

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Occupational Safety and Health (OHS) is a cross disciplinary area concerned with protecting the safety, health and welfare of people engaged in work or employment. As a secondary effect OHS may also protect co workers, family members, employers, customers, suppliers, nearby communities and other members of the public who are impacted by the workplace environment.

Safety and Health

Safety is freedom from the danger of injury. A cut to the body or impact from a falling object are common experiences that are easily recognized as safety hazards.

Health

Health is commonly recognized as the absence of disease in the body. Disease can be caused by infection from a biological organism but it can also be a long term outcome from exposure to the other factors routinely present in our environment namely: chemical substances, physical agents, mechanical/ergonomic factors, psychosocial factors.

Aims of the Occupational Health and Safety

- The promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and socio well being of workers in all occupations
- To protect workers from OHS hazards which may cause them to leave their jobs
- Protection of workers in their employment from risks resulting from factors adverse to health
- Placing and maintenance of the worker in an occupational environment adapted to his or her physiological and psychological capabilities, the adaptation of work to man and of each man to his or her job

Why did TUICO establish Good OHS standards?

The reasons for establishing good Occupational Health and safety standards of frequent identified as:

Moral:

An employee should not have to risk injury at work, nor should others associated with the work environment.

Economic

Many governments realize that poor occupational safety and Health performance results in costs to the state. Eg: through social security, payments to the incapacitated, medical treatment and the loss of the employability of the worker.

Employer organizations also sustain cost in the event of an accident at work eg: legal fees, fines, compensatory damages, investigation time, lost production, lost goodwill from the workforce, from customers and from the wider community.

Legal

Occupational safety and Health requirements may be reinforced in civil Law and Criminal Law. It is accepted that without the extra encouragements of potential regulatory action or litigation, many organizations would not act upon their implicial moral obligations.

Types of OHS hazards

- Physical hazards
- Biological hazards
- Chemical hazards
- Psychological hazards
- Ergonomical hazards
- Work organizational hazards
- Environmental hazards

Legal and Institutional Framework

- International Conventional on Occupational Health and Safety No 187
- The Occupational Health and Safety Act No 8 2003
- National OHS Policy
- TUCTA OHS Policy
- TUICO OHS Policy