

The Legislator

"One must spend time in gathering knowledge to give it out richly"



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Patricia Thomas
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Occupational Health and Safety

The **Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Safety and Health Authority and Agency** (OSHA) was formed on August 17, 2007. The Authority was established in October 2006 on the basis of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2004 (as amended) {OSH Act}. The OSH Authority is a multi stakeholder advisory body to the Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development (MLSMED).

The core task of the Authority is to encourage the enforcement of the OSH Act, to promote training, research, information, and to make Regulations and approve Codes of Practice. OSHA was preceded by the Factories Inspectorate Unit which was governed by the Factories Ordinance Chapter 30 No.2, 1950.

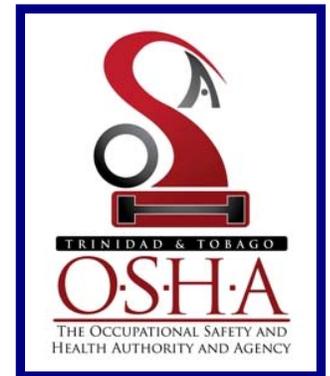
This was Trinidad and Tobago's first safety and health legislation which provided for the making of regulations, thereby laying down safety, health and welfare standards in respect of machinery, plant and hazardous processes. However, owing to evolving technology, it was found that the Factories' legislation became inadequate to cope with the many new hazards which arose as a result of the industrial expansion and diversification.

As a result, new legislation, the OSH Act, was enacted. The regulations which were made under the Factories Ordinance were deemed to be covered in the OSH Act. The scope and applicability of the OSH Act is to ensure that industrial establishments in private and public sectors manage safety, health and welfare in the workplace using its legal compliance requirements as a minimum standard.

The Agency is the enforcement arm of the Authority. The Head Office is located at the Duncan Street Complex, corner of Duncan Street and Independence Square, Port of Spain, with sub-offices in San Fernando and Tobago. The technical competence of the Agency is lodged within the Inspectorate.

The services offered by OSHA are as follows: Inspections; accident/complaint investigations; lectures and advisory services. The fact that OSHA is mandated to enforce the OSH Act in almost all places of work indicates the ambit of interface between the organization and the working people resident in Trinidad and Tobago.

Hence OSHA is in a vantage position to assist the MLSMED HIV/AIDS Advocacy and Sustainability Centre (HASC) in an organized manner as authorised by the OSH Authority. Further information on the OSH Act can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.ttparliament.org>



TALK YUH MIND!

"Do you think there is sufficient awareness about Occupational Health and Safety?"



Sherry-Ann Lawrence
Media Analyst

No there is not sufficient public awareness about Occupational Health and Safety. There needs to be more media campaigns and publicity within the workplace. There have been several instances where individuals have called the Labour Office to deal with problems relating to occupational health and safety and the office's response is that only industrial matters are dealt with not workplace/office issues. However, here at the Ministry of the Attorney General steps are continuously taken to ensure any concerns relating to occupational health and safety are met.



Nabila Akaloo
Paralegal Assistant

No there is not enough awareness due to a lack of information and publicity on occupational health and safety. I think a system should be implemented to educate and inform persons about the importance and benefits of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Furthermore, a forum should be established for people to easily access the necessary information and obtain solutions to any issues relating to health and safety in the workplace.



Farline John
Office Supplies Clerk

No from my point of view there is insufficient public awareness about occupational health and safety. This is because of the constant lack of practice by the working population and even more by other members of the public, by the simple misuse of work tools and work space, such as over crowded stock rooms and blocked corridors. Some of us as members of the public also choose to ignore signs on buildings sites, walking under scaffoldings and other dangerous attachments to these industrial sites. Moreover, several members of the public are not even aware of what is meant by the term 'Occupational Health and Safety.'



Amar Kallan- Information
Technology Technician

Occupational Health and Safety procedures and practices in the work place is critical to the success of any organisation as it helps to avoid unnecessary costs and damage to the organisation by workplace injury and illness. For such a critical business practice that concerns both workers, employers and the public there is little or no public awareness of laws, regulations and general safety practices. Most times Occupational Health and Safety comes into the lime light only after an accident has occurred. A more proactive as opposed to a reactive approach has to be adopted and a major part of which is public awareness.

Profile

Facilities Coordinator, Magic Mist
Mrs. Patricia Thomas



- 1) What aspects of your Office motivated you to accept the appointment of Facilities Coordinator in the Ministry of the Attorney General?

My Company's confidence in me and my ability as a Facilities Coordinator.

- 2) Who would you say has had the most impact on your life?

My Mother. She is my lifeline after God.

- 3) What would you say has been your personal motto?

Sticks and Stones may break my bones but words cannot kill me.

- 4) What is the best book you ever read?

Danielle Steele – Fine Things

- 5) What cause or organization do you feel most fervent about? And why?

I feel most fervent for the differently abled. Because my son was a victim of a robbery and shooting and as a result of a bullet to the spine he can no longer walk.

Book Talk



Health & Safety at Work

Author: Stranks, Jeremy
ISBN: 978-0-7494-6119-5
Price: \$344.00

Within the past decade there have been significant advances in health and safety law, particularly in areas such as fire safety, construction operations, substances hazardous to health, smoking at work, work at height and noise-induced injury.

Furthermore escalating costs of civil claims for personal injury, and ill-health such as stress-induced injury and work related upper limb disorders have resulted in increased employer's liability insurance premiums for many organizations.

This ninth edition of **Health and Safety at Work** has been updated and revised to incorporate the latest legislation and includes guidance on: The Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007, Health and Safety Offences Act, REACH and the control of asbestos at work.

Content information includes:

- Health and safety management
- Principal legal requirements
- The human factor issues
- Occupational health aspects
- Safety technology

Law Libraries Worldwide:

The Law Library of Congress (United States of America)



Congress established its Law Library in 1832, recognizing its need for ready access to reliable legal materials. The Law Library has grown over the years to become the world's largest law library, with a collection of over 2.65 million volumes spanning the ages and covering virtually every jurisdiction in the world.

The library collection spans all periods of law, from the most ancient and primitive to the most contemporary and sophisticated. All systems of law – common, civil, customary, religious and socialist – are represented, as are all topics within the law.

The Law Library of Congress also provides foreign and comparative legal and legislative information services to national and global researchers through its Foreign Law Specialists.

For more information please see their website:
www.loc.gov/law

Statistics of Materials Received by the Library for the months of October 2012-February, 2013.

ITEMS	DPP	AG
Books	22	74
Legal Journals/ Periodicals	59	201
Judgments	52	149
Other Publications (Statutes/Law Reports)	59	105

Resource Tip - <http://www.news.gov.tt/>

This website offers information about:-

- ❖ **“Current Gazette and Gazette Archives”** {located on the right of the page are the current Gazette and other Gazettes for the last ten years}.
- ❖ **Legal Notices** from 2009 as well as Acts and Bills.
- ❖ Reports and other publications regarding events related to specific Government Ministries
- ❖ Our Parliamentarians and speeches by the Ministers of Government
- ❖ Other important matters relating to our country

Comments & Feedback

We would like to thank all individuals for their contribution and continued support as well as IT, the Communication Department, the participants of the Opinion Poll, also a special thank you to the Facilities Coordinator, Magic Mist .

Let's hear from you, our valued readers. Share ideas and suggestions! Email our editorial team at:

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