Joint stock companies accounted for 29.6% of fatal accidents and 27.6% of deaths; State-owned enterprises, administrative units accounted for 20.99% of fatal accidents and 19.54% of deaths; Private enterprises and individual business households accounted for 4.9% of fatal accidents and 4.6% of deaths; Joint venture companies with foreign investment account-

ed for 2.47% of accidents and 2.3% of deaths.

2.2. Manufacturing and business sectors with a large number of fatal occupational accidents:

Construction sector accounted for 37.04% of total accidents and 34.5% of total deaths; Mining sector accounted for 17.3% of total accidents and 16.1% of total deaths; Mechanical sector accounted for 6.2% of total accidents and 5.7% of total deaths; Electricity manufacture and business sector accounted for 3.7% of total accidents and 3.4% of total deaths.

2.3. Types of injury that caused the most fatalities:

Falling from height accounted for 30% of total cases and 28% of total deaths; Electric shock accounted for 23.46% of the total cases and 21.84% of the total number of deaths; Falling and collapsing objects accounted for 14.81% of total cases and 13.79% of total deaths; Traffic accidents accounted for 14% of total cases and 13% of total deaths; Rolling, clamping and wrapping equipment accounted for 11.1% of total cases and 10.3% of total deaths.

2.4. Main reasons for fatal occupational accidents:

* Employers' faults accounted for 54.1%, namely:

- Employers not providing occupational safety training for employees, accounted for 6.1% of total cases;

- Employers not developing safe procedures and work practices, accounted for 9.8% of total cases;

- Unsafe equipment accounted for 33.3% of total cases; working organization accounted for 4.9% of total cases.

* Employees' faults accounted for 24.6%, namely:

- Employees violating occupational safety regulations accounted for 18.5% of total cases;

- Employees not using personal protective equipments accounted for 6.1% of the total number of cases;

* The remaining 21.3% occurred due to various objective reasons.

In terms of assigning responsibility for occupational accidents, in addition to ask employers to immediately implement the remedial measures to prevent recurrence of accidents and implement policy for workers under prescribed law, the investigation teams have required administrative penalty and criticized those committing errors. Some serious fatal occupational accidents showing criminal signs are not sanctioned because they are still in the process of investigation. There was one accident occurring due to fire at 11.30pm in January 15, 2014 causing 6 deaths and 1 seriously injured in the Dong Vong Coal Co. Ltd., Trung Vuong ward, Uong Bi town, Quang Ninh province has been prosecuted by policy.

3. Occupational accident investigation

Generally, reported occupational accidents were investigated conforming prescribed regulations. However, investigation progress of fatal occupational accidents in many provinces is still much slower than required. Therefore, the preparing and sending investigation reports to the Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs are also slowed, the number of reports received accounted for only 31% of the total fatal occupational accidents.

Most localities have respected the reporting of occupational accidents in accordance with prescribed form and time. However, the rate of enterprises reporting to the Department of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs is still very low, especially in Can Tho City in which there exist 5,350 enterprises, but only one reported on occupational accidents. Thus, it is difficult to synthesize and evaluate the situation of occupational accidents throughout the country.

4. Material losses

According to data reported by the localities, material losses due to occupational accidents occurring in the first 6 months of 2014 (costs of medical expenses,

funeral, compensation for the deceased's and wounded's family, etc.) is 37.49 billion Vietnamese dong, damage to property worth is 2.38 billion Vietnamese dong. The total number of working off days due to occupational accidents is up to 39,360.

5. Some key solutions to be performed in the last 6 months of 2014

Based on the situation and the causes of occupational accidents in the first 6 months of 2014, in order to actively prevent and limit occupational accidents in the future, the ministries and sectors should strengthen inspection and control of working safety, espe-

cially businesses operating in the field of construction and minerals mining. It should resolutely and strictly handle violations of the law on labour safety, especially violations leading to the occupational accidents or not strictly respecting the regulations of recording, stating and reporting occupational accidents. Enterprises should properly implement the contents of occupational safety and health in accordance with regulations. It should effectively implement propaganda of occupational safety and health regulations for employers and employees in order to limit to the minimum occupational accidents and diseases, ensure safety and health for workers. /.

Raising awareness of Occupational Safety and Health & Environmental Protection for grassroots trade union officials

In order to raise awareness of occupational safety, health and environmental protection for grassroots trade union officials, on September 19 and September 23, 2014, the National Institute of Labor Protection held training courses titled "Raising awareness on OSH & Environment Protection for grassroots trade union officials" in An Giang province and Hung Yen province. The training courses attracted 140 participants who are grassroots trade union officials from provinces of Hung Yen, Thai Binh, Ha Nam, Hai Duong, An Giang and Dong Thap.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training course, Dr. Do Tran Hai, Member of Presidium of the Vietnam

General Confederation of Labour, General Director of the National Institute of Labor Protection, emphasized the



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importance of trade union organizations in OSH and in environmental protection activities today, especially the OHS and environment in industrial parks and residential communities living near industrial areas.

Attending the training courses, participants have learnt from experts and lecturers the contents of the Environmental Protection Law amended in 2014, the impact of environmental pollution to public health, the OSH legislation and the role of grassroots trade unions in OSH and environmental protection. At the end of the training courses, trainees wrote resumes and got certificates of attendance.



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