

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND  
HEALTH**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**JANUARY 2004 - DECEMBER, 2004.**

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON O.S.H. ANNUAL REPORT 2004.**  
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The National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH) is a body that has the responsibility to:-

1. Advise the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security on matters relating to Occupational Safety and Health which may be brought to its attention or referred to it.
2. Make recommendations to the Minister in relation to programmes including the enforcement and implementation of the National Policy on Occupational Safety and Health.
3. Promote Public Awareness of Occupational Safety and Health.

**MEMBERSHIP.**

Members appointed during the year under review were:-

1. Mr. Andrew Garnett - (Chairman).  
Guyana Trades Union Congress.
2. Mr. Winston Beresford - (Member)  
Consultative Association of Guyanaese Industry Ltd.
3. Ms. Gweneth King (Member)  
Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.
4. Mr. Jules Chabrol - (Member).  
Public Interest Representative.
5. Ms. Joan Yussuff - (Member).  
Environmental protection Agency.
6. Dr. Leslie Munroe - (Member).  
Ministry of Agriculture.
7. Ms. Sita Kartick-Lewis - (Member).  
Institute of Distance and Continuing Education (U.G.).

8. Ms. Shirley Thegg - (Member)  
National Insurance Scheme.
9. Ms. Shune' Vickerie - (Member)  
Guyana National Bureau of Standards.
10. Ms. Patricia Woolford - (Member)  
Guyana Environmental Health Officers Association.
11. Mr. Gregory Wickham - (Member)  
Ministry of Home-Affairs (Guy. Fire Service).
12. Mr. Vernon Alder - (Member)  
Institute of professional Occupational Hygienists.
13. Dr. Shamdeo Persaud - (Member)  
Ministry of Health.

Ms. Corlene Cadogan, Senior Occupational Safety and Health Officer served as Secretary while Ms. Shaundell Prince, Typist/Clerk of the OSH Division assisted with typewritten work.

For the entire year there was no representation at meetings from the Ministry of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. The National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health learnt that Ms. Joan Yussuff, representative from the Environmental Protection Agency had resigned. Dr. Shamdeo Persaud, representative of the Ministry of Health, was also absent throughout the year although a letter was sent as a reminder to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and copied to him. Ms. Gweneth King, Chief Occupational Safety and Health Officer retired in March and was replaced by Ms. Murna Joseph, Chief Occupational Safety and Health Officer (ag).

## **INTRODUCTION**

The year 2004 can be described as a hectic one for the National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health. Activities conducted included Meetings, Lectures, Workplace Inspections, Seminars, Media Briefing, an Award Ceremony and a Farewell function.

## **MEETINGS**

Fourteen (14) meetings were held for the year. Eleven (11) of these were Statutory. Meetings were held regularly during the first quarter to facilitate preparations for the observance of Occupational Safety and Health Day and Month of activities in April, 2004 under the Theme: "Sustaining a Safety and Health Culture at Work".

**Lectures:**

Several lectures were delivered at Institutions of Higher Education such as the twelve-week Workplace Health and Safety Practice Certificate Course at the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE) and the twelve-week Environmental Management Course at the Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry (CAGI).

**OSH DAY/MONTH ACTIVITIES.****Workplace Inspections:**

Workplace Inspections were conducted at organizations that applied for awards to ensure that the requirements for such Awards were met.

**Seminars:**

Seminars were held at the Caricom Rice Mills, Anna Regina, Essequibo and at the Watooka Club, Linden.

**Media Briefing:**

A Media Briefing was held at the Boardroom of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, Woolford Avenue. Mr. Andrew Garnett, Chairman, advised the media on the planned activities for the Month of April.

**Award Ceremony:**

An Annual Award Ceremony was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Hotel Tower, Main Street, Georgetown. The Award Scheme was intended to recognize and reward companies/workplaces that satisfied established bench-marks in keeping with their corporate responsibility for Safety and Health at Work, during the year 2003. Individual Awards were also given to persons who made significant contributions to the development of Occupational Safety and Health in Guyana.

**Workplaces Awarded were:**

- (i) Guyana Oil Company.
- (ii) Demerara Power Company.
- (iii) Courts (Guyana) Inc.
- (iv) Banks DIH Ltd.
- (v) Guyana Sugar Corporation Ltd.

**Individuals Awarded were:-**

- (i) Mr. Winston Beckles.
- (ii) Ms. Greta Walcott. - (deceased).
- (iii) Ms. Gweneth King. – Former Chief OSH Officer.

**Farewell:**

The National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health held a farewell meeting at the Guyana Local Government Officers Union, Woolford Avenue for Ms. Gweneth King, Chief Occupational Safety and Health Officer and member, who retired from the Public Service during 2004.

The National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health continued its mandate throughout the year by lending support to the Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security. Sub-Committees met on several occasions to deal with various pieces of Draft Regulations done by ILO Consultants.

Comments were made on the following Regulations and submitted to the Chief Occupational Safety and Health Officer (ag) and the Chief Labour Officer.

1. Joint Workplace Safety and Health Committees.
2. Forestry
3. Manufacturing
4. The Safe Use of Chemicals
5. Noise
6. Mining
7. Steamboilers
8. HIV/AIDS

NACOSH advised that the Safe Use of Chemicals, Steamboilers and HIV/AIDS Workplace Regulations be revised for varying reasons.