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DETERMINING THE EFFECTS OF MATERIAL HANDLING SYSTEMS ON EMPLOYEE SAFETY IN THE HARARE MANUFACTURING SECTOR (2014).

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ABSTRACT

The study seeks to determine the effects of material handling systems on employee safety in manufacturing firms in Harare. A number of accidents are rapidly increasing due to abuse of material handling system. There has been a trend been risen of higher occupational injuries in manufacturing industries in Zimbabwe due to poor material handling systems. The rate at which injuries are reported are rapidly increasing and the blame is the use of manual material handling system depends on ergonomic material handling system. Hence the study seeks to establish whether companies using manual handling are at more risk holding other things constant. The study uses primary data which was obtained from (CZI) for manufacturing firms in Harare. In the quest to meet the objectives, the study uses the Ordinary Least Squares estimation method. A dummy variable was used in the study. The dependent variable is medical injuries and the independent variables are average age, average temperatures, working hours, safety trainings, presence hazards, protective clothing and material handling system. The results of the estimation model show that there is a negative relationship between material handling systems and medical injuries. We therefore conclude that to reduce accident manufacturing firm should concentrate on mechanical handling systems rather than manual because there are experiencing less accidents. Thus we recommend that the Occupational and health safety should continue to implement policy like safety trainings, use protective clothing, reducing number of working hours per employee, temperatures and recruiting young and energetic labour force.