

EFFECT OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT ON THE RATE OF WORK – RELATED ACCIDENTS IN THE BULGARIAN FURNITURE INDUSTRY

Petar Antov, Nikolay Neykov, Victor Savov

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to analyze the effects of occupational safety and health (OSH) management practices (in terms of comprehensive risk assessment) on the rate of work-related accidents in the Bulgarian furniture industry, and to identify the main occupational hazards. Materials and methods: The research was performed on basis of the officially published statistical data of occupational accidents in Bulgaria and the developed risk assessment questionnaire, tailored to the specific furniture industry characteristics. K-means clustering analysis was used for data interpretation and analysis. Results: The adoption of strict OSH legislation and the implementation of risk assessment procedures resulted in drop in occupational accident rate in the Bulgarian furniture industry by 76.9% during the studied period, from 2001 to 2017. The questionnaire and k-means analysis revealed different OSH awareness levels among the studied furniture enterprises. Conclusions: The findings of the study can be applied for sustainable improvement of the existing OSH measures and initiatives in the Bulgarian furniture industry.

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