



TOP STORY

2017 results: risk of workplace accidents drops further

Work-related non-melanoma skin cancers on the rise

In July, the DGUV presented the annual figures from the German social accident insurance institutions for 2017. The number of work-related non-melanoma skin cancers has risen. The main risk factor is overexposure to UV radiation. In contrast, the positive trend from 2016 for occupational accidents continued, with the risk of an accident at work or in an educational institution declining once more. The average contribution paid by companies to the social accident insurance institutions reached a historical low despite costs increasing.

The amount spent by Germany's social accident insurance system on prevention, rehabilitation, financial compensation and administration increased slightly to around €13.2 billion, about 2.2% more than 2016; however, this did not put greater financial pressure on companies thanks to the stronger economy. In fact, the average contribution companies paid to social accident insurance institutions for the private sector fell in 2017 from €1.18 to €1.16 per €100 in total payroll.

Accident risk figures also declined. In relative terms, there were fewer reportable workplace accidents in 2017 than there had ever been before. The number fell from 21.89 to 21.16 per 1,000 full-time employees. In the healthcare sector, public service sector and administration, the accident risk was below average but in construction and transport it was significantly higher. 'This development shows that improvements are possible,' said Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV. He is calling for occupational safety and health, as a cross-cutting topic, to be enshrined even more into companies. 'Through the **kommmitmensch** campaign, the German social accident insurance institutions can help companies to do this.'



Photo: Wolfgang Beltwinkel / DGUV

Working outdoors: clothes that cover arms and legs, headgear with neck protection and sunscreen can protect against work-related skin diseases.

'Occupational safety and health is a cross-cutting topic that we want to see even more enshrined in companies as a result of the new campaign.'

Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV

The number of work-related non-melanoma skin cancers also increased in 2017. Last year, the social accident insurance institutions identified 3,887 insured persons with this occupational disease. Sectors that are particularly at risk of exposure to the sun during work include the construction industry, the trades, horticulture, shipping and forestry. It is therefore all the more important that employers raise their employees' awareness of the increased risk of skin cancer when working outdoors.

Web: www.dguv.de > Webcode ep1194686

The three occupational diseases most commonly confirmed in 2017:

Skin disease (18,422)

Noise-induced hearing loss (6,649)

Skin cancer due to UV radiation (3,887)



The myth of a healthy tan

Dear Reader,

Clouds on a summer day protect you from UV rays – for decades, myths like this have prevented people from taking care of their skin. Being reckless when it comes to a person's largest sensory organ is still widespread today. Not just in a person's free time but at work as well. However, the devastating consequences often don't manifest themselves until 20 to 30 years later. This is seen every year by the number of new cases of non-melanoma skin cancers. Unfortunately, this is also reflected in the latest annual figures from the German social accident insurance institutions for 2017. Almost 4,000 cases of work-related non-melanoma skin cancers were identified. These could have been avoided with better UV protection.

Thanks to the GENESIS-UV research project run by the DGUV's Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, we now know how much exposure there is to ultraviolet radiation in individual sectors and occupations. For example, a construction worker is exposed to an average of 100 times the amount of UV radiation over a year that it takes to cause a sunburn.

Research findings such as these send an important message to society and help to debunk old myths: sun-tanned skin as a symbol of prosperity and beauty is outdated. Skin protection is important – at work and in our free time!

Dr Joachim Breuer

Director General of the DGUV

'Turn Assist saves lives!'

They are among the most dramatic traffic accidents in the inner city: accidents caused by lorry or bus drivers when turning and not seeing pedestrians or cyclists. They often cause serious injuries or even death. Children often are killed in these types of accidents. DGUV Kompakt spoke with Dr Walter Eichendorf, President of the German Road Safety Council (DVR) and Deputy Director General of the DGUV.

Dr Eichendorf, road safety is very complex topic. Let's start with technology. There are now various systems that are designed to help prevent accidents when turning. How do they work and which ones are ready for series production?

