



Confederation of Indian Industry



Safety Symposium & Exposition

Safety Leadership Towards Vision Zero

8 - 9 August 2018; ITC Sonar, Kolkata

Concept Note

Life is not negotiable; neither is the brand image of an organization. Based on ILO estimates, 2.78 million workers die every year from work-related injuries and diseases. An additional 160 million workers suffer from work-related diseases and 313 million workers from non-fatal injuries per year. In economic terms, the ILO estimates that almost 4 percent of the world's annual GDP is lost as a consequence of work-related injuries and diseases. In addition to this loss, there is another intangible, definite and crucial loss – loss of brand image.

So the world has recognized that occupational safety and health are the strategic challenges and an integral part of the business. Vision Zero has been emerged as a prevention strategy internationally, endorsed by ILO and embraced in India. Vision Zero is based on the belief that all accidents, diseases, and harm at work are preventable. To effectively move towards the goal of Vision Zero, we need a culture of prevention and the foundation of setting a culture of prevention begins with leadership.

A true test of leadership is translating safety vision into a reality and thereby increasing the brand value of the organisation. This transformation needs commitment, risk control measures, defined objectives and targets, a healthy system & infrastructure and investment on people. The need of the hour is safety and health leadership and business excellence instead of just managing risks to develop a prevention culture across the organization. The biggest influence a leader can have on safety is to demonstrate through his actions that he genuinely believes good safety is good business.

Safety Culture may be defined as 'how we do things here' – it is an outcome and not an independent variable. Culture may also be defined as great devotion to a set of beliefs. Among other things, enlightened leadership will ensure safe facilities and infrastructure; ensure managers walk the talk, commitment towards safety across the organization starting from the CEO's chamber. Accountability is enforced across the organization and employees or users of public facilities are empowered to stop work for unsafe working conditions.

Leader's role is to personally communicate his vision to his people and find opportunities to show them that he or she means what is said. Safety leadership is not that different from any other kind of leadership. It is about setting the example, clarifying expectations, monitoring performance, and holding everyone accountable.

Safety leadership is therefore widely recognized as a critical element of business success.

One of the great advantages of being a Leader is that he has hands on the financials, the operationals and the customer levers of the business. That's a very powerful position to be in. And it's a power for good when it comes to driving safety initiatives. Return on investment for prevention culture is also pretty high, though it takes a longer time to get a matured preventive safety culture. The benefits need to reach each and every person in the organization, all stakeholders, and society at large. What distinguishes a strategic approach to safety from the more traditional tactical approach is, specifically and unavoidably, the actions of leaders. What leaders do will either lead to a sustained change or a wave of activity that comes and goes without lasting impact. Improving the leader's personal ability to influence, engage and inspire others can go a long way toward realizing your vision for an organization that demonstrates its value for human life in the way it conducts business every day.

The best safety cultures are led by business leaders who integrate safety into the business. Every responsible company strives for a safe working environment for employees, but many don't take the next step that allows them to achieve true safety leadership.



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Effective safety leadership is known to be financially beneficial to a company's bottom-line performance. It positively impacts employees' safety behaviour and attitudes, helps reduce injury rates and insurance premiums, and contributes to increased productivity by eliminating production bottlenecks. Operational and safety excellence go hand-in-hand. Companies that are good at managing safety also manage operations well. We should ensure enlightened transformational leadership through governance and modern statutes, encouraging compliance and making non-compliance prohibitive.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Eastern Region has a dedicated Safety Taskforce which creates a platform for stakeholders to come together and chart out plans through various activities, policy work, training, assessment and recognition of excellence for responsible safety management to avoid hazardous incidents. All these activities will culminate in the 2-day initiative **Safety Symposium & Exposition on 8-9 August 2018** in Kolkata where the participants will get the opportunity to interact with the safety professionals, thought leaders to learn the best practices. Also, there would be an opportunity for the participants for business networking through a dedicated B2B platform in the symposium.

The central theme of the conference is **Safety Leadership towards Vision Zero**.

The two-day Symposium will deliberate upon:

- Responsible Safety Leadership – Safety Culture
- Asset Management and Infrastructure Integrity
- Fire and Electrical Safety
- Mining Safety
- Technology, Digitization, and PPE
- Logistics & Road Safety

We hope that the deliberations of this Symposium will throw up new ideas and suggestions for encouraging positive leadership, without which Vision Zero shall remain a distant dream.