

Abstract

The study on “Work Safety of Employees in Biomass Power Plant A” aims at investigating working condition, situation on work safety, and ways to promote work safety of the power plant employees. The population of the study consists of 62 power plant employees and their foremen. Instruments for data collection are questionnaire, interview schedule, and observation form on work environment and employees’ behavior. Statistics applied are Percentage, Mean, and Standard Deviation.

The majority of employees are males aged between 19-30 years with elementary educational attainment, married, work in the plant, earn 4,000-8,000 baht per month, never have any work accident and no one ever experience any occupational disease during the past year. Most of them have not attended training on work safety before employment, but they have been advised and trained on how to work safely from work safety officers. Approximately three-third of plant operators use personal protective devices.

Hours of work for Office employees are from 08.30-17.30 hours, while Plant Operation employees work on shifts as scheduled by the employer. Employees are divided into 4 groups working on 2 twelve-hours shifts. The day shift is between 08.00-20.00 hours, while the night shift is between 20.00-08.00 hours. The employer provides drinking water and food for all employees, as well as wash-basins, shower rooms, lavatories and 10 small accommodation rooms free of charge. However, there are no changing rooms, lockers or relaxing area. For health services, the employer provides personal protective devices, first-aid medicine cabinets and annual health check-up. There are 2 employees who have been trained in first-aid but first-aid equipments are not available. There are 2 safety officers, one of them is a professional safety officer.

Most employees conduct themselves well for work safety. Once they find any damaged equipments, tools, or appliances they will immediately send them for repair. They will also promptly report unsafe working condition to the foremen. However, there are a number of employees smoking while working. Safety promotion include reports by

employees to foremen or to the executives on working endangered occurrences, but observance of prohibition and danger-alerting postures is only moderately carried out.

The study recommends that the Plant executives should have precise policies and plans on work safety, orientate new employees on work safety, train all employees on work safety before commencing the work, develop handbooks on work safety, campaign for every employee to use personal protective devices, arrange for employees' annual health check-up and keep their continuous health records. As for the employees, they should strictly observe work safety rules and orders, and adjust their attitude concerning the use of personal protective devices, taking into account safety rather than conveniences.