

Finnish parallel session on accidents

Nordic Labour Inspection Conference 2024



Finnish OSH Divisions 2023

by the numbers

- 92 200 Occupational accidents
- 25,9 accidents per million workhours
- Top 5 industries investigated
 1. F Construction (303)
 2. C Manufacturing (277)
 3. H Transportation (110)
 4. Q Health & Social work (84)
 5. N Support service (76)
- 84 inspectors (24 had more than 20 investigations)
- Violence in social & health work an emerging risk
 - 12% of all accidents in care facilities



The year of the OSH administration in a nutshell



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**Investigation
method
for workplace
accidents**



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What? Why? How To Prevent!

- Legislation guided – Requirements to investigate
 - Serious accidents (resulting in death or serious injury)
 - Urgently
 - What happened
 - Causes of accident
 - Prevention possibilities
 - Guidance for any observed deficiencies
- Selection for investigation
 - Seriousness of the accident
 - Severity of injury or Violation of safety
 - Circumstances in control of employer
 - Common good –evaluation
- Measures that aim to ensure quality of investigations
 - Investigators chosen with relevant OSH background
 - Inspector training courses for accident investigation (Base & Advanced)
 - Peer learning methods

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**Conducting an
effective
accident
investigation**



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Accident investigation

1. Gathering relevant background information
2. Identifying relevant personnel for questioning
3. Assessing the physical circumstances and actions that led to the accident
4. Recording facts and assessing differing views on events
5. Identifying direct and indirect root causes
6. Give conclusions on what were the main factors that caused the accident and how to prevent similar accident in the future

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**Failures?
Problems?
Challenges!**



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- Are we investigating the right accidents?
 - Lack of complete picture on accidents
 - Reliance on employer/police notifying
 - No access to “real time” data
 - Injury seriousness not always relevant factor
- Competent inspectors & inspections
 - Retiring inspectors hard to replace
 - Suitably skilled recruits in demand by private sector
 - Training emphasized in the beginning but later tends to get forgotten
 - Through investigations challenged by lack of resources
 - Processes vary between inspectors and regions
- Effecting a change in workplaces
 - One workplace at a time though shared risks
 - Larger cultural steps have largely been taken in many workplaces – identifying the ones that need guidance
 - Conclusions of accident investigations under utilized in public communications

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**Guidance
&
Public
Communication**

Investigation results?



Using the results of investigations to effect change

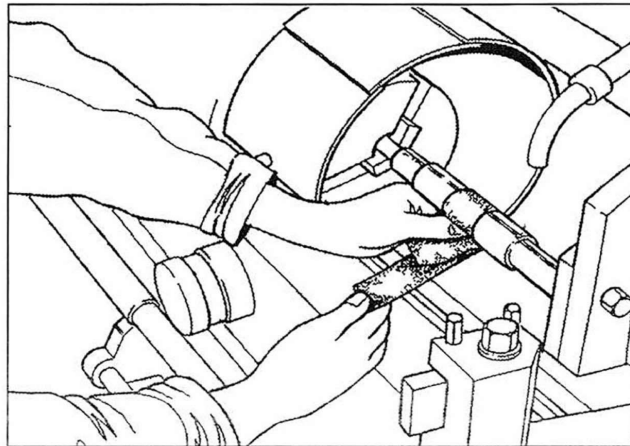
- Involved workplace
 1. General guidance on assessing accident risks
 2. Specific guidance to rectify any deficiencies
 3. Possible criminal repercussions
- Other workplaces with similar risks
 1. Focused inspection campaigns on industry relevant accident risks
 2. Targeted communication campaigns on specific risks identified through investigations (social media, direct messages, webinars, press releases)
 3. Any criminal verdicts relating to accidents communicated through press releases and often picked up by media

Sorvissa kätensä menettäneen pojan korvausvaatimus liikaa Orimattilalle

Orimattilalle
Orimattilan kaupunki pitää sorviturmassa käteensä men-
pojan noin 115000 euron korvausvaatimusta vamma-
aiheuttamista kärsimyksistä liian suurena.

UUTISET

Työntekijä kuoli sorvin puristuksessa – yritykselle tuntuvat sakot



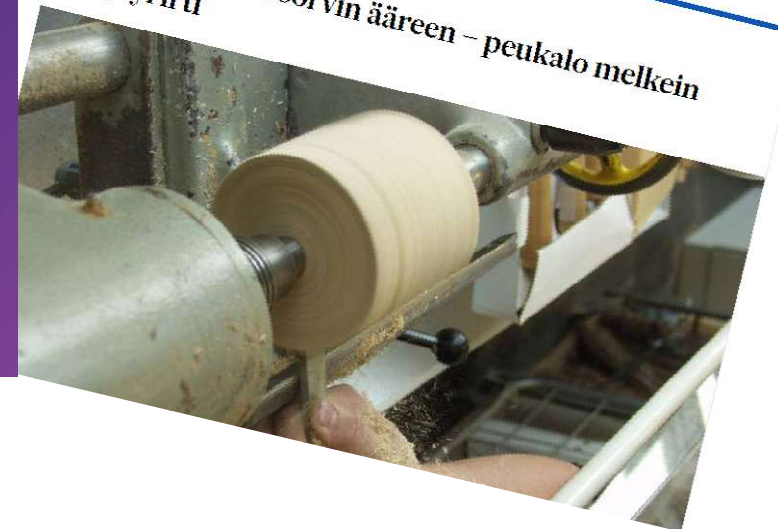
Älä toimi näin
kärkisorvin kanssa

Sorvin vaarallinen käyttö toi pohjalaiselle elintarvikeyrityksen johtajille sakot

ajajille sako
ajajaoikeuden käsiteltävänä
uojelutarkastaja tutki
oaturmaa.

es loukkasi kätensä työtehtävissä -
kurma Rauman telakalla toi
liälle

Työntekijä palasi sorvin ää
repeytyi irti

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