

KINGDOM OF THAILAND

A study to Identify an Occupational Health and safety Management Model for Thailand

Abstract

Recently there are movements of related people to Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) in order to make a change of the structure of OH&S management in Thailand and quite high occupational injury and death rates indicate that it may have some problems of the present OH&S management system. Thus, the affected groups have done some things because they realize that occupational injury and death can be prevented and controlled.

Therefore, the researchers, granted by the Office of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, had conducted a study to identify a suitable model of Occupational Health and Safety Management for Thailand. In addition, to have data available for decision-making concerning this issue. This study does not need the statistical analysis, but reviewing and analyzing literature, existing situation based on researchers' knowledge and experience plus the opinion of the experts and practitioners in this field. In addition, the view of experienced high level administrators from those three ministries, i.e. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Industry is taken in to account.

Result showed that the problems among governmental sectors are overlapping of responsibilities and duties of the three ministries, and lack of cooperation among them. Furthermore, there was no promotion and developing of the occupational health services providing and giving system. Thus, the researchers proposed 2 periods for managing the OH&S in Thailand . The first period is to clarify and specify responsibilities, roles and duties of the three ministries according to their philosophy and expertise. The second period is to unite all occupational health and safety units in those three ministries and clearly establish their responsibilities, duties and roles. The time between the two periods should not exceed 5 years. During that time there should be some comprehensive studies to identify how to unite those units and the structure of the new organization. Also, in the first period some kind of law should be issued, e.g, the act to establish a policy and cooperative organization such as the National OH&S Committee.

The committee's duties in the first period should:

1. Specify the responsibility and duties of each unit under the three ministries
2. Consider the structure of the new organization
3. Consider to provide budget for occupational health and safety activities of the three ministries.

In the second period, the committee's duties are:

1. Set up national policy and plan for occupational health and safety
2. Control, follow up and cooperate the three ministries, plan so that their works will not overlap
3. Make the consideration on all OH&S law to be issued so that the three ministries will not issue the law in the same matter.

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