

## Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

### Brief description and main aims:

Despite the overall reduction in the number of work-related accidents and illnesses, statistics clearly indicate that construction is still among the sectors needing further improvement. Good occupational safety and health is a top priority for the European Commission.

OSH covers many topics and FIEC follows in particular:

- Asbestos
- The revisions of the carcinogen, mutagen and reprotoxic substances directive (CMRD) (respirable crystalline silica, lead, PAHs, ...)
- Workplace directive and display screen equipment directive

In addition, FIEC deals with the new risks identified by the European:

- Psychosocial risks and mental health
- The impact of climate change on OSH (heat, ...)
- The use of digital tools

FIEC also contributes to the activities of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and participates in its prevention campaigns aimed at promoting healthy workplaces. The campaign 2026-2028 will focus on mental health and psychosocial risks at work in 'new and overlooked occupational groups, sectors and areas'.

### Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

Improving OSH in construction is a priority for the industry. The *Framework Directive* 89/391/EEC sets out the employers' obligation to ensure the safety and health of workers at the workplace. Employers have the obligation to carry out a comprehensive risk assessment, for all types of risks. A safe work environment contributes also in improving the image of the sector and in retaining and attracting workers.

However, the measures proposed by the European Commission should remain realistic for construction companies to comply with. Any new legislation at EU level should have a thorough impact assessment which takes into account the costs and benefits of new measures. This is key to provide inputs to the European stakeholders from the construction companies perspectives.

Finally, social partners at national level are already addressing several aspects of OSH in taking national specificities into account.

### Actions and key dates:

**June 2021** → Publication of the *EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 – Occupational safety and health in a changing world of work*.

**05/10/2021** → FIEC-European Federation of Builders and Wood Workers (EFBWW) [joint declaration](#) on the *EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027*.

**28/09/2022** → European Commission publishes a proposal to revise the *Asbestos at Work Directive*.

**08/12/2022** → FIEC [Position Paper](#) on the revision of the *Asbestos at Work Directive*.

**07/02/2023** → FIEC [contribution](#) to the call for evidence on the screening and registering of asbestos in building.

**27/06/2023** → Member States and European Parliament agreed on the revision of the *Asbestos at Work Directive*.

**06/07/2023** → European Commission's communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health.

**19/03/2024** → Publication at the official journal of the EU of the 5<sup>th</sup> revision of the *Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic Substances* (lead and diisocyanates).

**7/04/2025** → FIEC [Position Paper](#) on “*How to approach mental health in the construction industry*”.

**2024-2025** → FIEC participates in the preparation of an *Asbestos Guide* by the European Commission.

**17/07/2025** → European Commission publishes the 6<sup>th</sup> revision of the *Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic substances Directive* (CMRD6) (PAHs and welding fumes).

**09/2025** → European Commission starts an impact assessment on the 7<sup>th</sup> revision of the CMRD (respirable crystalline silica).