

Analysis of workplace transport accidents

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Abstract

Every year 70 people are killed and a further 1000 are seriously injured through workplace transport accidents in the UK. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) of the United Kingdom have commissioned the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to undertake a scoping study to identify causal factors in workplace transport accidents and to suggest possible areas where intervention might be effective. Based on the analysis of 246 accident report forms and a review of existing research literature, a number of causal factors have been identified. Recommendations for intervention are made in the following areas: 'behavioural', 'workplace' and 'ergonomic'.

Background

Over seventy people a year die in vehicle accidents at work, making it the second largest cause of fatal accidents in the UK workplace. According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), four out of five of these accidents could be prevented (HSE, 2000).

Most transport related accidents involve people being struck by moving vehicles, falling from vehicles, being struck by parts of loads falling from vehicles or being injured as a result of vehicles overturning. Apart from the personal distress an accident causes, a relatively minor accident (for example, one which results in an employee being off work for only a few days) is likely to cost around £ 3500 (€ 2100) and a major accident (i.e. accidents which result in broken bones, amputations etc.) around £30 000 (€ 50,000), (HSE, 1996).

Introduction

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) commissioned the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to undertake a scoping study to identify causal factors in workplace transport accidents and to suggest possible areas where future intervention might be effective. The scoping study consists of three stages: (i). Analysis of a sample of workplace transport accident reports; (ii). a review of

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