



National Safety Council

FURTHERING VOLUNTARY CONTROL OF THE ACCIDENT PROBLEM BY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

The National Safety Council's general programs should have the purpose of eliminating hazards without need for additional government regulation. In order to provide a context in which legislative considerations of safety regulations may be handled constructively, the Council states the following views:

1. The Council favors the use of all safety devices and procedures proven by research and practice, and fosters additional research and development to improve devices and procedures.
2. The Council promotes voluntary use of safety devices and procedures as the soundest and most economical way to get universal use, and recognizes that voluntary use, adaptation, and improvement leave the way open for continual progress.
3. Experience shows that certain legislation and regulation is needed to eliminate accident hazards and promote safety. Such legislation and regulation, however, should be limited and confined to those urgent needs that are attainable by voluntary methods.

In order to actively further safety progress, the Council staff, in consultation with appropriate National Safety Council bodies, should develop a brief policy statement regarding products and services which will reflect the present policy of leading companies in the Council's membership. Such a policy statement should then be publicized and recommended for adoption and use by all businesses.

In addition, the staff should accept responsibility for initiating discussions with companies (or trade associations) when products or services play an important part in an accident problem. Such discussions should have the purpose of stimulating early, voluntary business action to employ engineering, research, and educational methods calculated to improve product safety.

This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

Approved by the Board of Directors, April 11, 1961