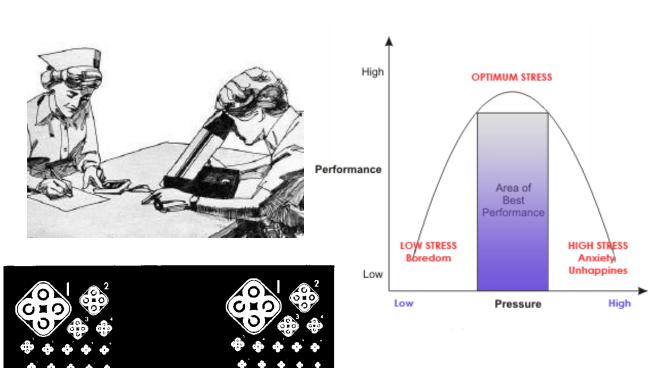




## Visual Health Surveillance









### **Outline**

- Visual Health & Work
  - Prevention of visual occupational risks & hazards
  - International standards and normatives
- Occupational Visual Requirements
- Visual Health Prevention Programme
  - Detection and feedback using questionnaires
  - Vision screeners vs. optometric practice
- Discussion
  - Supplementary reading and learning
  - Proposed activity no. 2





# **Bibliography & Links**

#### Basic:



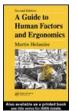
• NORTH, R.V.: Work and the Eye, 2nd ed., Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2001.



 ANSHEL, J.: Visual Ergonomics Handbook. Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2005.



 GOETSCH, D.L.: Occupational Safety and Health for Technologists, Engineers, and Managers, 5th ed., New York: Prentice Hall, 2004.



HELANDER, M.: A guide to human factors and ergonomics,
 2nd ed. London: CRC Press, 2005.





## **Bibliography & Links**

- Basic:
  - CEN website:



European Committee for Standardization Comité Européen de Normalisation Europäisches Komitee für Normung

INSHT website:



MINISTERIO DE EMPLEO Y SEGURIDAD SOCIAL



OSHA website:



ISO website:



International Organization for Standardization

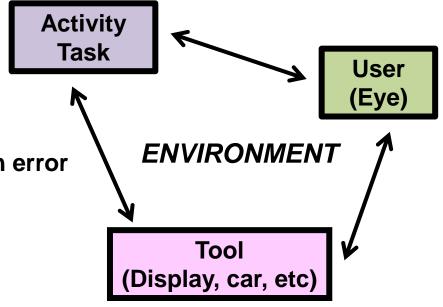
AENOR website:







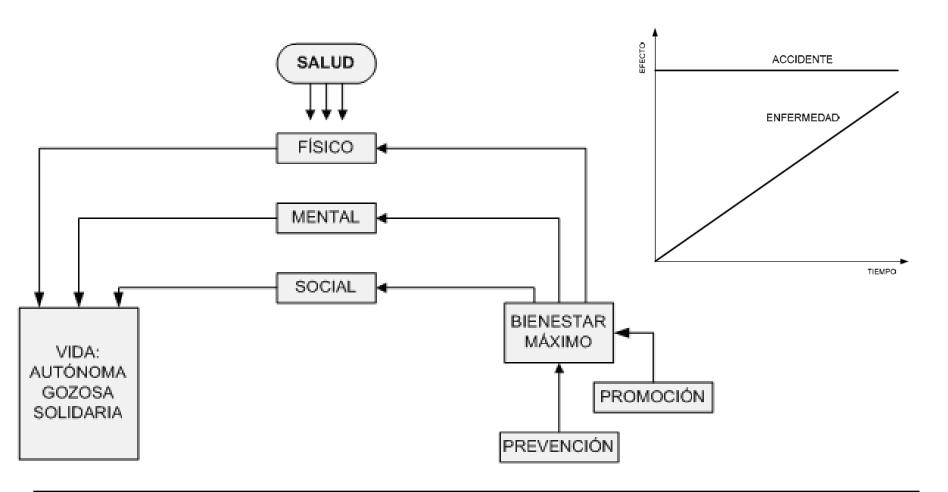
- Ergonomics and its link with Occupational Health
  - First: to get a safe task
  - Second: to fit it at comfortable level
  - Senses & Cognition
    - Stress and workload
    - Decision making
  - Control
    - Safety, accidents and human error
  - Engineering anthropometry
    - Biomechanics of work
    - Work physiology
  - Work-space design







