OPEN CHEQUE BOOK

This exercise enables the participants to explore opportunities to improve safety in the workplace without the pressure of financial constraints. It is a creative approach that assists the participants to see what options may be feasible and what is not viable at all.

WHEN TO USE THIS EXERCISE
This exercise can be used at any safety meeting, training course, conference or seminar when there is a need to emphasize and reinforce the fact that not all safety solutions are financially viable. Sometimes when participants are given the opportunity to explore options without restriction they can change their mind about things they previously felt strongly about. Especially when they realize (within themselves) how expensive and unfeasible a certain option is. This exercise can be conducted with a group of any size.

DURATION
Allow 10 to 15 minutes.

MATERIALS REQUIRED
Pen and paper for each group.

HOW TO RUN THIS EXERCISE

STEP 1
Inform the participants that they are now going to do an exercise called ‘Open Cheque Book’.

STEP 2
Arrange the participants into groups of three or four and provide each group with a pen and some paper.

STEP 3
Inform the participants that for this exercise I want you to make a list of ideas on how we can significantly improve safety in the workplace. Imagine the new Managing Director has said: “I want our organization to have the best safety performance possible and if that requires making changes that are going to cost money then here’s my cheque book. The only condition is that any money spent, must be on physical items such as products, equipment, machinery, modifications, etc. Money cannot be used for incentives such as bonuses and trips overseas.”

STEP 4
Start the exercise and allow the participants a suitable amount of time to complete the activity.

STEP 5
Stop the activity at the end of the time limit and have each of the group’s make a brief presentation about their ideas and suggestions.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR GROUP DISCUSSION
Examples of discussion questions include:
• Approximately how much money did you spend?
• Would this expenditure improve our safety performance?
• Do you think money alone can improve our safety performance? Can it give us the best possible performance?
• Are there any ideas here that we need to explore further?
• Does any organization have an ‘open’ cheque book?
• How can we go about evaluating which ideas are financially viable and which are not?

ATTACHMENTS
None.