



Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue



## Working Conditions Policy Board

### Communiqué

**The members of the COCT standing policy group reiterate their opposition to standard ISO 45001**

**The standing policy group (GPO) of the Working Conditions Policy Board (COCT), which gathers together the French public authorities and social partners, has adopted an opinion on the standardisation of occupational health management. The GPO members draw attention to the fact that, despite two successive rejections, ISO is still insisting on laying down a standard ("ISO 45001") on occupational health and safety management. They wish to reiterate their opposition to this draft standard. Technical standardisation can of course serve as a useful tool for occupational health, but it is not appropriate for all types of human activity to be subjected to the definition of such procedures, especially when there is already a sound body of regulations and agreements in place. The social partners would like their actions and those of the public authorities to be coordinated within the COCT in terms of standardisation in the occupational health sector.**

The opinion adopted by the members of the COCT standing policy group (GPO)

In 2013 ISO began work on drafting a standard, ISO 45001, on occupational health and safety management systems. The French public authorities and social partners have voiced their opposition to this draft standard several times, and yet, although the participating members rejected it on two successive occasions, in 2014 and 2016, this standard is once again due to be presented for publication in the second half of 2017.

Given this situation, the GPO members would like to make the following viewpoints clear:

- 1- Technical standardisation can play an effective part in meeting the prevention objectives of the third occupational health plan (2016-2020), as long as the public authorities and social partners are genuinely involved in the standardisation work. Their actions in this respect will be coordinated within the COCT standing policy group.
- 2- The discussion process bearing on the ISO 45001 draft standard illustrates the need to set limits on the extent to which standards can intervene. In this regard, the French State and social partners recall that occupational health "management" brings social dialogue and regulations into play: its intrinsic social and human dimension means that it cannot be viewed in the same light as other activities for which standardisation is appropriate.

## The COCT standing policy group

The Working Conditions Policy Board (COCT) is the occupational health governing body bringing together the public authorities, social partners and national prevention bodies. It is equipped with a tripartite body – the standing policy group (GPO), which recommends national guidelines for occupational health policy by consensus.

The standing policy group's members are as follows:

- representative professional and trade union organisations at national level:
  - o trade union organisations: CGT, CFDT, CFE-CGC, CFTC, CGT-FO;
  - o professional organisations: MEDEF, CGPME, UPA, UNAPL, FNSEA;
- State departments:
  - o Ministry of Labour (General Directorate for Labour),
  - o Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Financial, Social and Logistical Affairs),
- the National Health Insurance Fund for Salaried Workers (Directorate of Occupational Risks).

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**Online: COCT section**

<http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/ministere/acteurs/instances-rattachees/article/coct-conseil-d-orientation-des-conditions-de-travail>

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