



TOP STORY

Every accident is one too many

Provisional figures for the first half of the year published

In the first half of 2018, 206 people lost their lives as the result of an accident at work. This is 17 fatal accidents at work fewer than in the first half of 2017. Further efforts are needed to make sure this positive trend continues. Germany's social accident insurance institutions are working hand in hand with government supervisory bodies.

According to the provisional figures, 441,295 reportable accidents at work were registered with the German social accident insurance institutions in the first half of the year. This is an increase of 2% over the previous year. 8,735 insured persons received a pension for the first time because of a reduction in earning capacity due to an accident (previous year: 8,892). The number of reportable commuting accidents fell slightly to 96,603 – a drop of 312. The accident insurance institutions for the public sector recorded a decline in school accidents of more than 7%.

The accident figures confirm the positive long-term trend in Germany. In the past two decades, fatal accidents at work and on the way to work have declined by a total of 63 percent, and fatal accidents at work alone by almost 60 percent. An international comparison also reflects this positive development: Germany is one of only four countries in the world that for years has sustainably reduced the number of fatal occupational accidents per 100,000 workers. That was the result of global research conducted by the Ministry of Labour in Singapore. 'Even though we are dealing with low accident numbers compared to many years ago, we're still not satisfied with the situation. Every single accident is one accident too many', said Professor Joachim Breuer, Director General of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV).

Analysis by the German Social Accident Insurance shows that road accidents, on-site vehicular accidents, falling from heights, accidents caused by cranes and swinging loads, and machine acci-



Photo: Bellwinkel / DGUV

School crossing guards make sure it's safe to cross roads. The **kommmitmensch** prevention campaign by the German social accident insurance institutions will be expanded to the education sector in February 2019.

dents account for almost half of all serious accidents at work.

In order to sustainably prevent accidents in these areas, the German social accident insurance institutions work together with government supervisory bodies. Every day, more than 2,500 prevention experts from the social accident insurance institutions go to companies and provide on-site advice. Every year, Germany's social accident insurance system provides training to almost 400,000 people on health and safety issues and another 2 million on first aid at work. Making further progress requires a political and social commitment to prioritise safety and health at work. This is also the aim of the current **kommmitmensch** prevention campaign.

Web: www.dguv.de (Webcode: d25485)
(German only)

Web: www.kommmitmensch.de

FYI Vision Zero

Vision Zero is the vision of a world without occupational accidents and work-related illnesses. Its highest priority is the prevention of fatal and serious work accidents and occupational diseases. The **kommmitmensch** prevention campaign promotes a comprehensive culture of prevention. Its goal is Vision Zero.
Web: www.dguv.de
(Webcode: e1036651)



Culture Change

Dear Reader,

The provisional accident figures for the first half of 2018 from the German social accident insurance institutions were recently published. I was particularly pleased to see that the number of fatal accidents at work has continued to decline. The institutions also registered a drop of over 7% in the number of school accidents. However, the number of commuting accidents has stagnated and the number of reportable accidents at work has also unfortunately increased by 2%.

Overall, we can say that Germany is on the right track. Nevertheless, there is no reason to sit back and relax because every person who loses his or her life due to an accident at work is one person too many. The same is true for those who get sick or are injured because of their job. Safety and health are also important in schools, day-care centres and other educational institutions.

That's why the DGUV and the social accident insurance institutions launched the **kommmitmensch** campaign a year ago. We want to inspire people to include safety and health as core values in all their decisions and activities. Our goal is to have a culture of prevention in all areas of life where people learn and work. If we can manage to achieve a cultural change, we can continue to strengthen positive trends and turn negative developments around.

Professor Joachim Breuer
Director General of the DGUV

'Vision Zero is a global success story'

As Deputy Director General of the DGUV, Dr Walter Eichendorf has been a major player in the field of prevention work over the last 20 years. A topic which Dr Eichendorf has been passionate about driving forward is the concept of Vision Zero – a world without fatal and serious accidents at work and occupational diseases. He spoke with DGUV Kompakt about Vision Zero shortly before his departure on 31 October.

