



AT WORK

A SELECTION OF DIFFERENT EXAMPLES FROM THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF BOSKALIS | APRIL 2012

Each month, a colleague reports on his/her NINA activities. This time, we hear from marine supervisor, Jos Koks.

NINA blog

A FLAIR FOR LANGUAGES



In late 2010, I went to work in Gorgon Australia as a safety coach. Men of my generation were brought up to believe that risks were part of a hard day's work, so I was surprised how much time and energy was devoted to safety there. An entire team of HSE officers was ready and waiting!

The contrast with my current post in Panama City is striking. Here, there's a huge gap between the NINA Values & Rules and day-to-day practice. You notice this, in particular, working with local businesses. For example, even if solid agreements are made with the management of a welding company to weld together sag pipes, we still have to invest a lot of energy in persuading the welders to do their work safely and effectively.

It's not because they are stubborn - they just don't know any better. The language barrier is also a problem: most of the workers only speak Spanish. And unfortunately I don't have a flair for languages... Luckily, one guy on our team speaks pretty decent English and is able to translate sometimes. Other than that, I try to converse as much as possible in Spanish, but it's still difficult. I have to settle matters here in person that I normally would over the phone, because I want to be sure they understand. After all, safety starts with good communication!

Jos Koks is interested in the experiences of Mark de Bruijn, assistant operations manager. You can read what Mark had to say in the next issue of NINA At Work. You can also submit your own input by sending an e-mail to NINA@boskalis.nl

NINA UNIFIES

In Q2 2012, construction will begin on the A4 motorway (Delft-Schiedam) in the province of Zuid-Holland. In the run-up to the project, the A4All consortium (Boskalis, Heijmans and VolkerWessels) will be busy with preparatory work, which will, of course, include NINA.

"The principal, the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management, and the consortium partners in this joint venture embraced NINA right from the tendering phase," says Nieke Sterkman, junior process manager bearing partially responsibility for the implementation of the NINA principles in the A4All project. "At first we were concerned that NINA wouldn't be accepted by the consortium, but in fact the opposite was true: everyone is impressed with NINA's simplicity and effectiveness. Everyone participating in our various NINA training courses here has been excited to start applying the principles. However, the real challenge will be later, when 800 employees must work on-site at once. But they already know the basics: NINA has helped us to create a culture on A4All in which we can talk openly and honestly about safety." ■



HERE'S WHAT THE A4ALL CONSORTIUM PARTNERS ARE SAYING:

According to Piet Neeleman, GWW discipline manager (VolkerWessels), "Attending to and maintaining a safe working environment is an ongoing process, which is why we are so open to NINA. Everyone is familiar with NINA, because the organization gives it priority and because it is easy to identify with and is promoted energetically. I hope that safe working practices become second nature, so we reach the point that we no longer need NINA, but want to continue using it anyway. Then we will have truly internalized the principles!"

Guido Bons, GWW project supervisor (VolkerWessels) says, "NINA is everywhere. NINA is clear. We take the time to learn and implement the principles. With all the training offered to staff across the organisation, from on-site workers to project directors, safety is bound to reach a higher level in the A4All project. NINA has real added value: I'm going to promote the NINA Values & Rules within my own operating company."