



RECOMMENDED

German Paralympic
Media Award 2020

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TOP STORY

Corona: The outlook for autumn

Companies are well informed – focus moves towards proper ventilation

Companies and educational institutions generally feel well informed and well organised when it comes to the occupational safety and health regulations for COVID-19. This was confirmed by a survey conducted by the DGUV in July 2020. The situation surrounding the pandemic will change again in autumn and winter. There will be waves of the common cold, people will spend more time indoors and a certain ‘fatigue’ towards infection control could also set in. Proper ventilation and airing are moving into the focus of prevention.

The majority of companies and educational institutions (71%) feel very well informed or well informed about the occupational safety and health standards concerning COVID-19. This was confirmed by a survey conducted by the DGUV in July 2020 on ‘Safety and health in businesses and educational facilities’. ‘The survey results are an important indicator that the information services we provided to businesses were just what they needed. FAQ lists, information leaflets and, very importantly, the industry-specific guidelines provided by the German social accident insurance institutions have contributed to this’, stated Dr Stefan Hussy, Director General of the DGUV. The *kommmit* menschen prevention campaign of the German social accident insurance institutions also quickly adapted to these new challenges. The campaign launched a new series of posters on hygiene measures – ‘Workplace Protection is Health Protection’ – in order to assist with efforts to reduce the risk of infection in workplaces. A survey of 1545 company directors, managers and employees showed that a third of all respondents can remember seeing the posters. For the main target group of company directors, the figure is as high as 45%.

‘Our focus changes as the pandemic evolves’, explained Dr Hussy. ‘We are now working on how we can help businesses and educational institutions reduce the risk of indoor infection as much as possible through proper ventilation. Frequent airing improves air quality,

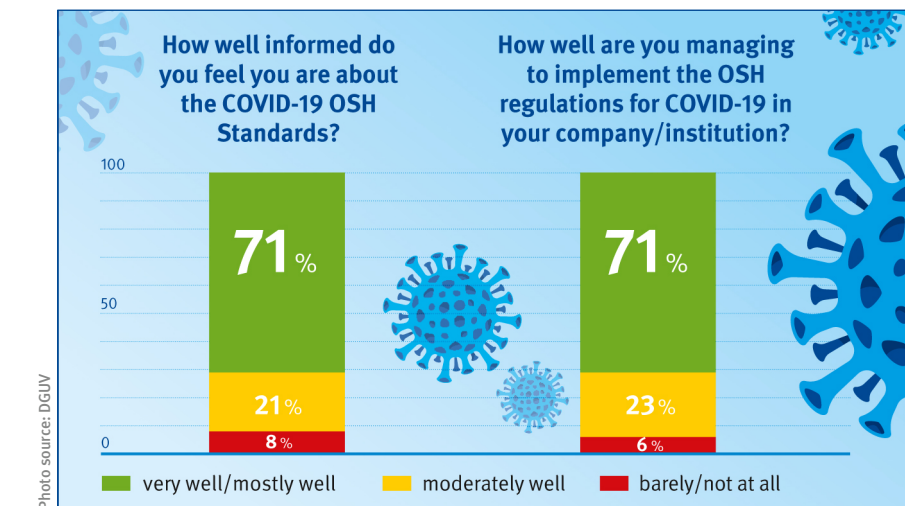


Photo source: DGUV

A survey of 512 company directors shows that 71% feel very well informed or mostly well informed. The implementation of OSH regulations for COVID-19 is also rated by 71% as very well done or mostly well done.

ty, because the number of pathogens in indoor air can increase in closed rooms. The DGUV recently published recommendations for proper ventilation in indoor workplaces. It complements the German government’s recommendation ‘Correct ventilation for infection control’, which was also recently published. The CO₂-App from the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the DGUV also provides simple and effective assistance with determining the optimum frequency and times to properly air out workspaces (see FYI).

Keep your distance, Observe hygiene rules, Wear a mask, Ventilate regularly – known in Germany by the acronym AHAL. When followed consistently, these measures help to reduce the risk of infection. ‘The better and clearer the information is, the more people are willing to adhere to the regulations in the spirit of solidarity. This is best done through mutual agreement, participation and good communication’, said Dr Hussy.

publication › „SARS-CoV-2: Empfehlungen zum Lüftungsverhalten an Innenraumarbeitsplätzen“
(Recommendations for ventilating indoor workplaces correctly)

Web: www.dguv.de › **Webcode:** p021576

FYI CO₂-App

The free app provided by the DGUV’s Institute for Occupational Safety and Health can be used to calculate CO₂ concentration levels in closed rooms. The app determines the optimum times and frequency to air out offices, seminar rooms or classrooms. An integrated timer reminds you when it’s time to ventilate again.

Web: www.dguv.de ›

Webcode: d1182599





Emotions

Dear Reader,

2020 could have been a great year for sport, with both the Olympic Games and the Paralympics on the sporting calendar. But just like the rest of the world, the world of sport has had to yield to the coronavirus. We can only guess what this means for the athletes. Years of preparation, training to their physical limits, and foregoing so much – totally focussed on this one competition. The cancellation of these sporting events means the end of a dream for many.

