Risk Assessment Evaluation and Control

Lecture Title: HAZARD IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES

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Undergraduate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety

Lecture Aim

- Identifying the Aim of a Risk Assessment
- Identifying Hazard in Occupational Health and Safety
- Understand the Risk Assessment – 5 Steps Process

RA: General Provision LN 36 of 2003

https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/646.11/eng

RA: General Provision LN 36 of 2003

Risk assessments.

10. (1) It shall be the duty of every employer and of every self-employed person to carry out, or to ensure that is carried out, a suitable, sufficient and systematic assessment of all the occupational health and safety hazards which may be present at the place of work and the resultant risks involved concerning all aspects of the work activity. Such assessments shall consider the risks to the health and safety of workers and of self-employed persons to which they are exposed whilst at work, as well as the risks to the health and safety of other persons, including visitors to the place of work, which risks arise out of, or in connection with the work being carried out, or by the conduct of the undertaking:

Provided that when carrying out such assessments, an employer and a self-employed person shall also take into consideration changes to the work activities being carried out and to the workplace, and shall take appropriate action.

(2) Where five or more workers are employed, an employer shall keep in his possession written or retrievable electronic copies of such assessments, and shall ensure that they are updated regularly.

(3) An employer and a self-employed person shall decide on the protective measures appropriate to the nature of the work being carried out which are required to be taken following these assessments and, if necessary, the protective equipment to be used.

(4) The assessments referred to in this regulation shall be reviewed whenever there is any major change in working conditions, or whenever the employer or self-employed person have reason to suspect that they are no longer valid.

AIM of Risk Assessment

AIM:

To ensure that hazards are eliminated, or risks minimised , by the correct application of relevant standards.

Objectives of Risk Assessment

The **Objectives** of risk assessment are to prevent:

- Death and personal injury.
- Other types of loss incident.
- Breaches of statue law, which might lead to enforcement action and / or prosecution.
- The direct and indirect costs that follow on from accidents.
    - These objectives relate directly to the **MORAL**, **LEGAL** and **FINANCIAL**
    - (arguments discussed in lecture 1)

What is a Risk Assessment?

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Specific vs. Generic Risk Assessments

Specific Risk Assessments

- Adapted to a specific site.
- Contain only relevant information for that particular project.
- Tailored to address unique hazards and conditions of the site.

Example: Evaluating machinery hazards in a particular factory, considering the exact layout and specific machines used.

Generic Risk Assessments:

- Not adapted to a specific site or project.
- Filled in with standard information.
- May overlook unique risks present at the actual site.

Example: Using a standard template for machinery hazards without tailoring it to the specific factory's conditions and equipment.

Note: Specific risk assessments provide a more accurate and effective way to manage risks because they consider the unique aspects of each site or project.

A Suitable and Sufficient Assessment

A risk assessment should be ‘Suitable, Sufficient and Systematic’.

It should be good enough to fulfil legal requirements and prevent foreseeable injuries and ill health from happening.

A suitable, sufficient and systematic risk assessment should:
• Identify the significant risk arising out of work, i.e. those that re most likely to occur and result in harm being caused, with any remaining risks being at an acceptable low level.
• Identify all those persons who could be at risk, including workers and other such as visitors. Vulnerable people, such as young persons, pregnant women, should also be identified.
• Evaluate the effectiveness of any current controls.
• Enable the employer to identify and priorities the measures that must be taken to protect people from harm, including complying with any relevant legal provisions.
• The assessment should be proportionate to the risks in the workplace.

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Risk Assessment – 5 Steps Process

Aim: To remove the risk or reduce it to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP).

Step 1: Identify the Hazards

Hazards are the ***things*** with the potential to cause harm.

It is important to identify both the ***safety hazards*** that might give rise to immediate physical injury, and the ***health hazards*** that might cause disease or ill health.

Step 1: Identify the Hazards

Safety Hazards – Hazards that are capable of causing immediate physical injury.

Work at height.	Stacked materials.
Moving vehicles.	Manual handling operations.
Moving parts of machinery.	Electricity.
Toxic or corrosive chemicals.	Violent people.
Animals such as dogs.	

Step 1: Identify the Hazards

Health Hazards – Hazards can cause Occupational disease or ill-health conditions.