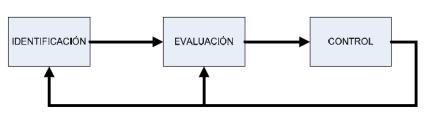
Occupational Health: occupational illness vs. accident

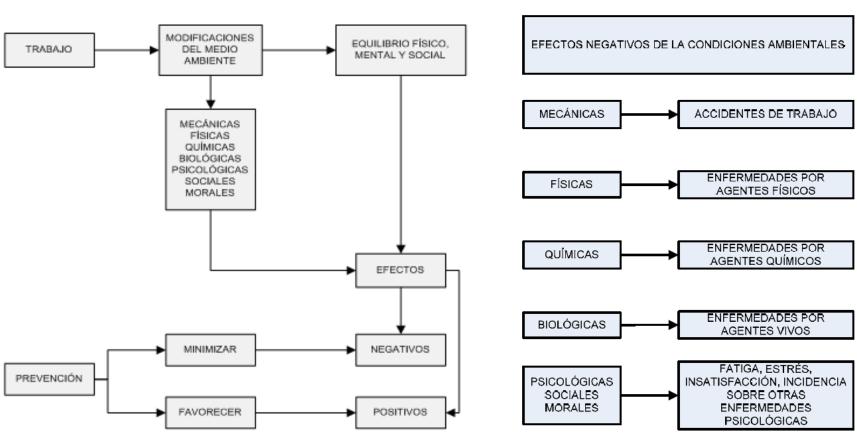






- Work & Prevention
  - Trade unions









 Ergonomic approach for stress and workload: tasks available to individual capabilities, applicable to any field

Figure 1: The Yerkes-Dodson Human Performance and Stress Curve

#### **Human Performance Curve**







Prevention of Occupational Hazards in Spain



- Law 31/1995 Prevention of Occupational Hazards
  - Rights & Obligations for employers and employees
- RD 34/1997 Prevention Services for Occup. Hazards
- Psychosocial and ergonomic factors
  - Prevention and action protocol guides





- International standards and normatives:
  - Search documents by official website: eye, vision, etc







European Committee for Standardization Comité Européen de Normalisation Europäisches Komitee für Normung















## Occupational Visual Requirements

#### Objective:

Detect workers whose visual performance is below the required visual standard

#### Advantages:

- Recruitment, as part of the interview
- Identification of visually impaired workers
- Improved employee employer relationship
- Once improved visual efficiency / performance
  - Productivity ↑, costs ↓, accidents ↓, absenteeism ↓
- Claims for compensation can be solved easily





# Occupational Visual Requirements

#### Preamble:

 Different tasks require different visual requirements (national standards). Example: driving

#### Objective:

- Find the relationship between the visual and performance / competence at work
- Starting problems:
  - Easily analyze the vision of the worker, but it is difficult to relate it to their workplace competency
    - Non-visual factors: age, intelligence, attitude, manual ability, etc.





## Occupational Visual Requirements

#### Phases:

- Choose a method to qualify job competence
  - Supervision of a specialist or professional, quality / quantity of output, frequency of accidents, absenteeism, etc.
- Analyze visual factors necessary for the task
  - Checklist of visual job analysis
- Decide the criteria for visual competence:
  - AV, stereopsis, ortho-vision, color vision, etc.
- Analyze the vision of the "competent" and "non competent"
- Compare the classification of visual competition with labor competition
  - If the visual standard is correct, the visually incompetent must be in the group of "incompetent" ones





#### Remind:

- The employer is primarily responsible for the safety of workers
  - Investment in a program of eye & visual prevention

#### Objectives:

- To identify potential ocular / visual hazards, and eliminate or control
- The use of eye protection equipment should be the last option
- Benefits / Consequences of the implementation of the program:
  - Effective with the law on prevention of occupational risks
    Economic benefits: accidents ↓, costs ↓, production ↑, etc.