In the meantime, restrictions have been relaxed and certain sporting events are allowed to take place in compliance with proper hygiene measures and distancing. However, the spectator stands will probably remain empty for some time to come. But what is sport without spectators? It's the fans that make every sporting event something special. Sport lives from emotions. And sport needs to draw attention, especially sport for disabled persons, which is unfortunately still often at the periphery of public awareness. That's why I'm inviting you to join us at this year's German Paralympic Media Award Ceremony on 9 October. The DGUV presents awards for outstanding journalistic coverage of disabled sports and rehabilitation sports in the categories of film/video, photography, audio, online and print. Join us then and experience online the kind of emotions that only sport can rouse.

I'm looking forward to you joining us!

Ihr

Dr. Stefan Hussy

Director General of the DGUV

'The EU must become more sovereign, more united and stronger'

The corona pandemic is a difficult challenge for the European Union and highlights existing problems. The outbreak of the pandemic has seen social issues and OSH gain in importance. During its Presidency, Germany wants to strengthen social cohesion to ensure that Europe emerges stronger than ever from the crisis. DGUV Kompakt spoke about this with Ilka Wölfle, Director of the European Representation of German Social Insurance in Brussels.

Ms Wölfle, at the onset of the pandemic, quick decisions were needed. The EU Member States made these decisions on their own in different ways. What are your thoughts about the EU's ability to take action?

The pandemic and its effects have taken us all by surprise. There has been a lot at stake that's not easy to reconcile: the lives and health of citizens, the survival of entire economies and even fundamental freedoms. The reactions of the Member States seemed like a patchwork quilt – a variety of measures that were not always well communicated. The EU was criticised for not reacting or reacting too late. But one has to bear in mind that when it comes to safety and health policy initiatives in emergency situations, such as the fight against the coronavirus, the EU does not have much room for manoeuvre. It cannot do much more than coordinate. And it has done this. A number of guidelines and communications were published at the beginning of the pandemic. Where the EU has more leeway, for example, in the areas of finance and economic impact management, it has provided unprecedented levels of financial assistance.

The German EU Presidency began in the middle of the crisis. The focus has shifted to stabilising Europe and preparing for possible new waves of the pandemic. What needs to be done to achieve this?

To prevent a second wave, European cohesion and solidarity are needed more than ever. To overcome the crisis, the EU must become more sovereign, more united and

stronger. Improvements in crisis management are also definitely necessary. The EU's ability to respond effectively to new cross-border health threats in the future should also be reconsidered.

Germany certainly had a different vision for its Presidency of the EU Council. The corona pandemic has shifted priorities, with the emphasis now on containing the virus and on economic and social reconstruction. As such, Germany has set itself the target of reaching agreement between the Member States by the end of the year on the 'Next Generation EU' economic and social reconstruction programme proposed to kick-start the economy, as well as the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 to 2027, which regulates the EU budget. Issues related to social and health systems have of course received increased attention, including protection for the self-employed and platform workers, and the introduction of minimum benefit schemes. But digitalisation and demographic change are also policy priorities which help to strengthen society so that it is better equipped to deal with possible new waves.

What issues are the focus of the German Social Insurance?

A key issue is strategic independence, ensuring the secure supply of pharmaceuticals. In particular, the short-term increase in demand for certain active ingredients during the pandemic has further accelerated the debate on securing the supply of medicines in Europe. In addition, we continue to be concerned with the social security of all workers. Existing gaps have become very clear again as a result of the crisis. We will be discussing both topics



Photo source: Jan-Peter Schultz / DGUV

Talking with Ilka Wölfle, Director of the European Representation of the German Social Insurance in Brussels. She hopes that Europe will see the crisis as an opportunity and emerge from it stronger. This is only possible with cohesion and solidarity of all Member States and all EU citizens.

at a high-profile expert conference, which will be held online on 28 October 2020. We are very pleased that the event has been included in the associated programme of the German Council Presidency.

Digitalisation, artificial intelligence and demographic change are also on our agenda. We are particularly interested to see what the legislative initiative on sustainable supply chains announced by the EU Commission will look like. The pandemic has once again exposed the 'vulnerability' of global supply chains and the people who work in them.

Occupational safety and health is becoming increasingly important as a result of the pandemic. 'Workplace protection is health protection' is how Dr Hussy, Director General of the DGUV, summed it up. Are there lessons to be learnt from other countries?

The Member States have put in place a wide range of measures, including industry-specific measures, to protect workers from being infected with SARS-CoV-2. France, for example, has developed an interesting solution. Companies with less than 50 employees have been encouraged to invest in prevention measures, including those to

combat COVID-19. Up to 50 percent of the costs were reimbursed through subsidies from Assurance Maladie (CNAM). The prerequisite was a risk assessment of the workplace using an interactive online tool.

But there was also a quick response at the European level, such as assistance from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. The European Commission has ensured that SARS-CoV-2 has been included in the list of biological agents.

