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Item 16. Project Proposal Revision Occupational Health and Safety Contents

Project Proposal

Meeting	3-5 November 2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Project	Revision Occupational Health and Safety Contents
Description	The GSSB instructed the Standards Division to start the project to review the Occupational Health and Safety contents in the G4 Guidelines with the aim of including revised content in the Standards. This paper presents the project proposal.

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards Division. It is provided as a convenience to observers at meetings of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), to assist them in following the Board's discussion. It does not represent an official position of the GSSB. Board positions are set out in the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards. The GSSB is the independent standard-setting body of GRI. For more information visit www.globalreporting.org.

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1 Project background

2 Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) of the recently announced UN Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizes the importance of promoting safe
3 and secure working environments for all workers. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an estimated 2.3 million workers die every year
4 due to occupational accidents and diseases; and 317 million accidents occur on the job annually.¹ This means that every 15 seconds a worker dies from a
5 work-related accident or disease, and 153 workers have a work-related accident.²

6 About 85% of all work-related deaths are attributed to work-related diseases. In turn, 90% of all work-related diseases are non-communicable diseases, such
7 as cancers and circulatory diseases.³ Addressing these diseases remains a challenge. In addition, over the last few years the world has witnessed a number of
8 severe industrial disasters, many resulting from poor working conditions regarding occupational health and safety. Deaths and injuries take a particularly heavy
9 toll in developing countries, where a large part of the population is engaged in hazardous activities.⁴ Vulnerable workers such as women, children, migrants,
10 and those working in small and medium-sized enterprises and in global supply chains are often among those most affected.⁵

11 In addition, there is growing interest in how organizations deal with trends such as an ageing workforce and unhealthy lifestyles of workers, which many
12 regard as posing a threat to development and economic growth.

13 The importance of the topic of occupational health and safety (OHS) is further mirrored by recent developments regarding management standards. For
14 instance, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is working on a new international standard (ISO 45001) on occupational health and safety
15 management system requirements, to be published in October 2016. This new ISO standard is envisaged to replace the widely recognized management
16 standard OHSAS 1800.

17 It is the ambition of the GSSB to keep the GRI standards up to date to support greater transparency on the impacts on OHS of organizations' management
18 and performance. In prior public consultation, OHS was identified as a high priority topic.

¹⁺² See <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/lang--en/index.htm>. Accessed 14 October 2015.

³ [Safety and health at work: a vision for sustainable prevention: XX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2014: Global Forum for Prevention, ILO, 2014.](#)

⁴ See http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS_211627/lang--en/index.htm. Accessed 14 October 2015.

⁵ See <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/download/glance.pdf>. Accessed 14 October 2015.

19 Project objective

20 Based on research carried out by the Standards Division and feedback received from the GRI network, credible and widely accepted work has been undertaken
21 by international organizations in the field of OHS since the last revision of the GRI disclosure requirements on OHS. The ILO and the ISO 45001 Working
22 Group are key references for the development of recommendations for revisions.

23 The main objective is to update the GRI OHS contents to align with this internationally agreed best practice. The GRI contents to be revised encompass the
24 G4 contents under the Aspect Occupational Health and Safety. Revisions to other contents which are identified as having a strong relevance for OHS can
25 be proposed ad-hoc, if relevant. The scope of work includes recommendations regarding specific edits to existing contents under the G4 Occupational Health
26 and Safety Aspect, potentially deleting existing outdated, obsolete contents, and proposals for new disclosure requirements and other contents, if appropriate.

27 The Project Working Group (PWG) will consider the key references mentioned and further examine to what extent topics that are currently not covered
28 by GRI OHS contents, such as 'total well-being' of workers, should be considered for potential inclusion in the standards.

29 Project planning

30 The project follows the Due Process Protocol. The project is overseen by the Due Process Oversight Committee (DPOC) which has the mandate to assess
31 whether due process has been followed effectively by the GSSB in its standard-setting activities.

32 Project Commencement: The proposal to start a new project has been prepared by the Standards Division based on research and on appropriate consultation
33 within the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), to be presented to the GSSB for approval, amendment or rejection. The draft project proposal is to
34 be circulated to the GRI Board and GRI Stakeholder Council to identify matters of possible relevance to the project.

35 Appointment of Project Working Group (PWG): The GSSB will appoint a multi-stakeholder PWG to develop the project. Members of a PWG are to be
36 instructed by the GSSB that they shall act in an individual capacity, exclusively in the public interest and according to due process as defined in this protocol.
37 PWG membership should reflect a balance of multi-stakeholder constituencies.

38 Development of Recommendations The PWG will meet online, as well as in person, to carry out its work and develop recommendations for revisions. The
39 Standards Division will ensure that the recorded feedback on the OHS contents received through previous public consultations and other channels will be
40 shared with the PWG at the start of its work.

41 Public Exposure: Depending on the recommendations made by the Project Working Group, a public consultation might be appropriate. An exposure draft
42 will be posted for public consultation. The exposure draft will be placed on the GSSB website where it can be accessed free of charge by the general public.

43 Consideration of Respondents' Comments on the Exposure Draft: In case a public consultation has been carried out, comments and suggestions received
44 within the exposure period will be read and considered by the PWG and by the GSSB. The PWG will revise the recommendations based on this analysis.
45 Depending on the nature of changes, the GSSB will consider if a re-exposure is needed.

46 Release of final Sustainability Reporting Standard: Subject to having received confirmation from the DPOC that in its opinion due process has been followed,
47 the GSSB is to issue the final Sustainability Reporting Standard together with a separate document explaining the basis for its conclusions, including its
48 consideration of and response to comments received on an exposure draft, to be posted to the GSSB website.
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