STUDY THE LIMITATIONS TO IMPLEMENT OHSAS 18001 AS A REGULATION IN SRI LANKAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY: CONTRACTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

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(149118D)

Degree of Master of Science in Construction Law & Dispute Resolution

Department of Building Economics

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Declaration

I hereby declare that this report submission is my own work and to the best of my knowledge it does not contain any written material published previously by any other person or material which substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any degree or diploma of a university or other institution of higher education, except an acknowledgement is made in the text.

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The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters thesis under my supervision.

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Abstract

The Construction industry, being one of the fast-growing sectors in the world, contributes high percentages for gross domestic product (GDP) in most countries. However, as a high labour-intensive and hazardous industry, many accidents are reported annually both in developed and developing countries. Within the context of Sri Lanka, many fatal construction accidents happen each year, but most are not reported due to various reasons.

In the contractor's side in construction, numerous shortcomings prevail in Occupational health and safety (OHS) practices. The internationally recognised and best practising OHSAS 18001, known as an effective tool to enhance OHS, is still being a general standard under local context. Therefore, this research attempts to study the limitations to implement OHSAS 18001 as a regulation in Sri Lanka, aiming to improve OHS at the site level. A comprehensive literature survey was conducted to collect the existing knowledge regarding the subject matter, using sources such as OHSAS 18001, past research studies, and acts and policies in other countries.

An industry-wide questionnaire survey was performed to collect information on the current practice of Occupational Health & Safety with respect to the Contractor in Sri Lankan construction industry and to identify difficulties/possibilities to implement OHSAS 18001 standard as a regulation in the local construction industry, with special reference to Contractor party. The survey was limited to the construction professionals in the construction industry and consisted of Senior General Managers, Project Managers, Architects, Engineers, Quantity Surveyors, and Safety officers.

The results revealed that OHSAS 18001 could be implemented based on Contractor's perspective. However, top management commitment, Cost, Awareness, Training & Development, Cultural/Attitude barriers, Academic qualifications related to health and safety in Sri Lanka, and Expertise knowledge in the sector were initialised as the key factors that profoundly influence to a comprehensive OHS management system.

Key Words:*Occupational Health & Safety, Construction Industry, Safety Performance, Construction Accident, OHSAS 18001, Safety Regulations.*

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H.M.M.L.B Nedurana
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Abbreviations

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

OHS – Occupational Health & Safety

ILO – International Labour Organization

OHSAS 18001 – Occupational Health & Safety Assessment Series 18001

SLSI – Sri Lanka Standards Institution

UK – United Kingdom

OHSMS - Occupational Health & Safety Management System

CS2 – Construction Supra 02, a Standard Building & Civil Engineering Grading in Sri Lanka

CS1 - Construction Supra 01, a Standard Building & Civil Engineering Grading in Sri Lanka

C1–A Standard Building & Civil Engineering Grading in Sri Lanka

APAU - Accident Prevention Advisory Unit

HSE - Health and Safety Executive

WCSH - World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

CIDA – Construction Industry Development Authority

OH&S - Occupational Health & Safety

HSE-MS - Health, Safety, and Environment Management System

SMS - Safety Management System

Appendices