

**CENTRE OF STUDIES FOR BUILDING SURVEYING
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND SURVEYING
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**A STUDY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY &
HEALTH ACT 1994(OSHA) AT LABORATORY AT UITM SHAH ALAM**

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**“I hereby declare that this academic project is the result of my own research
except for the quotation and summary which have been acknowledged”**

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The safety and health of all employees should be the first priority and value of any business. It should therefore be the policy of any business to provide a safe and healthful work environment for all of its employees. The business or institution like university should have in place a continuous safety and health to fulfil and achieve the goal and objective.

With this in mind the safety rules contained in Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) have been formulated to assist and protect us. They were revised to keep up with the latest technological developments, changing conditions and improvements in equipment and procedures as well as the requirements set forth by the OSHA team.

Safety pays and it is a good investment for all concerned. It eliminates suffering and lost wages. It also improves production, maintains efficiency, reduces waste and generally provides a sense of well being for all employees and working places.

With such a broad definition, no wonder it is nearly impossible to get people who can very commit to a specific safety plan or safety procedure. The government attempts and efforts to define and guide what exactly makes a work area safe, but if everyone doesn't believe the definition or explanation and not take the appropriate action to obey the rules, then the system will break down.

Companies or employers that have excellent safety records develop a safety culture where everyone believes that certain safety acts or procedures need to be followed in order to have a safe work area. There are even presentations by motivational speakers, who are really understand about safety, can focus on changing the audience's attitude towards safety. Making people aware of their surroundings and how safe they are is an important factor in getting the buy-in that is needed to have a truly safe work environment. (Fouch, 2011)

In fact, it is a very difficult task to implement safety. From year to year, the accidents are continuously happening and the numbers of the accident are still increasing. Even though the number of accidents increase, we still unable to identify specifically what does it mean by safety and find the best way to provide a work environment that are really safe.

Further more, when discuss about safety, it can relate with it to the health. Health and safety are very interrelated each other and it is an issue affecting all businesses around the world. One of the efforts to provide the working environment that have both (safety and health) is

by implementing an Occupational Safety and Health. It is a legal requirement in many countries includes Malaysia .At Malaysia, it known as Occupational Safety & Health Act 1994(OSHA). OSHA has in recent years become an even more important part of the activities of both the private and public sector. All the sectors acknowledge the relevance of OSHA and they try to implement it as much as they can.(Nurul Huda,2009)

OSHA was widely criticized in its early years for confusing, burdensome regulations. A good deal of the early conflict came about because of arbitrary and inconsistent enforcement during OSHA's early years.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act is an Act which provides the legislative framework to secure the safety, health and welfare among all Malaysian workforce and to protect others against risks to safety or health in connection with the activities of persons at work.This Act was gazetted on 24th February 1994 and may be cited as the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994. This Act is a practical tool superimposed on existing safety and health legislation.

In addition, businesses were expected to retrofit guards and other safety devices on existing equipment and to implement other hazard controls, often at considerable expense, to bring them in line with then-current best safety practices (Mohd Pidaus, 2008).

OSHA is a basic human right which every person is entitled to, independent of gender,race, or religion and belief.OSHA at work is an issue affecting all businesses from the smallest sector to the biggest one.OSHA is a major issue for companies mainly due to the fear of prosecution if they not implement the regulations or if any incident happened that relate to OSHA at their company. With better enforcement of the legislation and commitment from employers and employees, construction safety has received greater attention.

In Malaysia, every single workplace like factory, construction site, public universities, public school and others have to implement OSHA .At factory, the factory management have to provide a safe and free accident area to their workers .Besides that, OSHA is implementing to public universities in order to ensure the safety and prevent the accidents at public universities arising from negligence or unsafe actions by students, lecturers, staffs and visitors.

The workplaces that are consider to implement OSHA at public universities are offices, classes, hostel and laboratory. All these places have to implement OSHA because most of the people's activities carried out there.

In addition, for the development projects costing more than RM 20 Million on the need to have

the Safety and Health Officer (SHO). Every employer or even the public universities are required to establish safety and health committees at the workplace and also have their own safety officers. For example, UiTM has established this committee in all divisions, faculties, departments, units and so to ensure that matters relating to safety and health preserved. It is the responsibility of the SO (Site Officer) of a project to make comments to the contractor if the workers not use personal protective equipment such as safety shoes, safety helmet and others during they do their work in UiTM.(Mohammad Shafiee,2010).

It will be seen that safety and health is an integral feature of such an approach. Everyone has a role to play in the management and implementation of quality of OSHA at public universities, hence they has to co-operate and give a fully commitment to ensure the safety and health of working environment .In addition, safer workplaces will help to improve productivity accompanied by reduced costs, better in time management, performance, operation and increased and quality as well at every single public universities. Consequently, it will assist each public universities to become more quality and world class university in order to help Malaysia become a developed country in 2020.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

According to accident statistic from Social Security Organization(SOCSO) and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health(NIOSH), the rate of fatal accident are still increasing and be categorized as still high if compare to others countries around the world. Since the introduction of OSHA 1994,there has no credible improvement to reflect it effectiveness.

Besides that, another problems or issues occurred that related to OSHA is accident and incident .For example, laboratory involved with hazardous material which can be classified as chemical laboratory, physic laboratory and biology laboratory. Besides that, laboratory can be divided to wet laboratory and dry laboratory. All types of laboratory exposed with the hazardous material.

Further more,it can conclude that in creating a safety workplace comes from the behaviour of the individual who are not follow the rules and policy available which already provided by the employees, companies, universities and others. Behaviour can be defined as the actions or reactions of an object or organism, usually in relation to the environment. Behaviour also can be conscious or unconscious, overt or covert, and voluntary or involuntary.