

# GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PLANTATION INDUSTRY

Edited by  
Wong Ling Nguong  
Rusli Ahmad  
Norman Kawi



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Universiti Malaysia Sarawak  
Kota Samarahan

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## PREFACE

It is my honour and esteemed pleasure to give my note in this book entitled 'General Safety Guidelines for Plantation Industry'. I assumed that the objective of this book is to assemble input from various sources such as reading, teaching experience, research activities and practical ways of handling safety issues and its related activities. It is my hope that all parties involved to gain more exposure, knowledge and experience about the subject matter.

Safety should be a priority in any workplace. Accidents will happen at any time and can be prevented if everyone in the organisation or company is aware of the common workplace safety issues, and worked together to make the workplace safer. Workplace safety is an area of law concerned with preventing workplace-related injuries and illnesses. It is an alarming issues in nowadays context. Every year, millions of injury and illness and illnesses, thousands of deaths are reported annually in workplaces round the world and this becomes a heavy burden to workers, their families and society.

The employers, workers and the society are affected by occupational injuries significantly through their impact on medical costs, workplace productivity and pain and suffering associated with injuries. This may be due to lack of knowledge on hazard and appropriate work execution practices workers, who are new at the job, have higher accident rates than the experienced ones. And to provide knowledge and to provide protection from incident like injuries or illness to workers, in every occupational health and safety program, training and education is an essential part.

In 2013, the number of reported case of accidents increased by 3.26% in Malaysia , which was 61552 in 2012, and 56.48% of the total 63,557 accident cases occurred at the workplace. Meanwhile, investment for prevention of accidents is raised by 91% that is RM 4.31 million

in 2011 to RM 8.26 million in 2012 while the number of reported industrial accidents was reduced from 35,088 in 2011 to 34,974 in 2012 indicating a negligible drop of 0.003%. Even though the numbers of workplace accidents

decreased from the average number of workplace accident rate from 5.51 per 1,000 workers in 2011 to 5.39 in 2012, which is far away from the rate of a SME dominant industrialized country like Finland with which was 2.0-2.2 accidents per 1000 in 2011. Furthermore, in Malaysia, it is compulsory for every workplace site that employed more than forty employees, to have a safety and health committee. And this committee will be equipped with adequate knowledge of safety and health to manage or recommend safety at workplace. Whereas, this committee lacks in acceptable level knowledge of workplace safety and health quite significantly in associated training and promotion and emergency preparedness.

This book is very important as a basic guide to explore more on safety issues at the work place. This book is suggested to become a key reference or guidelines for students, managers and practitioners and others to understand systematically the important issues about safety procedures. It is hoped that students and the interested readers will make reference to this books to gain knowledge and skills that have more in-depth discussion of each topic. I wish to express my congratulations and appreciation to the authors for this positive effort.

**‘Safety is everybody’s business’**

Professor Dr Shahren Ahmad Zaidi Adruce  
Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development  
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Praise is to the God, the Beneficent, the Merciful, for giving us the strength and courage to complete this book. First and foremost, we would like to highlight that this book is an effort to share knowledge, skill and experience with others. This book aims to assemble input from various sources such as reading, website text, teaching experience, research activities and practical information on how to deal with safety issues at the work place especially for the oil palm plantation or industries. Various sources of data and information are assembled, simplified and rewritten in the course of preparing this book.

We hope this small contribution will give a lot of benefits to the interested parties to gain knowledge, experience, skill and expertise in the area of safety guidelines on the major task in oil palm industry. From this effort, we learnt a lot about how patience can make things happened. We also would like to highlight that nothing is impossible to achieve in this world. Working hard and smart coupled with the 'doa' and 'tawakkal' to God, things will work our way.

Wong Ling Nguong, Rusli Ahmad and Norman Kawi  
2019

# INTRODUCTION

The global demand for palm oil is increasing, thus triggering an increase in the global supply. This growing demand for palm oil is due to palm oil's relatively cheap price and flexible advantage both in edible and non-edible applications. As the world's second largest producer, Malaysia's palm oil industry is rising in complexity and successively making up about 30 percent of the world's palm oil output in 2015/2016 to thrive globally. However, sustainability and safety concerns are still the troublesome areas that all parties in this sector need to tackle, e.g. milling, refineries and oleochemicals.

The fact is that the farming industry has some of Malaysia's most risky workplaces with the second-highest injury rate of all industry sectors. The Department of Occupational Safety and Health Malaysia (DOSH) is working actively with the social partners to improve agricultural safety and health. More specifically, a "Health Culture" is where people work in a healthy manner and this is the way they like working.

While there are rules, guidelines and OSH management standards that provide safeguards for reliability, safety and health, such as OSHA 1994, FMA 1967, OHSAS 18001(ISO 45001:2018) and MS 1722, there is a relatively shortage of process safety in the palm oil industry as many catastrophic accidents were thought to be caused by process safety failures. Process safety management in the palm oil industry therefore needs to be improved to a level comparable to other industries such as chemical processes and oil and gas industries, so that significant hazard incidents can be avoided which can result in fatality, asset harm and environmental effects.

This booklet is intended to provide practical information on working safely, the legal duties of people managing plantations and advice on a variety of topics related to plantation health that may be useful to the palm oil industry.

# GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PLANTATION INDUSTRY

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This book is very important as a basic guide to explore more on safety issues at the work place especially for oil palm industry. This book is suggested to become a key reference or guidelines for students, managers and practitioners and others to understand systematically the important issues about safety procedures. It is hoped that students and the interested readers will make reference to this books to gain knowledge and skills that have more in-depth discussion of each topic.

**“Safety is everybody’s business”**



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