

QUÉBEC CITY PROTOCOL

for the integration of occupational health
and safety (OHS) competencies
into vocational and technical education



International Section on Education and Training for Prevention of the ISSA
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Québec City Protocol

for the integration of occupational health and safety (OHS)
competencies into vocational and technical education

Whereas:

- the right to physical and psychological integrity¹ should also be exercised with regard to work, from the beginning of any vocational or technical education program
- the recognition of occupational health and safety as a fundamental value gives greater emphasis to the social dimension of what is commonly known as globalization
- the human and economic consequences of industrial accidents and occupational diseases are especially significant for young workers
- the capacity to deal with work-related hazards depends largely on training received in accident prevention
- the need for providing vocational and technical education programs that are better adapted to the realities of the workplace is commonly recognized

the International Social Security Association's (ISSA) International Section on Education and Training for Prevention, hereafter referred to as "the Section," submits this protocol for ratification by the national or regional organizations and government departments responsible for the prevention of occupational hazards and for vocational and technical education.

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1. As recognized by international organizations like the United Nations (UN), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Office (ILO) and the International Social Security Association (ISSA).

■ Preamble

- This protocol provides a framework for cooperation between institutions responsible for the prevention of industrial accidents and occupational diseases and those responsible for education.
- It defines the principles and measures associated with a concrete process that is designed to integrate occupational health and safety (OHS) into vocational and technical education and that involves joint undertakings.
- The purpose of this international protocol is not to establish rules for the prevention in the workplace of hazards leading to industrial accidents and occupational diseases, since current legislation in each country already deals with this matter.

I. Principles

Institutions responsible for the prevention of industrial accidents and occupational diseases and those responsible for education are asked to abide by the following principles when drafting national or regional agreements designed to integrate OHS into vocational and technical education:

- I.1.** The OHS competencies associated with each step in the performance of a task must be integrated into the educational process for a given occupation.
- I.2.** Mastery of the required knowledge and recommended practices relating to OHS should be a focus of evaluation integrated into the educational process.
- I.3.** The education community should adopt exemplary OHS practices as well as policies and rules to ensure their implementation.
- I.4.** Material, equipment and facilities must satisfy the recognized occupational health and safety standards and rules.

■ II. Measures

II.1. Partnerships between the education community and those responsible for prevention involve pooling human, technical and financial resources and are developed with the following goals in mind:

II.1.1 the establishment of OHS competencies (knowledge, skills) making it possible to:

- adopt safe work methods and techniques
- detect potential hazards, evaluate risks and implement prevention methods to eliminate these dangers or to control those that cannot be eliminated
- adopt appropriate behaviour given the risks involved in work situations
- participate in implementing different prevention strategies
- enable employers and workers to exercise their rights and responsibilities

II.1.2 the development of instructional materials

II.1.3 teacher training with regard to OHS requirements

II.1.4 the sharing of expertise between the education community and those responsible for prevention

■ II. Measures (cont.)

II.2. Close collaboration between the education community and those responsible for prevention also requires the participation of the companies who provide the workplaces, as well as the involvement of the various types of trade organizations.

Therefore:

- II.2.1** Educational institutions should involve organizations responsible for prevention as well as companies in the task of designing vocational and technical education programs.
- II.2.2** Where appropriate, OHS organizations can provide support for educational institutions seeking to control or eliminate hazards in their environment.
- II.2.3** By providing concrete recognition of OHS competencies, companies will be showing that they value the education young people have received as well as the safe work habits they have learned.

■ III. Adherence

Institutions responsible for the prevention of industrial accidents and occupational diseases and those responsible for education are asked to signify their adherence to the recommendations of this protocol by submitting existing or future national or regional agreements consistent with this protocol to the Section.

■ IV. Promotion and follow-up of the protocol

The mandate of the Section is to ensure the follow-up and promotion of the protocol. This means:

- overseeing the ratification of this protocol
- promoting and supporting the development of national or regional partnerships between the institutions involved
- ensuring that the agreements submitted conform to the principles stated herein
- assisting government organizations in the different countries by providing its expertise in integrating prevention into vocational and technical education
- reviewing the situation regarding adherence to this protocol three years after its adoption

The Secretary General of the Section, which is the depository of this protocol and of the national and regional agreements that stem from it, is responsible for establishing a database containing these agreements and making them available for consultation to any interested authorities.

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Members of the following organizations and institutions have taken part in the development of this document:

Brazil

Fundacentro

Canada (Québec)

Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Québec (CSST)
Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec

France

Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité (INRS)
Ministère de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation nationale et de la Recherche

Germany

Bundesverband der Unfallkassen (BUK)
Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin (BAuA)

Portugal

Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Inspecção das Condições de Trabalho (IDICT)
Ministerio da Educação

Spain

Instituto Nacional de las Cualificaciones (INCUAL)
Instituto Nacional de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo (INSHT)

Switzerland

Office Fédéral de la Formation professionnelle et de la Technologie (OFPT)
Schweizerische Unfallversicherungsanstalt (SUVA)

United Kingdom

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

United States

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

