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Page 2: Industrial security affects the workplace too – An interview with Jonas Stein, Head of the DGUV's Security Working Group.

## Bangladesh implements accident insurance

When the Rana Plaza textile factory collapsed in Bangladesh, more than 1,100 people were killed and 2,240 were injured. The disaster happened ten years ago and it marked a turning point: Bangladesh set out to make workplaces better and safer. The DGUV has been supporting the country in this endeavour since 2014. The project to establish accident insurance for employees in the textile and leather sector has been successfully completed.

In 2013, pictures of the collapsed Rana Plaza factory in Savar circulated throughout the world. They served as an allegory, illustrating the working conditions in the textile industry in Bangladesh and the precarious social situation facing people working in the textile sector in Southeast Asia. It quickly became clear that this problem affected more than the local countries involved. It affected the entire world as the clothes being made here were exported to Europe and beyond. Sustainable supply chains subsequently became part of both national and international policies. "The disaster triggered a series of policy initiatives. The objective was to make work healthier and safer for workers in the textile sector and to set up insurance against occupational accidents and diseases", explains Dr Gregor Kemper, Director of International Relations DGUV. Almost ten years later, the results are now in place. The foundations for accident insurance have been established in Bangladesh. What sounds like



Ten years ago, the Rana Plaza textile factory collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people. The DGUV helped set up accident insurance for the textile and leather sector.

a matter of course was in fact a long, collaborative process between the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Bangladeshi institutions and associations and the Bangladesh government.

### Presence on site

It was particularly important for German prevention and rehabilitation experts advised and trained the occupational safety specialists on site in Bangladesh. "Knowledge transfer is one of the keys to conveying an understanding of safety and health at work," summarises Kemper. "The presence was also important in order to understand the Bangladeshi work culture, recognise the value of existing good practices and test ideas or improvements in collaboration with the companies." Building trust was necessary to develop a common working basis and to communicate that OSH is a win-win for everyone – the companies, the state and the workers and their families. As a result, structures for an occupational safety and health institute were established, return-to-work strategies were implemented and digital tools such as the "Safety@Work" app were developed for day-to-day work.

### Safe work worldwide

The working conditions and social situation for workers in Bangladesh need further, sustainable improvement. For this reason, another project is currently being prepared with GIZ in Bangladesh, this time to improve working conditions in tanneries. The project is to be realised this year in cooperation with the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Building Trade, the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the raw Material and Chemical Industry and the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Energy, Textile, Electrical and Media Products Sectors. Bangladesh is just one example of the DGUV's international commitment to social security and occupational safety and health. Other consulting projects are underway in China and India, for example. Kemper affirms the DGUV's involvement, saying, "By providing this support, the German Social Accident Insurance makes a contribution to fair competitive conditions for German companies and to safe and healthy workplaces for employees posted abroad," says Kemper, confirming the commitment.



Jonas Stein, Head of the DGUV's Security Working Group

# “Security gaps in control systems are a serious problem for occupational safety and health.”

Dear readers,

Mental stress and mental illness are growing topics of discussion. This is a major step, as they had been taboo subjects for far too long. The changes and crises over the last few years have shown us how extensively an increase in stress affects the whole of society and influences learning and working. Consequences include high rates of sick leave, early retirement and a lack of treatment units, especially for children and adolescents. This development is contrasted by the workforce shortage and the demand from politicians for people to work longer. If we are all to reach retirement age in good health, we need educational and supportive services with foundations established in childhood and expanding into the world of employment. As part of this process, it's important that we recognise the link between psychological and physical effects. We tend to associate psychological stress with depression or burnout and forget that excess stress often manifests as physical ailments. Then our back starts to hurt, or something upsets our stomach, we develop inflammation problems or become more susceptible to infections.

Alongside effective prevention and early treatment, it's also important to support those affected at their company's place of work. In April, for example, the DGUV Institute for Work and Health is bringing together many experts on the subject of depression in the workplace to discuss how a comprehensive approach should be structured. An appropriate move, as anyone who tackles mental stress is doing something good for their overall health. And people who are physically and mentally healthy are stronger in the face of change.

Dr Stefan Hussy  
Director General of the German Social  
Accident Insurance (DGUV)

People and machines are working ever more closely together. Reliable communication between the two, but also between machine controls themselves, is a basic prerequisite for safe working. If equipment or systems indicate any kind of digital vulnerability, this puts employees' safety at risk. In a bid to make products in the EU safer, the EU Commission published the draft regulation Cyber Resilience Act. The DGUV commented on the matter in a statement. DGUV Kompakt spoke to Jonas Stein, Head of the DGUV's Security Working Group, about stricter reporting obligations, critical product classes and unclear legal terms.

**Mr. Stein, what do digital security gaps mean with regard to occupational safety and health?**

In the past, machines and plants were often only accessible from within a company's premises. As we become increasingly interconnected, plants also become exposed to digital attacks across the globe. In 2014, for example, a steel plant in the Ruhr region was attacked via its office network and the blast furnace could no longer be controlled. In 2017, hackers attempted to trigger an explosion at a petrochemical plant. Incidents of this kind have long ceased to be a theoretical construct. Security gaps in control systems are a serious problem for occupational safety and health as they put the workers on site at risk.