Dr Eichendorf, you've made a major contribution to realising the concept of Vision Zero. How close are we to achieving this vision in Germany?

Germany is now one of only four countries in the world that has achieved a rate of less than one fatal accident per 100,000 workers over several years. Government documents in a number of countries make reference to this success in Germany. They make it clear that the goal of Vision Zero can be achieved if you are truly committed to prevention work.

Vision Zero is now an international, maybe even global concept. What's your take on this?

At the World Congress in Istanbul in 2011, the DGUV was a trendsetter with Vision Zero and its study on the Return on Prevention. In 2014, at the World Congress in Frankfurt, the heart-felt commitments made by the then Labour Minister Andrea Nahles and ILO Director General Guy Ryder to Vision Zero were the international breakthrough. In Singapore in 2017, the ISSA launched its global VISION ZEROOO campaign and there have now been more than 50 regional launch events on every continent. It took ten years, but now the Vision Zero strategy initiated by the DGUV and German Road Safety Council (DVR) is a truly global success story.

The **kommmitmensch prevention campaign currently being run by Germany's social accident insurance system is closely related to Vision Zero. The aim of the campaign is to help establish a culture of prevention in all areas of life. How can this be done?**

The motto of the campaign is 'Safety and health are values for all people, every organisation and the entire society'. They should become a part of everything we do. Preventive action is important and worthwhile. Values are the key. We want to ensure that safety and health are put on an equal footing with other values such as honesty, love, loyalty, reliability, etc in the value systems of people and institutions. That way, safety and health become a 24/7 issue - around the clock - and really become a part of everything we do. Of course, this is slow, gradual process, but that's why the campaign is designed to run for ten years.

What role does digitalisation play in a culture of prevention? What about prevention 4.0?

This is one of our most exciting topics at the moment. New forms of work require new forms of prevention. Aspects such as ambient intelligence, augmented reality, spatial and temporal flexibility – to name but a few drivers - must be taken into account in a holistic and forward-looking assessment of working conditions. This fits well with our Risk Observatory, which allows us to put in place prevention measures in the workplace before the risk even has arisen. We've managed to do this several times already. We have also launched a research project on preventing psychological and physical health risks due to new forms of work intensification. We have also received eight project proposals, one of which we will select and support from 2019. This last example also shows that we are providing real momentum for digitalisation and for prevention 4.0.

You will continue in your position as President of the German Road Safety



Photo: Grubenglück / DGUV

Convincing people to get involved in safety and health. Dr Walter Eichendorf at the keynote address during the kick-off event for the **kommmit**mensch prevention campaign at the A+A 2017 Congress in Düsseldorf.

Council, which means that there will continue to be common ground with the German social accident insurance system.

Across all of the social accident insurance institutions, road accidents account for almost two-thirds of all fatal accidents, as well as a quarter of all serious accidents. One third of financial compensation is for road accidents. This makes them the number one cause of accidents almost everywhere. In close partnership with the DVR, we have a good chance of implementing Vision Zero in this area too. We know the main causes such as speeding, drunk driving, distractions etc. And we also know the prevention strategies. However, it's harder to influence people's behaviour on the road than it is in the workplace. That's why we always look at elements in combination: forgiving types of road infrastructure, vehicle technology to prevent or reduce the effects of accidents, as well as the behaviour of people.

Finally, a personal question: Will you have a little more time for yourself in retirement?

Honestly, being at the head of the DGUV is a tough job with tight deadlines, a fast pace, a demanding travel schedule and often massive attempts at influencing. And some of the meetings are in a class of their own: the first policy decisions on Vision Zero were equally complex in both the DGUV and DVR. And the DGUV's annual budget negotiations aren't what I would call fun and games. But one thing's clear: it's all part of the job. Of course, over the years I've taken time out for holidays and sports, for my friends from the Bonn-Rheinaue Lions Club and for my wife and myself. But there just hasn't been enough time to do more sporting activities, to improve on my dusty list of just 21 of the 4,000 metre summits I've climbed, to better support the Juris commentary on the prevention paragraphs of SGB VII and much more. Even as far as road safety is concerned, I haven't always been able to do as much as I would have liked as President of the DVR. This is now all on the cards!

