

Why safety always is a good investment

Studies show that every penny a company invests in health and safety in the workplace generates a return of 2,2 times more. See how you can raise the safety standard and thus improve growth and make your business more competitive and sustainable.

The companies' approach to safety has evolved over the years, which has led to a significant reduction in the number of workplace accidents worldwide. Over the past 15 years, the provisions on safety restrictions have become increasingly stringent. Requirements have increased and regulations have become stricter, especially for the reliability of control systems, protection against manipulation of protective measures and the prevention of noise, vibrations and emissions of dangerous substances. Another area where the rules have become stricter is the machinery and the safety of the robots.

But the stricter rules are not a consequence of more work-related accidents, but have rather arisen as a result of higher demands from the workers. In many parts of the world, people no longer accept working with high-risk machines and they see a safe working environment as a human right.

There are various aspects of work safety. On one hand, there is the human aspect and on the other the aspect concerning product and machine safety. The human aspect has a potential to become a catalyst for success for the company, through greater mental and physical well-being and higher productivity of the employees.

For Axelent, safety is an important part of the company, for the working environment and personnel as well as machine safety. Axelent Engineering already include machine protection at the drawing stage. Later on risk analyzes are

carried out to ensure that the machines comply with the applicable machine directives.

All production equipment must undergo a safety check at least once a year. More hazardous equipment needs to be inspected several times a year. This is something that has been neglected by many companies, which is a major health hazard for the staff. Many countries are working hard to overcome this manipulation of safeguard measures. In terms of accountability, the consequences are far more drastic today than they were until the late 1980s, as product liability laws have become stricter across Europe.

If safety deficiencies were detected during an inspection, companies that have a strict occupational safety department that maintains current regulations can stop operations themselves until the machine has been repaired or the safety deficiencies have been rectified.

However, there are still few companies that are so well organized. However, if the error, such as a machine defect, is detected by a government inspection, the consequences can be much more noticeable. The first thing that happens then is that the machine is switched off and the main switch is locked. The company may receive fines and increased insurance amount, and the deficiencies must be remedied before being allowed to start again. Often, such companies are monitored more strictly and regularly after the accident.

THE STEPS TO A SAFER WORKPLACE

1. Tools and Machines

The first step is always to provide tools and machines that are tested and safe to work with.

2. Training

Knowledge is the key to good security. Therefore, make sure you educate your staff in risk assessments and safety solutions to create the safest and healthiest workplace possible. Here, Axelent's Safety Book is a good tool.

3. Environment

Make sure your employees' work environment is safe. This include good lighting and ventilation, proper work clothes and protective equipment such as helmets, glasses and gloves.

4. Control

All equipment should be inspected and undergo regular safety checks every year. Any errors and defects must be corrected immediately.



WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS IN THE EU (2017)

- More than 3.3 million serious workplace accidents.
- 3,552 fatal accidents, i.e. approximately 2.12 fatalities per 100,000 employees.
- Most accidents happened in France.
- Most fatalities occurred in Romania, approximately 5.72 fatalities per 100,000 employees.
- Malta, the Netherlands and Cyprus had less than 1 fatal accident per 100,000 employees.
- Men end up in more accidents than women – 67 percent versus 33 percent.