

**RECOGNITION**A KEY LEVER FOR IMPROVING
HSE PERFORMANCE



## **Editorial**



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Most approaches to improving performance in health, safety and the environment (HSE) focus their efforts on handling incidents, failure to comply with rules and sub-standard behaviors. Recognition is rarely the first idea that comes to managers' minds. Yet positive feedback is a crucial driver for motivating employees and contractors, both individually and collectively, to continuously improve HSE performance. Recognition gives managers a way to demonstrate their leadership and promote positive HSE behaviors.

Putting this concept into practice on a daily basis requires an understanding of basic behavioral principles, as well as a few clearly explained guidelines. This publication has been

designed to meet that need, to help managers identify actions that should be encouraged and respond with the appropriate form of recognition.

While this booklet refers specifically to HSE performance, the information it contains can be applied to all types of recognition for continuously improving a entity's overall performance.

# Recognition: a human need



recognition is a deep-seated need that must be met for an individual to achieve self-actualization. It grows out of the need for belonging, or in other words, the need to be acknowledged and accepted within a social group.

Researchers have shown that

Maslow's hierarchy of needs

#### **Basic Needs: Satisfaction**

Satisfactory working conditions in an environment free of immediate danger are basic needs for employees in the workplace. Workers expect those needs to be met, at the very least. Failure to fulfill these basic requirements generates dissatisfaction.



# Recognition: A Source of Motivation

The sense of a job well done, freedom, significant accomplishment and personal development are all needs that people seek to fulfill in order to become their best selves. These are motivating factors because they require greater individual effort.

In addition, people seek to meet a variety of expectations, such as the ability to do a job (confidence), to achieve results by putting in effort (consequences) and for those results to have value (in relation to the effort made). This has an influence on behavior.

# **Behaviors Are Sustained Through Recognition**



#### Directives and explanations are useful, but insufficient,

While issuing a directive to require a certain behavior and explaining the behavior's benefits may be useful, they aren't enough to get people to put an idea into action. Another step is necessary to transform motivation into behavior:

Positive recognition of an action that corresponds to the desired behavior.



#### Recognize

an employee who has just displayed a positive behavior or desired quality.



#### > Give the behavior meaning

by explicitly identifying what was exemplary in the person's action, as well as the connection with the desired outcome.



#### Reinforce and lock in the behavior.

This positive feedback will encourage the person to repeat the behavior later on and in other circumstances.

#### Example:



"That was particularly well thought out. You applied the rule straight down the line — just like I knew you would!"



Afterwards... Greater compliance with rules!

# **Positive HSE Behaviors** to Recognize

HSE performance involves two types of behavior:



#### **COMPLIANCE** with rules

- Using personal protective
- Applying applicable procedures.



#### **Through FORMAL initiatives**

- Reporting hazardous situations.
- Suggesting improvements.

# **Through INFORMAL initiatives**

- Looking out for colleagues.
- Walking new arrivals through the job.
- Sharing vigilance.

# **KEEP IN MIND**

The more proactive behaviors are developed, the higher the rate of compliance. The opposite is not true.



Example: Employees who help write a rule are more likely to apply it.

# Individual Recognition: the ABC Chart

The event or activity that immediately precedes a behavior

Influence of Antecedents

Consequences have a greater influence on human behavior than antecedents.

The event or response that immediately follows a behavior

Influence of Consequences

### Examples of antecedents:

- Training
- Return on experience
- Communication
- Other people's behavior



# Behavior

Example: Wearing safety goggles

### Examples of consequences:

- Possible discomfort
- Feeling of protection
- Compliance with rules
- Exemplary conduct

When it comes to consequences, people always focus more on:

- Immediate (I) over long-term
- Certain (C) over uncertain
- Positive (+) feelings over negative



IC + consequences help sustain a behavior

#### **KEEP IN MIND**

**Positive, immediate and certain recognition** of a positive HSE behavior will reinforce that behavior.

Example: "I see you're wearing your safety goggles — good job!"

# **Four Types of Recognition**



## **Existential recognition**

The person exists, is respected and has the right to speak.

> Ex.: Ask the person to participate in a project or handle a task.

# Recognition of job performance

The way a job is carried out, skills, expertise.

> Ex.: "You set the standard,"
"You're a real pro."



# THE JOB



# Recognition of individual investment

Efforts made to carry out a job

> Ex.: Time devoted to the job, perseverance.

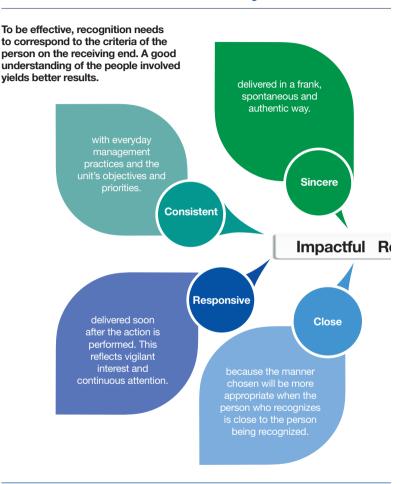
# **Recognition of results**

Efficiency, usefulness and final quality.

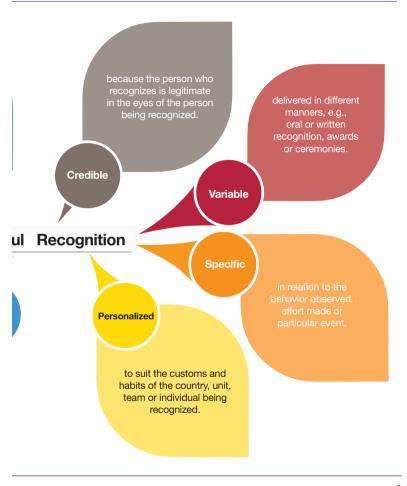
> Ex.: Awards, annual individual review, congratulations for achieving an objective.



# **Key Criteria for**



# **Effective HSE Recognition**



# **Expressing Recognition**



# References



« La reconnaissance au travail : une pratique riche de sens » by J.P BRUN & N. DUGAS

« Just Culture, Balancing Safety and Accountability » by S. DEKKER





## « 10 questions sur la reconnaissance au travail »

by the French agency for improving working conditions (Agence de l'Amélioration des Conditions de travail or Anact)

# Video on « HSE recognition at Total »

http://toolbox-hse-ftp.total.com/Safetyplus/ Total%20Safety%20VF.mp4





« Quelle est l'importance et l'enjeu de la reconnaissance au travail? »,

YouTube video (in French) featuring Christophe Laval, President and CEO of Vision Performance Humain Reconnaissance (VPHR).

Concept/Writing: Philippe Noël | Design and Production: because. www.because.fr



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