#### Safety oder Security?

The terms safety and security are differentiated as follows: Safety is used to describe protection from unintentional hazards – an accident. In contrast, security describes protection from deliberate hazards – an attack.

**How does the Cyber Resilience Act tie in with previous EU regulations for digital security?**

The Cyber Resilience Act aims to regulate all products that are not already covered by existing regulations. The term “product with digital elements” was defined for this purpose, which encompasses virtually all software and hardware that can process data.

**The draft regulation contains new obligations for manufacturers and operators of products with digital elements. What are they?**

Manufacturers are required to provide lists of the software libraries used for their products. In future, these can be used to automatically determine whether a product has suffered a security breach. Manufacturers also have to provide an emergency contact so that alerts or warnings reach the right person in the company as quickly as possible. Both requirements make a lot of sense and are easy to implement.

**The EU wants critical products with digital elements to undergo a conformity assessment procedure. Can you explain what that is, and who assesses the products?**

You can think of it like the standard CE mark. For products that are less critical, manufacturers are allowed to draw up a declaration of conformity themselves. Products that are very critical have to be assessed by a third party. However, it's still unclear exactly what needs to be tested and to what extent.

**Which products are considered critical and is it possible to categorise them appropriately?**

The draft regulation divides products into a default category and two critical classes, I and II. Products in critical class II are subject to very high requirements, such as third-party evaluation. That said, the differentiation between classes I and II is problematic as the classifications have not been clearly defined. That will create



Seizing control of a blast furnace? Today, risk analysis no longer ends at the plant gate. Networked industrial plants are increasingly exposed to digital attacks.

uncertainties. Plus, the intended use and the protection target have not been considered.

#### Can you give us an example?

Let's take an operating system. This is assigned to class II. So the manufacturer has to have it tested by a third party. This poses some difficulties because many operating systems are constantly evolving and can't be tested in a meaningful way. Some rely on open source software. In which case there is no single manufacturer that would be responsible for the conformity procedure.

#### As soon as a manufacturer becomes aware of a security vulnerability, the EU requires that they submit a report to an authority. You have criticised this. Why is that?

Manufacturers are supposed to report extensive details about the security vulnerability within just 24 hours. But it's often not possible to address these issues in such a short amount of time. What it would mean, however, is that the authority would have a collection of highly sensitive data that could be misused for dangerous attacks on industrial plants. This must be prevented at all costs. If it isn't, employees' health will be put at risk. It should therefore be deemed as sufficient to disclose the necessary details of an attack after the vulnerabilities have been resolved.

#### You have also raised the issue of ambiguous terms in the draft. What kind of consequences could they have in practice?

Words containing the term 'cyber', yet which are never clearly defined, are problematic. These terms are already used in many different ways within standards

and regulations. For instance – depending on the source – attacks via radio or USB interfaces do not fall under the term cyber security. At times, "cyber security" is a state, sometimes it's an activity and at other times it's a product. We cannot work together like this. We have to speak one language and our best approach would be to use the terms that are commonly used in science.

#### The draft regulation must now be examined and approved. After that, economic operators and Member States have two years to adapt to the new requirements. Is that long enough?

This is a critical time frame for all manufacturers who are dependent on other products. They have to wait and see which components are given a third-party conformity assessment. Their own product can only be reviewed and evaluated once this is done. This is barely feasible within two years, especially given the fact that resources must first be created to conduct the new conformity assessments.

→ DGUV Statement > [www.dguv.de](http://www.dguv.de) > Webcode: e1179452

→ EU Cyber Resilience Act > [digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cyber-resilience-act](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cyber-resilience-act)



Jonas Stein, Head of the DGUV's Security Working Group

## The EU wants to comprehensively improve mental health

The European Commission has launched an initiative aimed at greater prevention of mental illness. The European Representation of the German Social Insurance (DSV) advocates a holistic approach towards prevention, treatment and aftercare.

Mental health problems are a major cause of incapacity to work and early retirement. If they become chronic, they reduce the quality of life for those affected. For companies and society, the large number of people affected entails economic losses. The prevention and treatment of mental illness is therefore a challenge for society as a whole, especially for the health and social systems.

The DSV provided feedback on the EU Commission's new initiative to promote mental health. It called for the following in particular:

- A comprehensive approach to mental illness must incorporate prevention, treatment and aftercare.
- The prevention of mental illness must begin in pre-school childcare facilities and school, should take place in the workplace in a targeted way and must not end in old age.
- Counselling services and programmes to destigmatise mental illness should be expanded.
- Risk assessments that take mental stress at the workplace into account along with appropriate derivable measures should be introduced throughout Europe. In Germany, there is already a legal obligation in place (see Section 5 of the German Occupational Safety and Health Act).

The DSV also recommends promoting medical rehabilitation and ensuring prompt psychotherapeutic care following traumatic events. Digital services can help to bridge waiting times. Specific support services should also be developed for mentally stressed people, both those in need in care and caregivers. The European Commission's strategy is expected in the second quarter of this year.

