

OCCUPATION SAFETY

Issued 15th October, 1975

The following has been extracted from the PTC Bulletin No 3 of 1975 explaining the reason for this issue:

“Work accidents not only kill and cripple people but harm the economy of the employer concerned and, eventually, the economy of the country. Rhodesia ranks among the leaders in the world's attack on such accidents.

Rhodesia's occupational accident pattern follows closely that of other industrialised countries, where the greatest number of occupational accidents - some 80% - is caused by human failure, and only a very small number is unpreventable. The problems of promoting safety are compounded by the very considerable difference between the rural background of most workers and the sophistication of their work sphere. In addition, the number of languages and dialects spoken by workers makes communication difficult.

The Rhodesia Occupational Safety Council, sixteen-man advisory body, was formed in 1968 for the purpose of investigating, deciding on, and recommending, through the Director of Occupational Safety and Compensation, the action to be taken to encourage the creation of safe working conditions. Members of the Council are drawn from a wide spectrum of commerce and industry, and such organizations as the Chamber of Mines of Rhodesia, the Rhodesia National Farmers' Union and the Building Industry's Federation of Rhodesia are represented on it,

A system devised by this council, the Rhodesian Occupational Safety Council Safety System, was introduced by the Minister of Labour in 1972, when he pledged that members of the staff of the Department of Labour would assist in implementing it. By means of this system, occupational safety has been elevated from the old-fashioned concept of merely trying to prevent an injury-causing accident, to a system in which management techniques are used to protect the overall safety of people, equipment, material, and environment. Economics have been effectively allied to humanitarianism, and educational projects are being supported. The response has been encouraging and participation by industry in the national safety movement is growing.

A valuable instrument in promoting occupational safety is the in-depth analysis of occupational accidents that is produced annually by the Director of Occupational Safety and Compensation, and released within six months of the end of the year to which the statistics refer. In addition, a monthly magazine carrying accident figures and details relating to the previous month, as well as other safety material, is distributed widely,

Rhodesia is unique in that it is the only country in the English-speaking world, and possibly in the whole world, where an official safety system, backed by Government, exists for industry, commerce, mining, farming and the occupational safety aspect of driving a motor vehicle.

This issue of postage stamps has been produced to assist in the efforts to promote occupational safety.”

THE ISSUED STAMPS



Catalogue listings

SG	RSC ²	Value	Description
520	C147	2½c	Prevention of head injuries
521	C148	4c	Bandaged hand and gloved hand
522	C149	7½c	Broken glass and eye
523	C150	14c	Blind man and welder with protective mask
	a.		“Broken ‘ON’ of Occupation flaw” Cyls 1A & 1B R10/2

Technical details

Stamp size:	35 x 30 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes within printed sheet
Artist:	Val Bond
Paper:	Type 10 – Chromo paper, brown gum, non-fluorescent
Print colours:	2½c - light brown, yellow, orange-yellow and dark brown 4c - pale blue, dull orange, blue, ultramarine 7½c - blue-green, dull orange, light green, myrtle-green 14c - orange, flesh, carmine, black
Perforations:	Comb perf: SG 14, RSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through Side and bottom margins: Imperforate
Printer’s Imprint:	Type 6a, bottom margin, below columns 2 to 4 – printing: 2½c - dark brown 4c - ultramarine 7½c - myrtle-green 14c - black
Cylinder numbers:	Cyls. 1A & 1B bottom margin under R10/1, colours reading across from left – 2½c - light brown, yellow, orange-yellow and dark brown 4c - pale blue, dull orange, blue, ultramarine

7½c - blue-green, dull orange, light green, myrtle-green
 14c - orange, flesh, carmine, black

Colour register: Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R10/1, colours reading down –
 2½c - light brown, yellow, orange-yellow and dark brown
 4c - pale blue, dull orange, blue, ultramarine
 7½c - blue-green, dull orange, light green, myrtle-green
 14c - orange, flesh, carmine, black

Sheet Value: Bottom margin, below R10/5, printing:
 2½c - dark brown
 4c - ultramarine
 7½c - myrtle-green
 14c - black

Sheet Number: Type SN 4 with ‘PTC’ prefix, right margin opposite R10/5, reading down

Print numbers:
 2½c - 3,500,000 stamps (35,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
 4c - 800,000 stamps (8,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
 7½c - 600,000 stamps (6,000 1A & 1B sheets each)
 14c - 400,000 stamps (4,000 1A & 1B sheets each)

