

How is the world of work evolving, and can workplaces become safer and healthier than they are now?

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A safe and healthy world of work

Challenges and opportunities for our changing world of work

- Types of work and workplaces
- Sustainable technological change
- Demographics, equity and inclusion
- The impact of the climate emergency
- Balancing profit and purpose





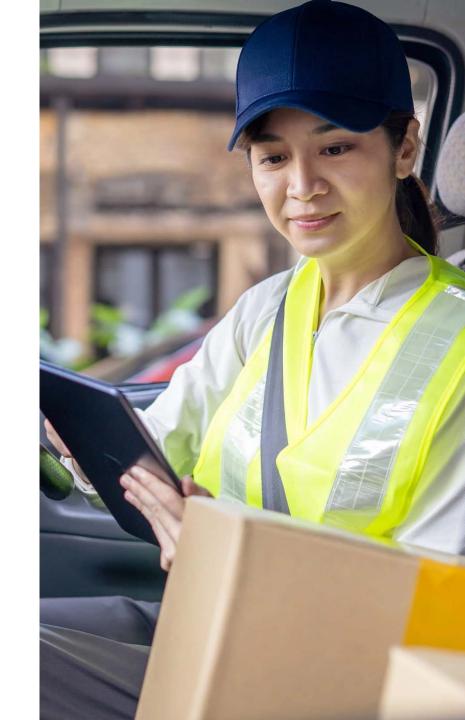
Reimagining futures

What if...

...gig work overtakes secure employment as the most common source of primary income?

Reimagining futures

- Traditional employment is fragmenting into different contracts and work patterns.
- Growing numbers working in the 'gig' or platform economy: 10% of US workers rely on this.
- For safety and health training, employers may provide flexible, agile learning for consistent knowledge.



Climate change and adaptation

What if...

...extreme global warming leads to significant increases in workers' occupational risks and vulnerability?

Climate change and adaptation

- Extreme weather threatens employees' safety and businesses' survival
- Rising global temperatures extend the spread of serious diseases
- Protecting employees from climate impacts will be central to OSH roles



Mental health and wellbeing

What if...

...psychological injuries and mental health are regulated in the same way as physical injuries?

Mental health and wellbeing

- Work itself should support physical and mental wellbeing.
- Prioritise prevention and workplace adjustments.
- Safety and health professionals can positively influence psychosocial factors through good risk assessment.



Technology and digitalisation

What if...

...using new technologies to improve worker protection creates other health, safety and wellbeing risks?

Technology and digitalisation

- This throws up physical risks for humans working alongside autonomous machines and robots.
- Consider what regulation and enforcement will be required.
- Safety and health professionals need to advocate for safety in design and worker-centred approaches.



Changing expectations

What if...

...safety and health improvements lead to greater social equity and fairness?

Changing expectations

- Employees increasingly judge the policies and behaviours of the organisations they work for.
- Leaders can improve the social sustainability and long-term prosperity of their businesses.
- Key is to look after your directly employed workforce and people in your supply chains.



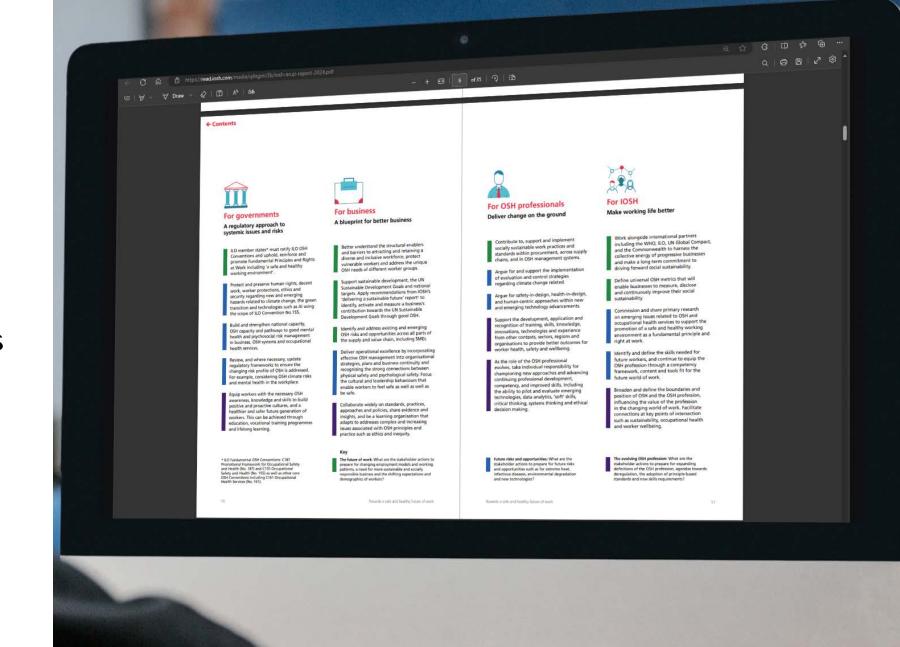
What does all this mean for the profession?

- Fundamental shifts are challenging traditional definitions of the occupational safety and health profession, its role and scope.
- As work environments become more complex, we should sense-check standards and rules to ensure they're proportionate and practicable.
- Be open, curious, critical and ready to learn.
 Encourage more talent and diversity to sustain this profession.



Our calls to action

- for businesses
- for governments
- for professionals





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Thank you

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