

Risks in Modern Society

The International Section on Machine and System Safety was founded in 1975 to deal with questions on occupational risks in this field at the international level. It is a member of the Special Commission on Prevention of the International Social Security Association (ISSA). The Special Commission is a body within ISSA that focuses on work-related risks. It has 11 international Sections as members. ISSA was founded in 1927 with its headquarters in Geneva. It is working worldwide in over 150 countries with nearly 370 member institutions from all fields of social security. The Section on Machine and System Safety, when it was founded, had its focus on machine safety, particularly on the manufacturing of safe machinery, on assisting developing countries to be able to buy safe used machinery, and on delivering clear operating instructions. Our members and partners are: • institutions for safety and health at work; • insurance companies dealing with work-related risks; • research institutions; and • various enterprises, e.g. manufacturers, importers and users of machines and systems/installations. We thus bring together the experiences of our members and partners. The role of the operators soon grew in importance, and their capability for handling machinery became an important factor for the safety and success of enterprises. The growing importance and complexity of handling different man-machine-environment situations created new challenges and led to - largely the Section's tasks to machine and system safety.

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