

**STUDY OF COMPENSATORY ACCIDENTS IN
SRI LANKA**

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or Institute of Higher Learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters dissertation under my supervision.

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ABSTRACT

Study of Compensatory Accidents in Sri Lanka

Although figures of Occupational Accidents are published annually in many countries, reliable data is available only in a limited number of countries (Takala, 1999). Also figures of occupational accidents in most developing countries are not based on proper accident recording and notification systems and under these circumstances, underreporting of occupational accidents is a common problem in many countries (Takala, 1999).

When legal frameworks in countries are considered, it can be seen that some occupations are not covered by the law. Many researches have been done to reveal the extent of underreporting, factors that lead for underreporting and the coverage of occupations by occupational safety legislation in various countries. This study is focused to find the effectiveness of accident reporting system in Sri Lanka, to study the coverage of occupations by the current law and to propose strategies for improving the accident reporting system.

Data for the research were of both primary type and secondary type where secondary data were extracted from the records available at the office of the commissioner for workmen's compensation and primary data were obtained through expert interviews. Accidents reported to the commissioner for workmen's compensation during one year period were compared with the accidents reported to department of labour during the same period for estimating the rate of underreporting. Also, the identification of economic activities that are not covered by the current legislation with regard to occupational safety and health could be identified through the data obtained from the office of the commissioner for workmen's compensation. Proposals for enhancing accident reporting were obtained through interviewing experts in the occupational safety and health field.

Results of the research show that 27% of the compensatory accidents are from economic activities that are not covered by OSH legislation and rate of underreporting is 62.50%. These indicate that the legal framework should be changed to cover all economic activities and strategies should be implemented to enhance accident reporting.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BLS	Bureau of Labour Statistics
DFIE	District Factory Inspecting Engineer
EU	European Union
F	Fatal
FO	Factories Ordinance No.45 Of 1942
ILO	International Labour Organization
MER	Medical Examination Report
OHSAS	Occupational Health & Safety Assessment Series
OSH	Occupational Safety & Health
OSHA	Occupational Safety & Health Administration
PPD	Permanent Partial Disability
PTD	Permanent Total Disability
TD	Temporary Disability
WCC	Workmen's Compensation Commissioner
WCF	Workmen's Compensation Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

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