Abstract

Every life is important and should be taken seriously. In the recent years, there is an increase in the awareness and concern for the safety on construction sites.

The government agencies have set out several code of practice and standards which construction companies can refer to. However, different companies would have a different safety management system, because of different financial capacities, policies and culture. Smaller firms with more limited resources may not have the capacity to have a complex safety management system. On the other hand, larger firms would have the expertise and financial support to institute an effective system.

Using case study of two firms, this research found that human management is a problem when designing and instituting a safety management system. Contractors meet difficulties when coordinating the workers and the sub-contractors and trying to get them to abide by the company’s safety rules and regulation.

There is a common agenda for both medium and large construction firms. Both types of companies wish that by attaining ISO 9000 certification, they could improve their image in the industry and thus improve their marketability. Having a sound safety management system is part of the pre-requisite for attaining ISO 9000 certification.

It is recommended that construction companies should aim towards zero accident rates at all work sites. With lower accident rates, productivity, quality and image may increase. These are beneficial for the construction industry as a whole in the long run.