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Best practice: Risk Assessment

GUROM:

Risk Assessment for the transportation sector



Photo: gurom.de

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Comité Internacional de la AISS para la Aplicación en la Transportación
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GUROM: RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

For many employees, being on the road is part of their job, e.g. field staff, technicians, employees in ambulant care etc. For others, driving is the major task of their job e.g. professional drivers. Because road traffic accidents are often more serious or are even fatal compared with other work accidents, risk assessment is essential for the mobility sector. Unfortunately, so far there has been no instrument to systematically analyse and evaluate hazards of traffic safety.

GUROM-Module

The German Road Safety Council (DVR) commissioned the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena to develop the instrument GUROM - A risk assessment and risk evaluation tool for organizational mobility. Over time, different modules have been developed for the various forms of traffic participation including commuting to and from work. For each form, specific risks are identified and feedback is provided on why the various threats are critical and how they can be minimized.

Currently available are the following modules

- Commutes
- Service / maintenance paths (various forms, e.g. professional drivers, field staff, ...)
- Mental distress, strain, stress
- Courier, express and parcel / postal services

Integrated personal approach

The survey to identify risks is conducted by the employees themselves rather than safety experts (e.g. occupational health and safety practitioners), because they usually have the best judgement of the typical traffic situations and their individual well-being (e.g. fatigue). GUROM pursues an integrated approach, which takes into account technical (vehicle-related) factors, organizational work features (e.g. working time) as well as the personal situation (e.g. private commitments). Likewise, situational components such as distractions while driving or specific traffic situations are incorporated. Because stress in addition to fatigue and distraction is one of the main causes of accidents, also mental stress and strain are included.

Risk analysis by an adaptive online questionnaire

The questionnaire for risk analysis is an adaptive online tool. Depending on the responses selected, one is guided through the questions. For example, you travel by bike, questions and answers will be provided only for that particular means of transport. Thus, the number of questions depends on the individual circumstances.

Screening and detailed analyzes

The questionnaire for risk analysis is divided into three parts: First, screening questions track general risk factors and provide an overview. The interim result contains a short feedback and allows for the selection of individual (critical) risk factors for a more detailed analysis. The more specific the details, the more detailed the compiled risk profile will be.

Risk profiles: For individuals and companies

A few days after submitting the questionnaire, each person receives an individual risk profile that contains all results and tips on how to minimise the hazards. Anonymity is ensured because each participant is identified by a code only; entering an email address is not necessary.

Companies receive a company profile with the anonymous results of the employees summarized and a list with specific measures. These derive from a database with about 650 prevention measures suggested by the DVR, the statutory accident insurance and other public and private providers. Additionally, the results are put in relation to other GUROM participants. Depending on the number of participants, individual departments can also be compared.

GUROM is free of charge. You can use GUROM and get more information at: www.gurom.de.