

MASE-VCA

Information note

5th of July 2013

By this information note, the following organizations,

- SSVV (Stichting Samenwerken Voor Veiligheid);
- vzw BeSaCC-VCA en vzw Contractor Safety Management;
- MASE;

Want to inform principals (plant-owners) or every other organization on which site or premises contractor or subcontractor companies perform activities, about the VCA and MASE system.

Several contractor safety, health and environment management schemes have been set up by national and/or regional industry associations to ensure the cooperation, coordination and information sharing in the case of contractors present on the site of a plant-owner. Well-known examples are:

- VCA in Belgium and The Netherlands;
- SCC (= VCA) in Germany, Austria, Switzerland;
- MASE in France.

After having carried out a comparison and analysis of the MASE and VCA (SCC) including:

- Analysis of referentials;
- Analysis of the organization and certification process;
- Cross-audits by double-teams of auditors in companies in Belgium, France and The Netherlands,

Demonstrating that both systems include elements such as:

- Policy, organization, management involvement and commitment
- Risk assessment and relevant actions plan
- Skills and professional qualifications, including SHE-training for workers and supervisors
- SHE information and instruction
- SHE behavior
- Communication and consultation of workers on SHE-issues
- Environmental care (focus on waste management)
- Work preparation and organization
- Emergency preparedness
- SHE-inspections
- Occupational health
- Purchase and inspection of work equipment
- Sub-contracting
- Temporary workers
- Accident and incident registration and investigation
- Continuous improvement

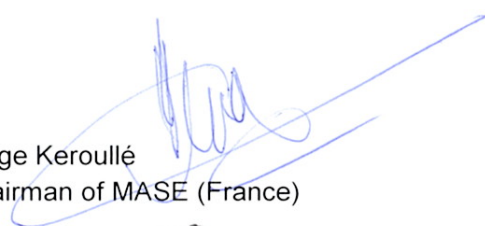
Demonstrating that the systems have a different organization and approach towards the certification but both include involvement of representatives of plant-owners and contractors and have management systems in place.

There is sufficient evidence to declare that VCA and MASE are similar systems that give similar guarantees to the principals (plant-owners) with regards to the selection and OSH-performances of contractor and subcontractor companies.


It is up to each principal (plant-owners) to establish its own approach towards contractors in order to ensure the necessary coordination, exchange of information and the implementation of measures to avoid incidents and to maintain safe and healthy working conditions on site at all time.

With this information note we hope to have provided information that can help in the selection and evaluation of contractors. For the avoidance of doubt, each company is free to decide which requirements and/or certificates it demands from its contractors, if any.

We also inform you that the organizations behind the above mentioned management schemes are involved in a structural and continuous dialogue and have signed a declaration of collaboration that should lead to more joint efforts and a joint approach in the future.




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Chairman of MASE (France)



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Chairman Central Committee of Experts CCVD-VCA (The Netherlands)



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