Abstract

The law on occupiers’ liability has remained unchanged in Singapore, whereas in other countries there are statutory provisions on this area of the law. Occupiers’ liability rules evolved in the nineteenth century and are thought to favour the land owning class in ancient England. Over periods of time and with the development of negligence principles, the privileges given to the land owning class have over time, became unjustified in the viewpoint of the society which want more protection for the members of the community. Hence legislative reforms took place in some jurisdiction. This study discusses and analyzes the problems caused by the old occupiers’ liability rules and comment on the legislative reforms of other countries. Attention is placed on the Singapore construction industry, especially the construction site where there are many people working and many activities being carried out concurrently. The liabilities of site occupiers will be discussed and the problems encountered will be analyzed. Problems are identified and an appropriate type of law reform on occupiers’ liability rules for the Singapore construction industry is recommended with regards to the construction site.