It is important to learn lessons from the pandemic and to make the most of them; for example, by incorporating these into the EU's new strategic framework for safety and health at work for the time after the pandemic.

Web: www.dsv-europa.de



Symposium
'Securing the health and social systems for the next generation'
28 October 2020

Web: www.dsv-europa.de

 **@DSV_EU**

TOPIC

Mental health in the crisis

Greater intensification of work, blurred working hours, permanent availability – for years, the amount of absenteeism due to mental illness has been increasing. As a result of the pandemic, the issue of negative psychological stress in the world of work is being paid greater attention. The DGUV has developed new guidelines to help employers, and those responsible for safety and health in companies, to keep an eye on mental stress during the pandemic.

During these months dominated by Corona, the psychological pressure on employees is once again growing in the face of existential hardship, working from home and the constant fear of infection. This can have negative long-term effects. That is why it is important for companies and educational institutions to keep an eye on the increased psychological strain caused by the pandemic. The social support provided by managers plays an important role here. Not only should employees' fears and concerns be taken seriously but also any suggestions they have that could improve the situation. The more uncertain the situation is, the more important it is for managers to provide support.

But how well employees cope with these new challenges at work also depends on how their working conditions have changed. These changes carry risks which must be identified correctly in order to put in place appropriate preventive measures to create good working conditions. This can help prevent the negative consequences of mental stress and strain. The DGUV's guidelines provide practical advice and assistance. The publication is one of numerous brochures that the German Social Accident Insurance and its institutions have published to assist with the practical implementation of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs SARS-CoV-2 OSH Standard.

publication > „Psychische Belastung und Beanspruchung von Beschäftigten während der Coronavirus-Pandemie“

(Mental stress and strain on employees during the coronavirus pandemic)

Web: www.dguv.de/publikationen >

Webcode: p021545 (German only)

German Paralympic Media Award 2020

The presentation ceremony for Germany's most prestigious media awards in the field of disabled sports will take place live and online on 9 October 2020 from 12:00 to 13:15 (CET). For the 20th time, the DGUV



Award Ceremony 2019: Presenter Christiane Reppe (left) and the award recipients in the category of film/video Birgitta Kaßbeckert and Christian Brandt.

will honour outstanding journalistic coverage of disabled sports and rehabilitation sports in the five categories of film/video, photography, audio, online and print. Starting at 11 a.m., there will be the opportunity to talk virtually with the nominees and guests of this year's award. Participation in the event is free of charge, but registration is required.

The aim of the awards is to promote media coverage of disabled sports – both professional and leisure sports – and to recognise the high quality of journalistic coverage in this field. Public interest in sports for disabled persons has increased in recent years, which is an incentive for media professionals to cover the topic.

Further information and registration at:
www.dguv.de/gpma

IMPORTANT DATES

9 October 2020
German Paralympic Media Award Online
Web: www.dguv.de/gpma

21 – 22 October 2020
beyondwork 2020 Bonn und online
Web: www.beyondwork2020.com/de

9 – 10 November 2020
STOP cancer in the workplace Online
Web: www.eu2020.de › **Veranstaltungen**

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

4,507

... reportable workplace accidents and 384 commuting accidents were suffered by volunteer firefighters in 2019. These resulted in a total of 6 fatalities.

Source: DGUV

NEWS IN BRIEF

komm**mit**mensch – new partnership with ZDH and the Bundeswehr

Safety and health should be practised daily across all levels of a company. This is something of which the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH) and the Bundeswehr are also convinced. Both have signed a cooperation agreement with the DGUV. In the future, they will work together with the German Social Accident Insurance and its institutions as part of the komm**mit**mensch prevention campaign. Dr Stefan Hussy is thrilled about the cooperation: 'The ZDH represents a large number of small and medium-sized companies. They are important partners for us in occupational safety and health.'

The Bundeswehr has always attached great importance to safety and health. The cooperation agreement is intended to further deepen the basic idea of a culture of prevention at one of Germany's largest



Ensuring healthy and safe jobs in the trades: Karl-Sebastian Schulte (left), Managing Director of the ZDH and Dr Stefan Hussy, Director General of the DGUV, sign the cooperation agreement.

employers. Working together in the future will help achieve this.

Web: www.kommmitmensch.de ›
Die Kampagne › **Partner**

KAN-Podcast



Image source: KAN

What effects do digitalisation, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence have on occupational safety and health, standardisation and regulation? The answers can be heard in the podcast series from the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization. Episode 2 deals with cybersecurity and the EU Machinery Directive.

Web: www.kan.de/publikationen/kan-podcast

LEGAL INFORMATION

Published by: Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung (DGUV), Dr Stefan Hussy (Director General). The DGUV is the umbrella association of the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the public sector and for trade and industry.

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Layout: Atelier Hauer & Dörfler, www.hauer-doerfler.de

Publisher: Quadriga Media Berlin GmbH, Werderscher Markt 13, 10117 Berlin

Printing: DCM Druckcenter Meckenheim

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