→ [www.dsv-europa.de](http://www.dsv-europa.de) > News > 2023

# Climate change – Where do companies see a need for action?

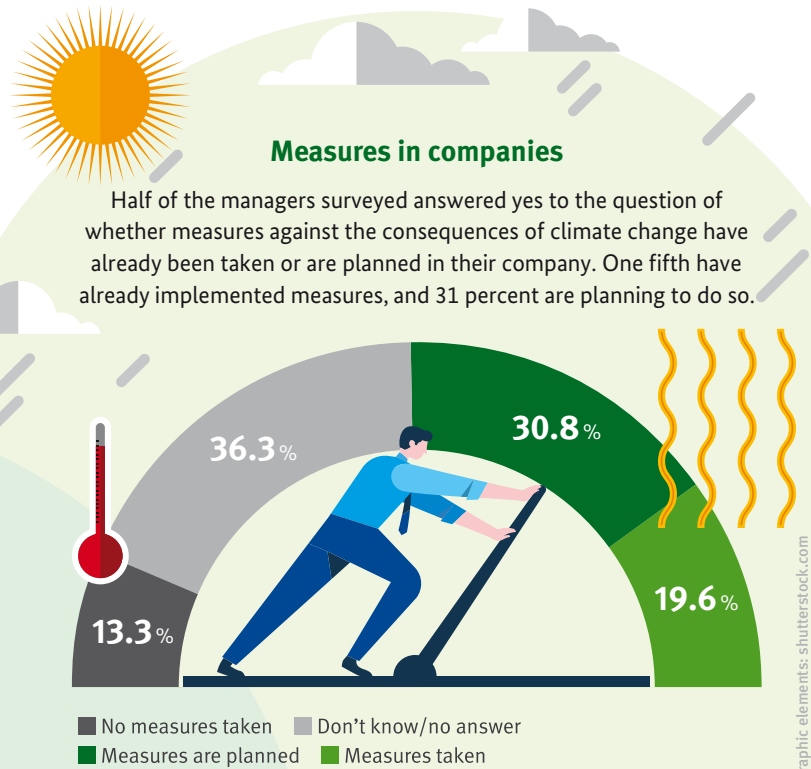
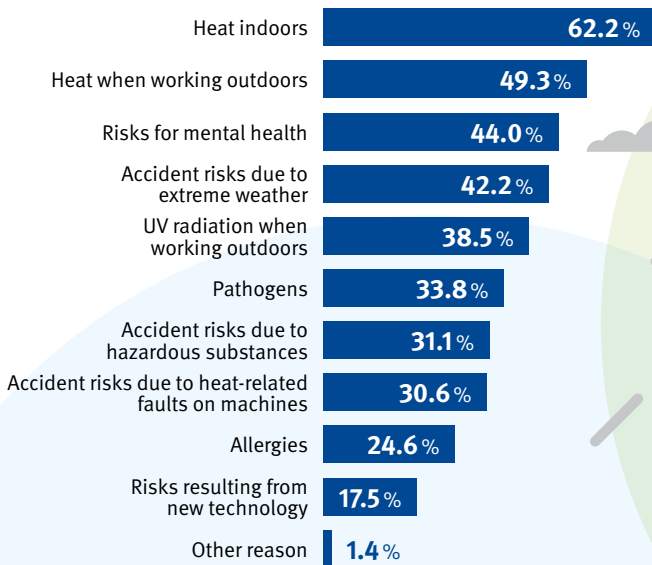
Climate change poses risks to safe and healthy work. A survey carried out by the German Social Accident Insurance revealed the following: Approximately two thirds of respondents believe there is a need for action with regard to heat indoors and half the respondents see a need for action in

relation to heat when working outdoors. Forty-four percent of respondents would like to see prevention-based offerings for mental health protection. The respondents also felt there was a need for action with regard to accident risks that could result from extreme weather (42%), hazardous

substances (31%) and heat-related faults on machines (31%). A further third indicated that hazards due to pathogens must also be considered.

→ You can read the detailed survey results at: [www.dguv.de](http://www.dguv.de) > Webcode: p022351

**In your opinion, which risks associated with climate change should be addressed so that safe and healthy work is still possible?** (Multiple responses possible; n=1.035)



## Depression in the workplace

Depression is one of the most common mental illnesses. It often leads to months of incapacity to work. How can it be prevented? What helps those affected to continue working or return to work? The Institute for Work and Health of the German Social Accident Insurance (IAG) invites you to an exchange on these questions. On 27 and 28 April 2023, experts from prevention, treatment and rehabilitation will discuss how the risk of developing depression can be reduced through appropriate preventive measures at the workplace

and how to engage with those affected. They will present the latest therapeutic approaches and success factors for reintegration. The event is being held at the IAG conference centre in Dresden in cooperation with the Federal Chamber of Psychotherapists in Germany, the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for Health and Welfare Services and the Insurance Law Division of the DGUV.

→ Programme and registration at: [www.dguv.de](http://www.dguv.de)  
 > Webcode: d1184029 (German only)



The IAG invites you to a symposium: Mental illness in the workplace.

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