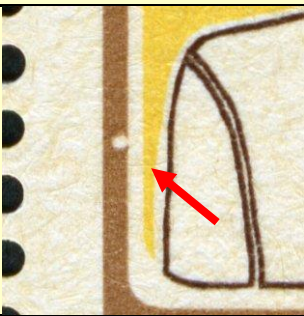
Issue date: 16th October, 1975


Withdrawal from sale: 14th July, 1976

Demonetarisaton: 14th July, 1979

Listed varieties

Below are varieties documented or seen for each of the values, starting with the listed varieties within the Mashonaland Guide¹, and those listed in the RSC², shown in yellow shaded tables. The varieties listed in bold are considered by the authors of the Guide to be more important.

Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
2½c	1B	4	2	A white dot in left border opposite shoulder 
4c	1B	10	3	A black dot over ‘A’ of Rhodesia.

Value	Cyl	Row	Col	
7½c	1A	1	3	A white spot in the left pale green section near nostril
	1B	10	2	A blue dot at 5 o'clock in the yellow of right-hand panel
14c	1A &1B	5	3	A black dot at the edge of right yellow margin just above
		6	3	A dot below the mouth of the blind man
	10	2	Broken second 'O' and weak 'N' in occupational RSC C150a – Broken 'ON' of Occupational	

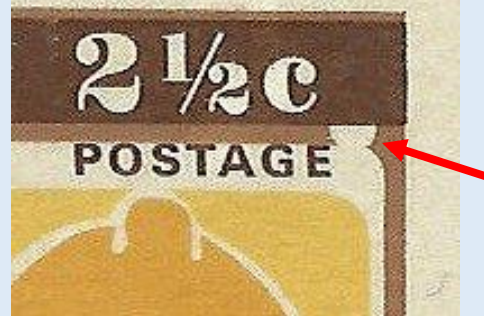
Unlisted varieties

Marginal pair, where the right-hand stamp appears to be double printed with the dark brown. This gives thicker and doubled lined to the workers' clothing and 'smudging' of the 2½c value



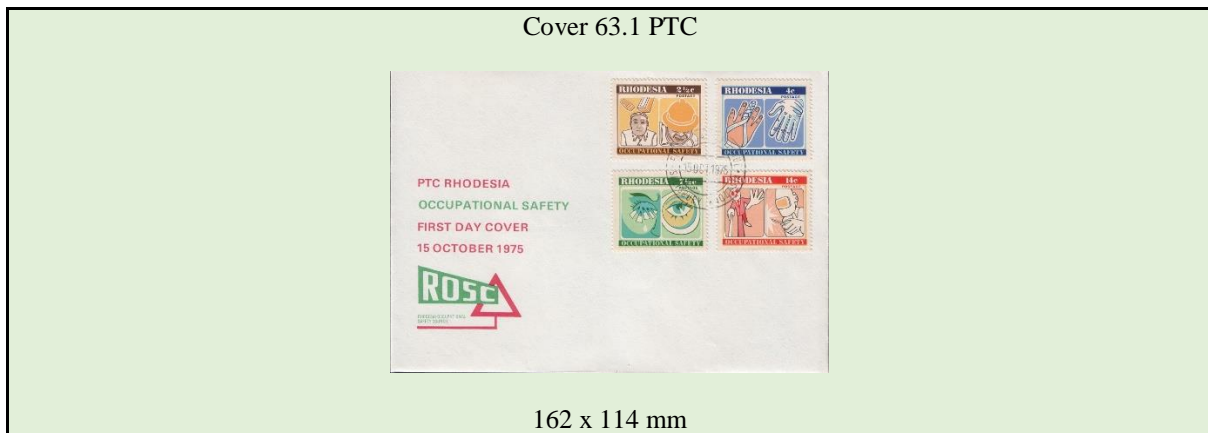
White spot in top right corner of light brown frame. Found in R9/5, unknown cylinder. Likely to be a batch flaw.

(eBay download in corner block of 4, and single stamp courtesy Dave Trathen)



First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear



Bibliography

1. "A Guide to the Postage Stamps of Rhodesia", supplement No 5, issued 1978, published by the Mashonaland Philatelic Study Group
2. "The Rhodesia Stamp Catalogue", 1983/84, published by Salisbury Stamp Company
3. Post & Telecommunications Corporation Bulletin No 3 of 1975, published by the Philatelic Bureau