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Office for Radiation Protection of Workers,
Industrial Health Division,
Occupational Safety and Health Department
Labour Standards Bureau

Press Release

Consultation to and Recommendation from the Labor Policy Council concerning the outline of the draft ministerial ordinance for revision of the “Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health” and the “Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards”

- Safety measures for food processing machines and dismantling machines to be improved to enhance radiation hazard prevention measures for workers engaged in accident-derived waste disposal -

Yesterday, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare consulted the Labor Policy Council (Chaired by Professor Yasuo Suwa, Hosei Graduate School of Regional Policy Design) concerning "Outline of the draft ministerial ordinance for revision of the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health" and "Outline of the draft ministerial ordinance for revision of the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards," as stated in Annexes 1-1 and 1-2, respectively.

As a result of discussion in the Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (Chaired by Kouji Aizawa, Executive Director of Kitazato Institute) under the Council, the Council recommended that the partial revisions are appropriate to the Minister as stated in the Annexes 2-1 and 2-2, respectively.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will undertake the revisions of the ordinances in accordance with the recommendation.

The summary of the draft ordinances is as follows (See Annex 3 for details):

[Key points of the draft ordinances]

1. Partial revisions to the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health

In light of the recent industrial accidents associated with these machines, the revision of the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health was proposed to improve safety measures for food processing machines and vehicle-type construction machine for dismantling. Major revisions are as follows:

(1) Mandatory installation of covers over hazardous parts of food processing machines

Roughly 2,000 industrial accidents occur every year during the use of food processing machines, many of which result in causing physical disabilities in people affected by these accidents. Therefore, the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health was amended to include mandatory installation of covers over hazardous parts of food processing machines, mandatory use of tools

during feeding, unloading, and halt operations of machines mostly at the time of adjustment (e.g., when fixing clogging in machines). The last measure is applied to all machineries in general.

- (2) Addition of steel frame cutters and other tools to a vehicle-type construction machine for dismantling

Roughly 100 industrial accidents occur every year during the use of construction machines when dismantling structures such as steel frame cutters, concrete crushers, and dismantling grippers, hereinafter referred to as "steel frame cutters and other tools," some of which have resulted even in fatal accidents. Therefore, the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health was amended to include the following measures: just as breakers that are currently regulated as dismantling equipment, transfer/provision of vehicle-type construction machines that are not conformed to structural standards are prohibited to transfer and to serve, regular voluntary inspections of machines are required, installation of an operating room for the steel frame cutters and other tools is recommended for machines with certain functions and features, and use of equipment with long parts in places where fall is expected is prohibited.

2. Partial revisions to the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards

The proposed partial revisions to the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards requires employers disposing of soils and contaminated waste that were removed during decontamination, hereinafter referred to as accident-derived waste, to take following actions listed from (1) to (5):

Note that the current rules remain valid regarding designation of controlled areas, monitoring and recording of exposure dose, exposure limits, and dose limits at facilities.

- (1) Requirements for facilities used for disposal of accident-derived waste

Facilities should be structured to prevent potential leakage of exhaust air or liquid waste and be equipped with double door at entrances and exits.

- (2) Measures for minimizing contamination

All personnel involved in the cleanup of the disaster affected areas should protect themselves with masks and appropriate protective garment. They should always be inspected for contamination after work and use containers.

- (3) Work management

Work management involves preparation of manuals for methods and procedures for various operations in addition to establishing guidelines for adjusting safety devices and how to report to supervisory offices regarding maintenance and inspection activities.

- (4) Special education

Lectures and practical training shall be provided to workers who will be responsible for disposal of waste. The lecture should include topics on how to control radiation dose, how to operate machines, and general procedures of work. The practical training should provide hands-on training in work procedures and operations of machines.

(5) Exemptions concerning installation of disposal facilities in special decontamination areas, etc.

Considering that the soil had already been contaminated before installing the disposal facilities, certain exemptions will be made regarding inspections for contamination and use of containers.

- Annexes

- [Annex 1-1 Consultation on the "Outline of the draft ministerial ordinance for revision of the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health" \(PDF\)](#)
- [Annex 1-2 Consultation on the "Outline of the draft ministerial ordinance for revision of the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards" \(PDF\)](#)
- [Annex 2-1 Recommendation on the "Outline of the draft ministerial ordinance for revision of the Ordinance on Industrial Safety and Health" \(PDF\)](#)
- [Annex 2-2 Recommendation on the "Outline the draft ministerial ordinance for revision of the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards" \(PDF\)](#)
- [Annex 3 "Details of the draft ordinances" \(PDF\)](#)