- This can be caused by a single event (such as a needle stick injury infecting or a worker with the hepatitis virus)
- Prolonged exposure of the hazard over a period of weeks, months or years.
- These health hazards can be categorized into five groups:

1. ***Physical e.g. radiation, vibration, noise, extremes of temperature etc***
2. ***Chemical e.g. lead, mercury, silica etc***
3. ***Biological e.g. rabies virus, legionella bacteria etc***
4. ***Ergonomic e.g. very repetitive movement, stooping, twisting, manual handling etc.,***
5. ***Psychological e.g. stress and trauma.***

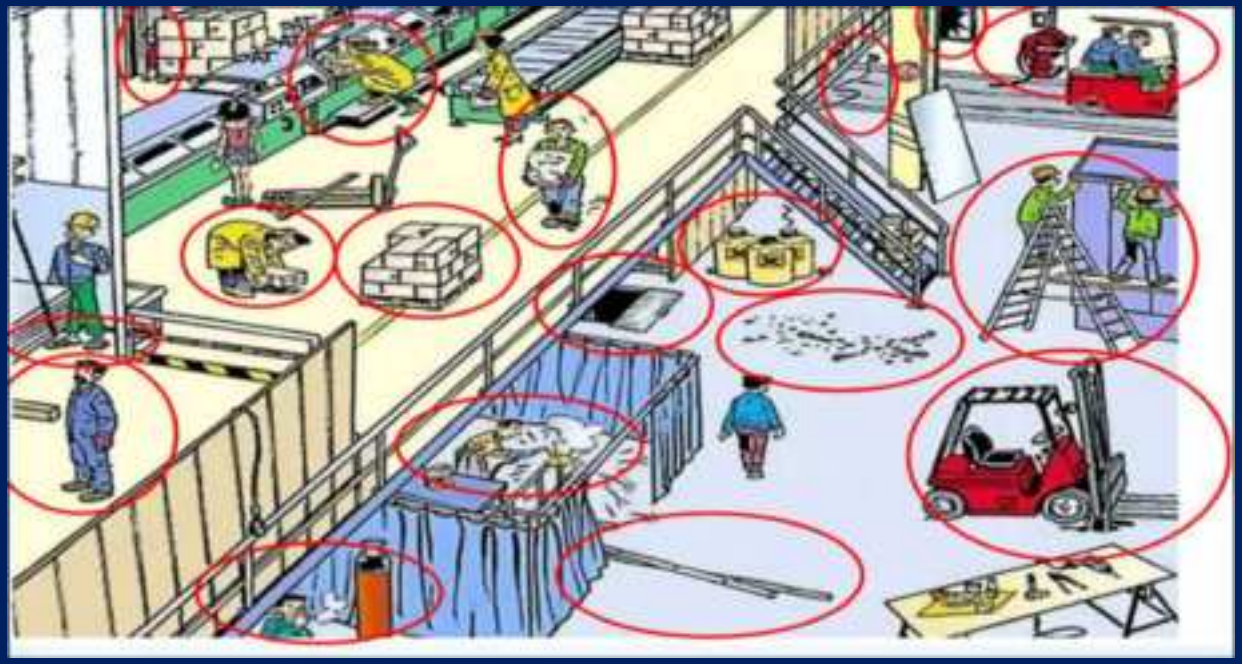
Hazards

Step 1: Identify the Hazards

- Can you identify any hazards?

Step 1: Identify the Hazards

- Hazards vs Risks



Step 1: Identify the Hazards

What are some potential hazards present in your workplace?

Step 1: Identify the Hazards

- Hazards in Industries

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- Moving about the workplace

Step 1: Identify the Hazards

- Moving about the workplace

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Step 2: Identify the People at Risk

Who **MIGHT** be at Risk in the Workplace?

Class Discussion

Step 2: Identify the People at Risk

When identifying people at risk, think not only of those carrying out particular activities but also of those who may be affected by those activities:

Workers / Operators – may be directly involved with the activity, working nearby or passing by. Some Hazards create risk only for the worker carrying out the work. Examples:

- *A worker up a ladder at risk from falling.*
- *General risk for all employees – vehicle traffic route that all employees may have to cross in order to reach a staff car park.*

Maintenance staff– involved in the removal of the usual safeguards present in the workplace because of the nature of maintenance work. Examples:

- *The lift engineer who has to climb on the top of a life, normal safeguards are being removed or bypassed, then risk to these workers increases and other methods have to be found to control this risk.*

Step 2: Identify the People at Risk

Continue…

Cleaners– may be exposed to greater risk because cleaning work may involve the removal of safeguards or additional activities that create additional risk. Example:

- *Window cleaning from an access cradle.*
- *Cleaners working alone, outside normal working hours, and therefore lone working becomes an issue.*

Visitors– to the workplace may not be working but are still exposed to certain types of risk. Example:

- *Fire.*

Members of the public– may simply be in the vicinity of the workplace and still affected by certain types of hazard. Example:

- *A release of toxic chlorine gas from an industrial site.*