

Safety Policy and Audit in Infrastructure Project

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Abstract- A large percentage of construction site accidents involve the negligence of someone other than a co-employee or employer. Many subcontractors may be involved and responsible for damages. Every year many construction site workers are killed or injured as a result of their work; others suffer ill health.

Policy statements are prepared and issued by employers to comply with the acts by their employees. Every company has to establish a safety committee and consultation with safety representatives. The health & safety statement should include safety information, instruction, training and supervision shall be provided for all employees as and when necessary.

Safety audit is carried out to ensure that unsafe acts and unsafe conditions are brought to a minimum level so that there is a safe work environment. The purpose of safety audit is to ensure that there are definitions and safe procedures for works and the set definitions and safe procedures are practiced. Safety audit is about going through those procedures and finding whether the safety system is on the right track.

Keywords- Safety Policy, Safety Audit, Safety management, OSHA, Policy statement

I. INTRODUCTION

Safe and healthy working conditions do not happen by chance. Employers need to have a written safety policy for their enterprise setting out the safety and health standards which it is their objective to achieve. The policy should name the senior executive who is responsible for seeing that the standards are achieved, and who has authority to allocate responsibilities to management and supervisors at all levels and to see they are carried out.

Safety audit is carried out to ensure that unsafe acts and unsafe conditions are brought to a minimum level so that there is a safe work environment. The purpose of safety audit is to ensure that there are definitions and safe procedures for works and the set definitions and safe procedures are practiced. Components of a safety audit may depend upon the type of occupancy but it surely indicates that the management has an attitude towards safety.

- Any construction enterprise cannot work without man power.
- Success of the whole enterprise depends on the man power performance
- Their knowledge and skills are to be scrutinized and analyzed so as to fit the right person in the right place.
- Major construction site accidents involve the negligence of someone other than a co-employee or employer.
- Many subcontractors may be involved and responsible for accidents.
- Safety audit is a tool used by the management to promote and ensure the safe work procedures.
- Safety audit is carried out to ensure unsafe acts and unsafe conditions and brought same to a minimum level.

II. SAFETY POLICY

The safety policy is provided only as a guide to assist employers and employees in complying with the standard safety requirements as well as to provide other helpful information. It is not intended to supersede the requirements of the standards. An employer should review the standards for particular requirements which are applicable to their individual situation and make adjustments to this program that are specific to their company. An employer will need to add information relevant to their particular facility in order to develop an effective, comprehensive program.

2.1 The safety policy should deal with the following matters:

- Arrangements for training at all levels. Particular attention needs to be given to key workers such as scaffolders and crane operators whose mistakes can be especially dangerous to other workers;
- Safe methods or systems of work for hazardous operations: the workers carrying out these operations should be involved in their preparation;
- The duties and responsibilities of supervisors and key workers;
- Arrangements by which information on safety and health is to be made known;
- Arrangements for setting up safety committees;
- The selection and control of subcontractors.

2.2 Safety Policy Implementation

The safety policy will be carried out according to guidelines established and other related procedures. Specific instructions and assistance will be provided by responsible persons requested. Each supervisor will be responsible for meeting all of the requirements of the Safety Policy, and for maintaining an effective accident prevention effort within his or her area of responsibility. Each supervisor must also ensure that all accidents are thoroughly investigated and reported to responsible person(s) on the same day of the occurrence.

- Safety Policy supports six fundamental means of maximum employee involvement:
- Management commitment to safety.
- Weekly tool box safety meetings at all jobsites.
- Effective job safety training for all categories of employees.
- Job hazard analysis provided to all employees.
- Audio and/or visual safety presentations given at jobsites by responsible person.
- Various incentive awards for exemplary safety performance.

2.3 Objectives of HSE Policy

A company should affirm to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all its employees and ensure that its operations are carried out in a manner that protects the environment and community in general.

The objectives of the policy are achieved at workplace by

- Promoting a positive HSE culture.
- Complying with all applicable HSE legislation.
- Identifying/eliminating/preventing/controlling hazards and pollution that could cause accidents, illness or environmental harm.
- Providing training and resources for employees to maintain HSE systems.

III. SAFETY AUDIT

Safety management system identifies various hazards and risks present at the site and the safety studies are there identify measures to categorize and minimize or eliminate the risks since it is difficult to eliminate the hazard but the risks can be. Safety audit is about going through those procedures and finding whether the safety system is on the right track. Safety audit is not about finding the shortcomings in the system but to ensure that the existing loss prevention systems,

safe work procedures and other work practices are in place and being followed.

Safety Audit is a tool used by the management to promote and ensure the safe work procedures are followed in the premises. Following are the important points related to safety audit:

- To advise on the maintenance of such records as are necessary relating to accidents, dangerous occurrences and industrial diseases
- To carry out plant safety inspection in order to observe the physical condition of work and the work practices and procedures followed by workers and to render advice on measures to be adopted for removing the unsafe actions by worker
- To provide advice on matters related to carrying out plant safety inspection
- It is the duty of the safety committee to carry out health and safety surveys and to identify the causes of accidents.

Safety Audit may be either internal or external. Internal safety audit is carried out in-house while external safety audit is through an external source. Safety audits are sometimes for certifications, sometimes for complying with the internal management guidelines and sometimes as a result of good management attitude.

3.1 Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)

OSHA is the most respected safety organization in the world. Generally rules set by OSHA are tried to be followed during OHSAS (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment System) 18001 audits and internal safety audits.

Some insurance companies allow discounts to the companies that are certified from external agencies, however not all the certifications are safety certifications. For example OHSAS 18001 is a certification related to occupation health and safety but ISO 9001 is something related to quality. The purpose behind allowing discounts is an assumption that the systems have been defined.

Here is how safety audit system in an organization is important:

- Understanding that there are defined safety systems and procedures
- Existing hazards and risks are identified
- Risk management steps are taken

- Emergency response procedures are reviewed and updated
- Corrective and preventive actions are taken
- Management is conscious about safety

IV. CONCLUSION

In the construction management, safety is given a due consideration to safeguard people and material and cost involved in the case of injury. As far as India is considered, there are no such regulations though the construction act has been framed but it should be enforced to avoid future accidents. It is concluded that Safety Management is very much needed to construction industries to maximize productivity.

While planning and establishing a system safety audit is important, it is also important to maintain the system. Safety audit not only ensures that the system is maintained but also ensures that the standards go strictly enough to restrict the accidents from occurring in the concerned premises.

- Safety execution on construction site is not easy but possible.
- The employer is responsible for health and safety at any work location.
- Employer must designate a supervisor or manager who is responsible for safety equipments and PPE or personal protective equipments.
- Workers also have a responsibility in managing their own and their co-workers health and safety.
- Safety planning and establishing a system is important, it is also important to maintain the system.
- Safety audit ensures that the system is maintained
- It also restricts the accidents from occurring in the project premises.
- Compulsion of safety audit to avoid the irregularity / negligence of safety measures

Advantages of Safety Audit Project

- Accidents are minimized
- Health of workers is improved
- Working process and system leads to smoothening
- Efficiency of workers increased by periodical meeting
- Fear of own safety among the workers reduced by giving training
- Directly or indirectly saving of time and money
- Safety policies binds management to provide safe working conditions to workers

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