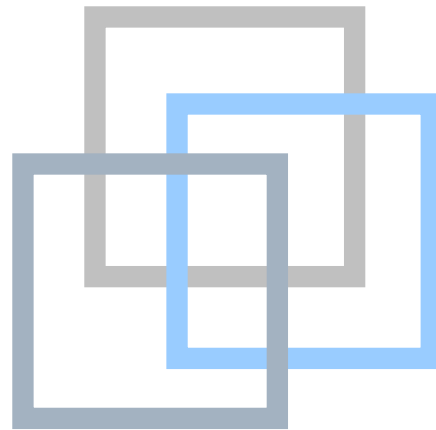




Promoting decent work in mining



Martin Georg Hahn

International Labour Office

Introduction



- International Labour Organization
 - UN specialised agency
 - Unique tripartite structure
 - Workers
 - Employers
 - Governments
 - Seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights

ILO - main areas of work



- International Labour Standards
 - International standards
- Employment
- Social protection
 - Occupational safety and health
- Social dialogue
 - Sectoral social dialogue

ILO and mining



- International Labour Conferences
 - Minimum Age (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No.5)
 - Hours of Work (Coal Mines) Convention, 1931 (No.31)

- Industrial committees
 - 1944 decision to establish seven industrial committees
 - Textiles; Coalmining; Inland transport; Iron and steel production; Metal trades; Petroleum production and refining; Building, civil engineering and public works

- Tripartite sectoral meetings
 - Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Issues in Small-scale Mines, 1999
 - Tripartite Meeting on the Evolution of Employment, Working Time and Training in the Mining Industry, 2002
 - Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in Coalmines, 2006

ILO tools and means of action



In order to improve working conditions, the ILO uses a number of different instruments or means of action

- International Labour Standards
 - Conventions
 - Recommendations
- Guidance/reference materials
- Technical assistance
- Technical cooperation

International Labour Standards



- In essence, International Labour Standards are expressions of international tripartite agreement on a matter

International Labour Standards



□ Conventions

- International treaties, subject to ratification by ILO member States
- Create binding obligations under International Law
- Might require Member States to amend their national legislation

□ Recommendations

- Set out guidelines which can orient national policy and action
- Often complement Conventions

Some relevant ILO Conventions



- Eight “fundamental” Conventions
 - Freedom of association and collective bargaining (Nos.87 and 98)
 - Elimination of forced and compulsory labour (Nos.29 and 105)
 - Elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (Nos.100 and 111)
 - Abolition of child labour (Nos.138 and 182)

- Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No.81)
- Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No.148)
- Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No.155)
- Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No.161)

Specific ILS for mining



- Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No.176) and its accompanying Recommendation No.183

- Others:
 - Medical examination of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No.124)
 - Minimum Age (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No.123)

Other instruments



- Codes of practice
- Guidelines
 - HIV/AIDS guidelines for the mining sector (in development)
- Manuals
- Other reference materials
 - ILO's International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses
 - ILO Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety

Convention No.176



- Adopted in 1995
- In force since 1998
- 22 ratifications

- Recommendation No.183
 - More detailed, but not binding

Ratifying countries



- Albania
- Armenia
- Austria
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- Germany
- Ireland
- Lebanon
- Luxembourg
- Norway
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- United States
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

C.176 - main features



- Basis for a coherent OSH policy in mines
- To ensure effective implementation
 - Designation of “competent authority”
 - Reporting and investigating procedures
 - National record of accidents and incidents
- Suspension or restriction of work on OSH grounds
- Right to worker participation and consultation
- Hierarchy of measures:
 - Eliminate the risk
 - Control the risk
 - Minimize the risk
 - Provide PPE (only as a last resort)

C.176



- Provides a floor
 - Minimum requirements for safe and healthy mining
 - Clear roles and responsibilities
- Links in with the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No.155)
 - Ratified by 50 Member States
- But: implementation crucial

How can ILO help?



- Provide a forum
 - International Labour Conference
 - Committee of Experts
 - Sectoral meetings
 - Global dialogue fora
- Provide technical assistance
- Assist in building capacity
- Assist with technical cooperation projects
- Provide tools!

Tools?



