

Management's importance in fostering a risk prevention culture in companies

Construcciones Pedro Francisco Ferrá Tur SLU is very grateful to CAEB for the Good Business Practices in Occupational Health and Safety 2018 award, which is a significant recognition of Grupo Ferrá's efforts to improve in health and safety matters, a domain in which we have been very involved for several years, so much so that 10 years ago Grupo Ferrá incorporated the company Soluciones Seguras para la Construcción S.L. (Protech) that specialises in the installation of collective protection systems and occupational risk prevention consultancy in order to provide adequate support to its building sites as well third-party sites.

Article 16 of Spanish Law 31/1995, of 8 November, on Occupational Risk Prevention, states that: "Occupation risk prevention must be incorporated into companies' general management systems: [...]". For Grupo Ferra this has always been, and continues to be, a key issue. Our management is very involved in communicating the importance of these aspects to its entire staff and to try and engage them as much as possible in compliance, because if this is not conveyed by the management it is difficult to maintain this "prevention culture" internally. We constantly strive to achieve this goal by communicating with and informing all our staff members of all aspects that must be taken into account on a daily basis in order to prevent workplace accidents; we always try to make our communication as natural and constant as possible, so that every professional role incorporates compliance into their usual and daily behaviour. On the other hand, Protech's specialised staff pays weekly visits to construction sites in order to shed light on any mistakes that may be taking place and try to solve them, always with the goal of getting to the root of each problem, finding a solution and preventing reoccurrence, never with a "find the culprit" attitude, while maintaining communications channels open constantly with all construction site employees.

From our point of view, any company, and more importantly in the case of construction companies, must play a key role in the transmission of an occupational risk prevention culture to each and every one of their employees. Everyone who is employed by a company is aware of the notion that "we must all be productive". Why do we not have a clear idea that "we must comply with all risk prevention rules"? If the company's management places at least the same emphasis on Occupation Risk Prevention as on Productivity, employees will adopt the same attitude. Through this shared attitude, a risk prevention culture can be created and reinforced in any company.

In conclusion, we keep working on a daily basis to maintain and improve our work methodologies, always keeping safety in mind at our construction sites.