

# CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE USA

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**Abstract.** An analysis of the activities of the main government departments of the USA on occupational health and safety issues was carried out. The functions that rely on government departments in this area are given. Recommendations for adapting the USA health and safety system to domestic realities are offered.

**Keywords:** safety, labour, labour protection, occupational health and safety management.

**Анотація.** Проведено аналіз діяльності основних державних органів США з питань охорони здоров'я і безпеки праці. Наведено функції, що покладаються на державні органи з питань безпеки у даній сфері. Запропоновано рекомендації щодо адаптації американської системи охорони здоров'я і безпеки до вітчизняних реалій.

**Ключові слова:** безпека, праця, охорона праці, система управління охороною праці.

**Introduction.** State development strategies in the EU and the USA have always focused on people and their needs, so the problems of occupational health and safety are given great importance here. For example, in the UK, legislation requires an employer to establish an effective health and safety management system that has appropriate, clearly defined measures for management and control.

**Analysis of the state of the issue.** Examples of such occupational safety management systems are the British standard BS OHSAS 18001: 2007 «Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements» and the International Labor Office ILO-OSH 2001 «Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems» [1, 2]. The main principle in their work is constant improvement based on the «Plan-Do-Check-Act» model.

**The purpose of the work:** analyze the US health and safety legislation.

**Methods, materials and research results.** The United States of America, as one of the world's economic leaders, constantly implements innovative technologies, which contributes to raising the standard of living of the population and reducing inflation and unemployment. Therefore, starting from elementary school, special attention is paid to the formation of competence in human life safety. From an early age, children are taught to identify risks, to be aware of potentially dangerous situations and to find optimal solutions. This allows children to learn to better master their emotions that arise in the conditions of the manifestation of risks and dangers. And although the study of safe behaviour issues is given a lot of attention in the learning process starting from school, ensuring occupational health and safety in the process of

production activity remains on the employer's conscience and competence.

Variants of methods and tools for training employees on occupational safety issues have been proposed by the US Department of Labor [3]. The content and scope of training will depend on the nature of the work. Training is carried out in several main areas, including:

- identification and assessment of dangerous and harmful factors at workplaces and an algorithm of actions to prevent possible negative consequences of their influence;
- acquisition of competences in the implementation of safe activities in the performance of professional duties.

When performing work with increased danger, employees additionally undergo special preliminary training that takes into account the specifics of working conditions.

Practical activity in the field of occupational safety and health in the United States is the responsibility of a special division – (Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)), which is part of the structure of the Department of Labor.

According to American legislation, both at the local and federal levels, the main occupational health and safety measures, first of all, require business owners to give preference only to those technologies and equipment that provide a high level of protection and minimal risks to the life, health and work capacity of employees [4]. The employer is obliged to provide working personnel with all the necessary means of personal protection provided by the regulations and current instructions. Therefore, the guarantee of safety of life, health, safety and comfort of work are the priority tasks of enterprise owners.

In turn, the labour protection authority, together with the labour departments of the states, develops a set of rules and requirements, according to which:

- the use of substances and materials that can harm the health of employees is strictly limited;
- clear requirements for production ventilation systems are introduced;
- control over water supply of enterprises is carried out;
- monitoring of production waste storage methods;
- compliance with all waste disposal requirements is strictly controlled;
- it is required to equip enterprises with shower cabins and rest rooms.

It is the duty of enterprise owners to timely inform working personnel about all harmful and dangerous factors that may occur during technological processes. In addition, employers must ensure high-quality training of employees of enterprises in methods of safe work and pre-medical care [5].

In the USA, there is also a 24-hour «hotline» where complaints about violations in the field of labour protection are received. Employees of enterprises, organizations, institutions can do this anonymously. Regardless of how the complaint was submitted (by phone, Internet, written request, etc.), it is a reason for immediate verification by the controlling state authorities, if it contains information about the existence of a place and the fact of a threat to people's health and life. An important indicator of the effectiveness and efficiency of the «hotline» is the annual reduction in the number of

accidents at work and a reduction of almost 50% of lost working time due to accidents over the past five years.

**Conclusion.** Therefore, the international experience of applying preventive measures, adapted to the conditions of Ukraine, can be useful in the implementation of tasks related to increasing the level of worker safety and improving the state of labour protection in our country. In world practice in the field of occupational health and safety, the policy of a risk-oriented method, which is based on the principle of preventing accidents and occupational diseases, has been successfully applied for a long time. Thus, the experience and practice of using modern methods used by leading countries in the world to optimize labour protection management are relevant for Ukraine today.

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