The industry has developed and tested Turn Assist systems. They use radar, ultrasound, cameras or a combination of these. This requires comprehensive software for reliable image recognition, especially to prevent false warnings. Until now, only one German truck manufacturer has offered a very good system as a factory option. More than 30 percent of its customers have ordered this radar-base Turn Assist system.

The after-market systems which are now also on offer can only be fitted in vehicles with a fixed body. This means that trucks with interchangeable semi-trailers or trailers, curtainsider trucks, etc have to be equipped and calibrated on an individual basis. That's not a problem for some fleets but it is an issue for fleets whose requirements change quickly and significantly.

That's why the DVR is calling for all truck manufacturers to quickly develop Turn Assist systems as a series standard and to retrofit them. In the first stage of development, these can initially be equipped with function to inform and warn. Later, the systems should also be able to activate emergency braking. That's something manufacturers and suppliers have to work hard at.

Companies also have an obligation. What is being done to reduce the risk of accidents caused by right-turning lorries and commercial vehicles?

Many companies have voluntarily decided to retrofit their fleet. In addition, companies can also do work internally with everything from training, education and an exemplary prevention culture, right through to the executive level. Germany's social accident

insurance is very active in this area. The social accident insurance institutions provide practical support. For example, the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Transport Industry, Postal Logistics and Telecommunications offers training to curtainsider truck drivers on how to adjust their mirrors optimally. A federal subsidy programme has been announced for the start of 2019 that provides financial incentives to freight companies and other truck fleets to retrofit their fleets voluntarily with Turn Assist technology.

'The DVR has committed itself to Vision Zero. It is dedicated to safe working and living environments in order to avoid serious and fatal accidents. Since 2014, the DVR has been calling for the industry to push forward with developing Turn Assist systems as a top priority, because Turn Assist saves lives!'

Dr Walter Eichendorf

How important a topic is the 'blind spot' for the DVR and what's your position on this?

The DVR has committed itself to Vision Zero. It is dedicated to safe working and living environments in order to avoid serious and fatal accidents. Since 2014, the DVR has been calling for the industry to push forward with developing Turn Assist systems as a top priority, because Turn Assist saves lives! Of course, we also strongly support the Bundesrat's resolution of 8 June 2018 which calls for the compulsory use of Turn Assist systems in commercial vehicles in Germany and at EU level.



Photo: Kara – stock.adobe.com

According to the Federal Statistical Office, around a third of all road accidents with a personal injury involving a bicycle and a goods road transport vehicle were turning accidents. 37 cyclists were killed in 2017.

On 10 July 2018, Federal Transport Minister Scheuer launched the ‘Turn Assist Initiative’. Has everyone involved done their homework and will there now be a nationwide breakthrough?

This is a great initiative and many companies, for example large trading companies, have committed themselves to installing or retrofitting systems. Nevertheless, there are trucks on European roads from Warsaw to Lisbon and from Kiel to Brindisi. There has to be binding rules at EU level. On 17 May 2018, Brussels revealed the Third Mobility Package. It includes the obligatory installation of Turn Assist systems with warning function for vehicles 3.5 tonnes and above, but only for new models from 2022 and all new vehicles from 2024. The DVR is behind Federal Minister Scheuer in his efforts, which would clearly be preferred at EU level.

In other words, there will be many serious and fatal accidents for years to come until Turn Assist systems make traffic

safer throughout the EU. Why is Brussels being so hesitant?

Ideas about what are the necessary technical standards for trucks differ not only between the EU countries, but also depending on the financial resources of each company, freight forwarder or delivery service. EU-wide regulations mean involving stakeholders from all EU Member States. It is easy to imagine how challenging it is to find a quick agreement. Until then, freight forwarders and other companies should receive financial incentives in as many EU countries as possible as a means of encouraging them to install original equipment or retrofit Turn Assist systems. Such incentive systems are very effective in prevention.