More information on Vision Zero:
Web: www.visionzero.global

TOPIC

ECJ clarifies posted worker regulations

In several judgments, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has issued an opinion on the provisions for posted workers with respect to the coordination of social security systems. The binding effect of the A1 certificate was confirmed. This provides information on social security for workers who are temporarily posted to another Member State. The Alpenrind judgement (C-527/16) confirms previous case law and provides more clarity about posting workers.

The judgment of the European Court of Justice on September 6 reinforced the 'non-replacement condition' for posted workers. If a posted worker replaces another posted worker, that person cannot remain covered by the social security system of their home Member State. This also applies if both employees were posted by different employers. It does not matter whether the employers who are posting the workers are based in the same Member State or whether there are personal or organisational connections. As a result, German courts and social insurance institutions are also bound by the A1 certificates issued by foreign institutions.

According to the judgment, the A1 certificate may now also be issued retroactively. In practice, this could lead to increased costs and effort for companies, employees and social security institutions, for example by reversing existing decisions. For Germany's social accident insurance institutions, it could mean that any contributions already received must be paid back retrospectively to the social security institution of the home country. Nevertheless, the judgment gives more clarity overall on the application of the posted worker regulations for social security.

The full judgement can be viewed at
Web: curia.europa.eu/juris/
> Case number „C-527/16“

Social protection for the self-employed



Illustration: Karo Rigaud / DGUV

Protecting self-employed workers through the social accident insurance system

Wednesday, 21 Nov 2018, 13.00 – 17.00
Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung, Glinkastraße 40, 10117 Berlin

The world of work has changed enormously in recent years. Digitalisation has made it possible to distribute and organise work in a flexible and mobile way. Forms of work are adapting to this. Whereas traditional full-time employment has been a fundamental component of the world of work for many years, new forms of work will emerge as a result of networking. Current developments, such as the gig economy, show that work is shifting from employment to self-employment. This change presents social security systems with new challenges. The question of how self-employed people can be protected by social security will be discussed in a DGUV podium discussion together with representatives from Germany's social security branches, business organisations and trade unions.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Management change

On November 1, 2018, Dr Edlyn Höller commenced office as Deputy Director General of the DGUV. Dr Höller takes over the position from Dr Walter Eichendorf, who has retired. 'I'm looking forward to the opportunity to be a part of shaping the future of statutory accident insurance. I want to especially mention the many challenges that digitalisation creates for our branch of social security and the social protection of people who are in new forms of work. We want to initiate a broad discussion at the podium discussion on 21 November.'

Dr Höller earned her doctorate in European social law and worked for several years as a research assistant at the Chair of Civil Law, German and European Labour and Social Security Law of the



Photo: Jan-Peter Schulz / DGUV

Dr Edlyn Höller

Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. Since 2004, she has worked for the German Social Accident Insurance. She was significantly involved in the structural reorganisation of the German social accident insurance system. Her area of responsibility included issues related to redistributing burdens and the implementation of the Accident Insurance Modernisation Act. From 2013, she was Director of the Insurance Law Division.

Future Dialogue

On September 10, 2018 Federal Minister Hubertus Heil launched the 'New Work - New Social Security' dialogue on the future of work and the welfare state. This public dialogue allows citizens to submit their concerns and ideas on the future of work and social security. The resulting policy options will be presented in autumn 2019.

Web: www.bmas.de > Zukunftsdialog (German only)



IMPORTANT DATES

19-20 November 2018

Inclusion 2018 – 'Digitally Inclusive'
BERLIN
www.gemeinsam-einfach-machen.de

6 December 2018

Better protection in the saddle: How safe are bicycles and pedelecs?
BERLIN
www.dvr.de > Presse > Termine

3-4 December

DGUV Forum Research Extra: Detached from time and space? Flexible work as the focus of OSH research
DRESDEN
www.dguv.de > Veranstaltungen

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

3,180

... people died in road accidents in Germany in 2017. This is the equivalent of about 9 people every day.

LEGAL INFORMATION

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