



**DECLARATION OF COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
VCA and MASE**

After an exchange of views regarding MASE (Manuel d'Amélioration Sécurité des Entreprises) and VCA/SCC (Safety Checklist Contractors) during the European SCC Platform Meeting, 18th October 2005 in Brussels, the participating organizations decided to work together in the field of contractor safety and to formalize this collaboration in a declaration of cooperation.

*'Ensemble pour la sécurité, l'hygiène industrielle et l'environnement'.  
Together for safety, health and environment*

*'.....by industry for industry.....'*

The signatory parties,

Having regard the opinions of the signatory partners competent technical bodies;

Whereas in a situation where several undertakings share a work place, the respective employers shall cooperate in implementing the safety, health and environmental provisions and, taking into account the nature of the activities, shall coordinate their actions in matters of the protection and prevention of occupational risks, and shall inform one another and their respective workers of these risks;

Whereas several contractor safety, health and environment management schemes have been set up by national and/or regional industry associations to ensure the above cooperation, coordination and information sharing in the case of contractors present on the site of a plant-owner;

Whereas these contractor safety, health and environment management schemes all share the same object but may differ in their technical specifications and procedures;

Whereas contractors therefore may be confronted with overlapping technical demands and procedures, duplication of administration, and additional costs of verification of their Health, safety and environment management scheme;

Whereas plant-owners therefore may be confronted with overlapping and additional costs in the selection and evaluation of their contractors;

Whereas the implementation of **safety, health and environmental** management systems means a real commitment of continuous improvement (common language and attitude between plant-owner and contractors);



Whereas the development of a common contractor safety, health and environment management scheme could be more efficient and lead to more effective protection of the safety and health of workers;

Whereas industry and industry organizations across Europe should cooperate in order to be able to develop such a common contractor safety, health and environment management scheme;

Whereas such cooperation is and should be in the interest of the employers and employees working in the European industry, both from plant-owner as from contractors side;

Whereas the signatory parties being committed to encouraging improvements in this area, to harmonizing conditions while maintaining a high level of protection, and to avoid competition at the expense of safety and health;

Have adopted this Declaration of cooperation.

The aim of this Declaration is to work together and try to achieve the development of a common contractor safety, health and environment management scheme.

To that end the signatory parties shall:

- Compare the requirements, procedures and technical specifications of existing contractor safety, health and environment management schemes, in particular MASE and VCA/SCC
- Compare the requirements and procedures for training and instruction of existing contractor safety, health and environment management schemes, in particular MASE and VCA/SCC
- Improve the systems by exchanging experiences and sharing critical success factors
- Encourage a widespread implementation of the systems
- Examine a possible mutual recognition of the systems
- Discuss and develop the common future of existing contractor safety, health and environment management schemes in and outside Europe, in particular MASE and VCA/SCC



The signatory parties will inform their members of the content of this declaration.

The signatory parties shall evaluate and review the declaration any time after the three years following the date of signature, if requested by one of them.

This agreement does not prejudice the right of the signatory partners to adapt and/or complement the contractor safety, health and environment management scheme under their competency. If such case they shall however inform the other signatory partners of the adaptations or complements.

**Serge Keroullé,**  
Chairman of MASE (France)

**Bert Zandvoort**  
Chairman of the Central Committee of Experts VCA/SCC (Netherlands)

**Albert Voet**  
Chairman of the Executive Committee of Experts VCA/SCC (Belgium)

**Rüdiger Littinski**  
Chairman of the Central Committee of Experts VCA/SCC (Germany)