- Codes of practice
- Guidelines

- Manuals

- Training tools

Codes of practice



- Voluntary, practical guidance
- Contain general principles and specific guidance
- Provide a basis for prevention and protective measures
- ILO technical standards in occupational safety and health
- Not designed to replace national laws or regulations or accepted standards

Codes of practice - examples



- Safety and health in opencast mines, 1991
- Ambient factors in the workplace, 2001
- HIV/AIDS and the world of work, 2001
- OSH management systems, 2001

- Recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases (1996)
- Protection of workers' personal data

Underground coalmining



- Meeting of experts on safety and health in underground coalmines
 - Geneva, 8-13 May 2006
 - 23 Government, Employer and Worker experts

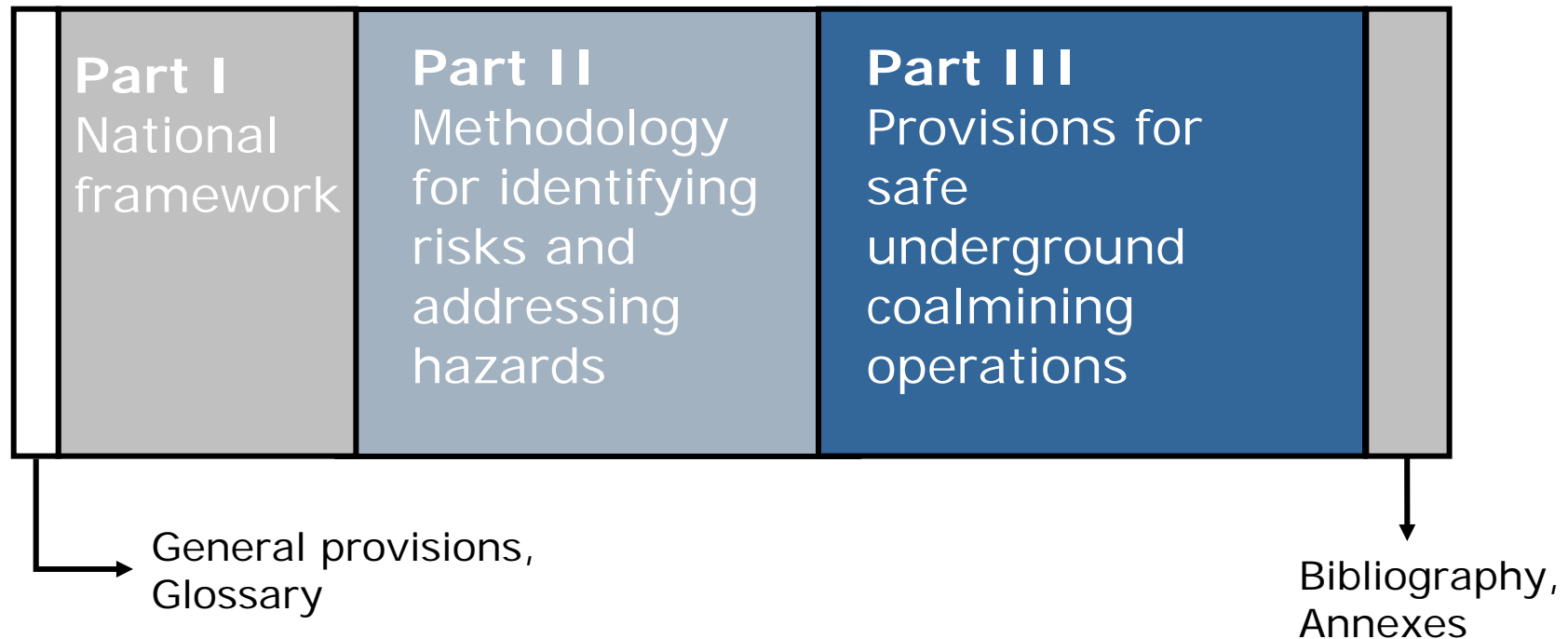
- Revised and adopted new code of practice on safety and health in underground coalmines

The code and C.176



- The Code of practice provides important practical guidance in support of the provisions of the Safety and Health in Mines Convention (No.176) and its accompanying Recommendation (No.183).

Structure of the code



Other ILO work



- Mining-specific guidelines on HIV/AIDS
- Elimination of child labour
- Small-scale mining

Thank you



For further information

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