

Consequently, internal discussions centred around the integration of chemical safety principles into the annual Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) assessment. This strategic focus underscores the acknowledgment of chemical safety's critical role in workplaces, particularly within industries like construction, where exposure to hazardous substances is prevalent. As a result, more detailed considerations regarding chemical safety were incorporated into this year's OHS assessment, highlighting the ongoing commitment to ensuring the well-being of workers and maintaining a safe working environment. Let's examine each aspect of chemical safety as evaluated in the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) assessment this year:

1. Safety Data sheet for chemicals:

- Not implemented: A lack of safety data sheets (SDS) poses a significant risk as workers may not have access to crucial information regarding safe handling and disposal of hazardous substances.
- Partially implemented: Some sites have SDS for some chemicals, but there may be inconsistencies or gaps in coverage.
- Implemented with only minor deficiencies: Most sites have comprehensive SDS for most chemicals, but there may be occasional discrepancies or missing information.
- Fully implemented: A significant portion of sites have robust SDS systems in place, ensuring workers have access to essential safety information for all chemicals used on site.

2. Warning levels for chemicals:

- Not implemented: This signifies that there are no established warning levels for chemicals, leaving workers unaware of potential hazards associated with different substances.
- Partially implemented: This indicates that some warning levels may exist, but they might not cover all necessary chemicals or may not be clearly communicated to workers.
- Implemented with only minor deficiencies: There's progress, but some gaps or inconsistencies in the warning level system still exist.
- Fully implemented: This suggests a robust system in place, with clear and comprehensive warning levels for all chemicals used in construction activities.

3. Chemicals stored in a safe and orderly manner:

- Not implemented: A small percentage of sites lack proper storage procedures for chemicals, which can lead to spills, leaks, or improper handling.
- Partially implemented: Efforts are being made to store chemicals more safely and orderly, but there's still room for improvement.
- Implemented with only minor deficiencies: The majority of sites have satisfactory storage practices, with occasional lapses or minor issues.
- Fully implemented: A significant portion of sites have excellent storage procedures, ensuring chemicals are stored safely to minimise risks to workers and the environment.

4. Proper ventilation in a room where chemicals are used:

- Not implemented: Inadequate ventilation can lead to the accumulation of hazardous fumes or vapours, posing health risks to workers.
- Partially implemented: Some sites have improved ventilation systems, but there may still be areas where ventilation is insufficient or improperly maintained.
- Implemented with only minor deficiencies: Most sites have adequate ventilation in areas where chemicals are used, with occasional issues or areas needing improvement.
- Fully implemented: A significant portion of sites have excellent ventilation systems in place, effectively mitigating risks associated with chemical exposure.

Hence, achieving full compliance across all facets of chemical safety is imperative for safeguarding workers' well-being and adhering to OHS regulations. To rectify shortcomings and continually enhance safety standards, the following recommendations were offered to enterprises:

1. Establish Comprehensive Warning Systems:

- Develop transparent warning systems encompassing all on-site chemicals, integrating labelling, signage, and worker training.
- Ensure prominent display and easy comprehension of warning levels for all personnel.
- Regularly review and update warning systems to accommodate new chemicals or regulatory modifications.

2. Enhance Chemical Storage Practices:

- Implement stringent protocols for safe chemical storage, including proper labeling, segregation of incompatible substances, and secure containment to prevent leaks or spills.

- Provide thorough training to workers on appropriate storage procedures and the significance of maintaining an organised workspace.
- Conduct routine inspections of storage areas to identify and rectify potential hazards or deficiencies.

3. *Ensure Availability of Safety Data Sheets (SDS):*

- Maintain an up-to-date inventory of on-site chemicals and ensure accessible SDS for all workers.
- Train employees on interpreting SDS and utilizing the information for safe handling, storage, and disposal of chemicals.
- Establish a system for reviewing and updating SDS as required, especially for new chemical acquisitions or formulation changes.

4. *Improve Ventilation Systems:*

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of ventilation systems in areas where chemicals are used or stored to meet regulatory standards and industry best practices.
- Install additional ventilation equipment or make necessary modifications to enhance air quality and reduce exposure to hazardous fumes or vapours.
- Schedule regular maintenance and inspections of ventilation systems to uphold effectiveness and compliance with safety regulations.

5. *Provide Training and Education:*

- Offer regular training sessions for employees on chemical safety practices, emphasising proper handling, storage, and emergency response procedures.
- Stress the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensure access to and training in its correct usage for all workers.
- Foster a safety-aware culture and encourage proactive hazard reporting among workers, fostering collaboration in identifying and mitigating potential risks.

AWARDS, RECOGNITION & NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Recognizing and honouring companies and individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to fostering a safe and healthy workplace is essential. Not only does this contribute to addressing broader societal public and social health concerns, but it also ensures alignment with legal Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) standards.

On April 28, observed globally as World Day for Safety and Health, a special initiative is undertaken to acknowledge and celebrate those organisations and individuals who have gone above and beyond in implementing exemplary safety measures within their workplaces. Not only does this contribute to addressing broader societal public and social health concerns, but it also ensures alignment with legal Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) standards.

Certificate of Achievement

The recognition of outstanding performance in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) practices is an essential aspect of promoting a culture of safety within organisations. To acknowledge exemplary efforts and achievements in this regard, the top three companies in four distinct categories are awarded the Certificate of Achievement. This recognition serves to highlight the commitment and dedication of these companies towards maintaining a safe and healthy workplace environment. Table 4 presents a comprehensive list of enterprises categorised based on their achievements in these different categories.

Table 4: List of enterprise receiving Certificate of Achievement

National Level Category

Rank	Name of the Enterprise	Dzongkhag	Exact worksite location	Score
1	Zimdra Foods Private Limited	Chhukha	Pasakha	97.76%
2	Saint-Gobain Ceramic Materials Bhutan Pvt. Ltd.	Chhukha	Pasakha	88.75%
3	State Mining Corporation Limited	Samtse	Samtse	85.96%

Regional Level Category

Rank	Name of the Enterprise	Dzongkhag	Exact worksite location	Score
1	Zimdra Foods Private Limited	Chhukha	Pasakha	97.76%
2	Bhutan Centennial Distillery - AWPL	Sarpang	Bhur, Samtenling	94.72%
3	Basochhu HydroPower Plant	Wangdue Phodrang	Basochhu	90.80%