Photo: Bellwinkel / DGUV



Dr Walter Eichendorf
President of the German Road Safety Council (DVR) and Deputy Director General of the DGUV

TOPIC

In focus: reintegration

Demographic change is one of society's biggest challenges. An increasingly older workforce and intensifying work mean that chronic physical and mental health problems are also on the rise. There is more focus on prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration, including at European level.

The DGUV was the lead on the ‘Return on Work Reintegration’ study published by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in 2017.

The European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs has published an own-initiative report on the possibilities for reintegrating workers into quality employment after an injury or illness. The focus is on prevention and early intervention, on return to work and on a cultural change towards the reintegration of employees. The report was adopted unanimously by the Committee on 28 May 2018. The European Parliament is expected to discuss the initiative in September 2018. Germany's social accident insurance also deals extensively with this topic. The DGUV was the lead on the ‘Return on Work Reintegration’ study published by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in 2017, which provides credible figures for why companies should have occupational rehabilitation. The German social accident insurance institutions also help companies with the implementation of workplace reintegration management. This includes presenting awards for good practice examples of reintegrating workers.

In December 2017, the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) contributed to a position paper via the German Social Insurance (DSV) put forward by the European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP) which also highlighted the importance of strategies for reintegration.

Web: www.dsv-europa.de/en/news.html
➤ Prevention and reintegration on the up

RECOMMENDED

New info video: Working under the Sun



Working outside when the weather is good – at first that sounds great. But people who work outdoors should protect themselves against the sun and not just in summer. Too much UV radiation damages the skin and can cause non-melanoma skin cancer. A new video from the German Social Accident Insurance explains how to effectively protect yourself from UV radiation when working. It describes how to protect yourself following the TOP principle which looks at technical, organisational and personal measures at work. The video also provides tips on when you should avoid the sun as much as possible, which clothing offers the best protection and which SPF your sunscreen should have.

The video can be watched for free at:

Web: www.dguv.de > Webcode: d1181677
(German only)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disabled sports highlights

This summer is all about big sporting events. The second largest disabled sports event takes place between 16-26 August 2018 – the Wheelchair Basketball World Championships in Hamburg. 12 women's teams and 16 men's teams will battle it out for the World Championship title. Germany's social accident insurance is supporting the event locally by offering inclusive general sport events. The World Para Athletics European Championships is happening at about the same time in Berlin. Europe's best athletes will compete against one another between 20-26 August 2018. The BG Hospital Berlin will be there to provide medical assistance during the event and the BG Hospital Hamburg will be there for the Wheelchair Basketball World Championships.

'Sport is an indispensable tool for rehabilitation. That's why the German so-



Photo: MSSP – Michael Schwartz

In 2015, the DGUV and other partners launched the 'No Barriers Day' initiative for German rehabilitation sports and disabled sports.

cial accident insurance has been involved in disability sports for so many years', said Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV, in the run-up to the big sporting events: 'Sport brings people together and enables people with disabilities to participate in society.' This is an explicit goal of the Action Plan for implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Web: www.2018wbwc.de/en

Web: www.para-euro2018.eu (German only)

#TippTippTot ('TapTapDead')

Germany's Federal Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer and the DVR have launched new billboards for the 'Runter von Gas' ('Slow Down!') campaign to warn about the dangers of using a mobile phone when driving. The billboards can be seen on the German autobahns and at rest areas. The DGUV is helping fund the billboards.

Web: www.runtervomgas.de (German only)



tipp tipp tot

RUNTER
VOM GAS



IMPORTANT DATES

10 September 2018

**OSH Management
SIEGBURG**

www.dguv.de > Webcode: dp1312294

20/21 September 2018

**1st Rehabilitation Symposium of the
BG Hospital Group
MURNAU**

www.bgu-murnau.de > Veranstaltungen

25-27 September 2018

**3rd Forum 'Universities and Research
Institutions – Work Safety and
Health Protection'**

DRESDEN

www.dguv.de > Webcode: d1178797

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

28,748,470

... euros more was invested in prevention services in 2017 than in 2016 by the German social accident insurance Institutions. The proportion of total expenditure spent on prevention in 2017 amounted to 7.7%.

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