

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**A REVIEW ON SAFETY IMPROVEMENT IN  
MALAYSIA CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The construction industry is one of the most hazardous industries in the world. The importance of safety in the construction industry is often overlooked, as people tend to focus more on getting the job done in time rather than getting it done safely. Malaysia's construction industry is no different, as represented by the amount of accidents related to construction that has occurred in the past year. The purpose of this research paper is to review the safety improvements in Malaysian construction industry. The main objectives of the study is to review the development of safety in the local construction industry as well as analyze the safety improvements used worldwide that can be implemented in the Malaysian construction industry. The statistics of the accidents relating to construction was reviewed, along with the causes of fatalities and high number of injuries resulting from accidents in the construction industry. Several accident causation theories were also discussed in order to gain an in-depth understanding the causes of accidents and consequences of hazards, as well as accident prevention measures. Interviews and questionnaires were conducted in order to obtain an in-depth understanding of the safety practices in the Malaysian construction industry. The questionnaires were designed to evaluate the safety performance of the construction industries by studying them through four main aspects; safety climate, safety culture, safety attitude, and general safety measures. The variations of the safety performance practice by different sized companies as well as different levels of employment in the organization are compared and analyzed according to the four aspects. From the results obtained, the responsibility of the management towards the involvement of their employees as well as self-awareness in safety greatly affects the safety performance of an organization, thus, facilitates the improvement of high safety performance in the construction industry.

**Keywords:** construction accidents, construction industry, safety, safety behavior, safety developments

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# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Research Background**

The construction industry contributes a great deal to the economic growth and development of a country. However, despite how wide construction is practiced worldwide, it is identified as one of the most hazardous industries in many parts of the world (Chi et al., 2005). According to the Occupational Accidents Statistics from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health, the construction industry holds the highest number of death cases for 5 consecutive years, throughout 2011 up to 2016 (Occupational Accidents Statistics by Sector, 2015), as well as the second highest number of permanent disabilities in 2015.

Safety issues remain to be the main focus in the construction industry in various countries (Teo & Phang, 2005). The worryingly high rate of accidents in the construction industry is a major concern in the context of industrial safety, especially as it increases each year. These accidents are the result of a number of factors, such as lack of safety laws, insufficient implementation on safety rules in companies, little or no emphasis on the importance of safety in construction industry, inadequate training, or perhaps even a cultural divergence among different levels of construction personnel.

Numerous research studies have been conducted on the safety of the construction industry in different countries, mainly focusing on the major causes and factors of accidents as well as strategies in accident prevention and reducing accidents related to construction. Implementing safety regulations has no longer become relevant as no amount of enforcement can bring a majority of the workers to obey and practice the safety rules. Therefore, this study is focused more on self-regulation of safety for the workers rather than an enforcement of regulations, which comes from