



6 March 2008  
G-2008/07 (32.13)

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

**ISO ACTIVITY WITH REGARD TO  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH)**

Despite efforts to dissuade ISO from moving forward with OSH as a work item, we have been informed that a new proposal is now being raised within ISO.

It relates to a proposal to revise ISO 19011. This is an international standard that provides guidance on the principles of auditing, managing audit programmes, conducting management system audits and the generic competence of management system auditors. Currently this is limited in its application to non-financial auditing of quality and environmental management systems.

This new proposal would extend the scope of ISO 19011 to cover other areas such as OSH. As there are no ISO standards on OSH to be audited, why are they looking to extend coverage to OSH? By allowing 19011 to extend to OSH, it could be used later as an argument for an OSH standard by ISO!

**The deadline for all ISO members to vote on this proposal is 17 March 2008.**

The Employers' Group in the ILO does not believe ISO should be working in this area and does not want to send any confused signals about that opposition. **For this reason we would ask all members engaged in ISO work or with contacts with ISO committees to encourage a NO vote on this item.**

Yours sincerely,

**Antonio PEÑALOSA**  
*Secretary-General*

**Circular addressed to IOE member federations and to the employer members of the ILO Governing Body.**