ABSTRACT

The statistics show a deteriorating safety performance in terms of an increasing number of industrial accidents occurring on the worksites in the local Construction Industry since 1993. This occurs even though there is more stringent legislation being adopted.

The impact of the local legislation on safety management and its effectiveness in reflecting the safety management in the Construction Industry is examined. By means of conducting five case studies with the Registered Safety Officers of projects of different nature, the safety management practices adopted by the individual contractors are investigated.

The research findings suggested that the legislation has an impact on safety management in construction projects and is effective in reflecting safety management in construction sites. However, problems that impede the full and complete impact of the legislation on the safety management and its effectiveness in reflecting the safety management in local construction worksites still exists. These problems are the traditional thinking / mindset of the contractors, sub-contractors and workers, thus leading to lack of top management’s support; risk taking attitude of the contractors and sub-contractors; competitive tendering problems; lack of support and participation from the sub-contractors; lack of safety awareness; poor coordination or communication or miscommunication; and internal problems faced by the construction companies such as cash flow problems, etc.

Key words: Construction Industry, Effectiveness, Impact, Legislation and Safety Management