- Phases of an eye & visual prevention program:
  - <u>Detection and prevalence</u> estimation using questionnaires
  - Review of the work environment
    - Checklist of visual job analysis
    - Visibility factors and calculation of visual performance
  - Vision analysis
    - Vision screeners vs. optometric practice (periodically)
    - Occupational visual requirements
  - Implementation / Execution: international standards
    - Visual signaling
  - Program Maintenance
    - Continuous monitoring, statistical control, meetings, training
      - New questionnaires





- Detection and prevalence estimation using questionnaires:
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Spanish Questionnaire of Work Conditions
  - Other specific examples for computer vision syndrome, etc
- Improvement techniques:
  - AGREE instrument
  - Sensibility and efficiency
  - Etc



Initiatives from standarisation organisations and Governments??





- Visual signaling (RD 485/1997)
  - Signs into a panel / display:
    - Warning
    - Ban
    - Obligation
    - Firefighting
    - Rescue
  - Illuminated & acoustic signs
  - Verbal communications
  - Gestural signs





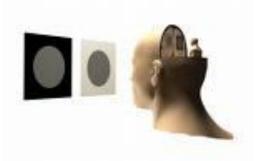






- Modified Clinical Technique (I):
  - Actions required:
    - History and symptoms
    - VA far / middle / near distance
    - External eye examination
    - Retinoscopy
    - Accomodation amplitude
    - Binocular Vision
      - Ocular motility, ZVBNH, stereopsis, phorias, strabismus
    - Field of View
    - Color vision
      - battery tests for dischromatopsia









#### Modified Clinical Technique (II):

- Advantages:
  - Flexibility depending on the type of visual task
  - Type and amount of refraction
  - Detecting eye diseases
  - Reduced number of false re-emissions

#### Disadvantages:

- High costs when using professional and specialized instruments
- Processing time
- Shortage of optometrists wishing to join in programs for job vision analysis: Optometry Clinical Center at the University of Alicante
- Interesting occupations: watchmakers / jewelers, toymakers, packers, tele-operators using displays, masons, etc.





- Vision screeners (I):
  - Optical design:
    - Brewster Holmes stereoscope
    - Self internal lighting
    - The tests are inserted into the instrument
    - Manual or automatic control
  - Types of eye exams
    - VA: far, intermediate, near
    - Heterophoria: horizontal / vertical, far / near
    - Stereopsis: near / far
    - Fusion binocular
    - Color vision
    - Visual field
    - Astigmatism, etc.















- Vision screeners (II):
  - Advantages:
    - Low economic cost
      - Used in health prevention services
    - Manageable by non-professionals in vision sciences
    - Fast, always available
    - Low maintenance
  - Disadvantages:
    - Lack of flexibility depending on the work environment
    - It does not measure the illuminance level of task
    - No detect eye diseases or strabismus
    - Presence of relative esophoria for proximal or mind C / A
    - Presence of false positives, or vice versa





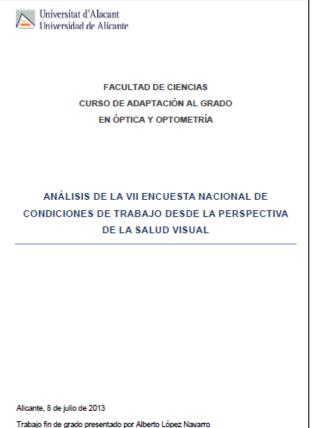


# Supplementary reading and learning

 BSc Thesis (TFG), academic year 2012-13: "Analysis of 7<sup>th</sup> Spanish Questionnaire of Work Conditions from a Visual

Health approach"

- Read this document
- Why it is interesting?
- Applicability level??
- Initiatives for improvement??





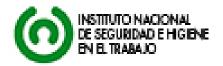


# Proposed activity nº 2

- Relative Weight: 2.5 %
- Delivery process by course blog
- Individual Task:
  - Search visual ergonomics standards or normatives using CEN, INSHT or AENOR websites:







 Propose one, but different from the rest of examples provided for other students. Justify why you choose it and its interest for this lesson or the rest of this subject.