Risk perception: its roles and effects in using controls
Ayah Mohamed Nabil El Kenaney, 2013

ABSTRACT

Personnel handling chemicals in oil field industry are exposed to various chemicals like oxygen scavengers, biocides, corrosion inhibitors, cleaning chemicals, etc. Chemicals come in diverse forms and are injected into the system using different methods. This research explores a number of the factors that contribute to chemical handlers’ risk perception and subsequent effect on usage of control measures provided by their employer.

This study is a cross sectional research employing qualitative and quantitative approaches. The studied population consists of 355 chemical handlers, working at Ras Shoukier (RSH), an oil production, processing, storage and offloading facility in Egypt. The research was made up of two phases; questionnaire answering and phone interviews. A questionnaire was especially developed for this research, and is composed of 27 questions addressing different aspects of the research. The achieved questionnaire response rate was 80%. The interviews were done in Arabic, were semi-structured in nature for flexibility, and addressed issues emerging from the questionnaire responses. They were conducted with 46 chemical handlers. The questionnaire and the interviews responses were analysed using IBM SPSS. Over and above, some of the interview questions were qualitatively analysed using the Antecedent Behavior Consequence (ABC) model.

In light of the achieved results, one can conclude that the perceived risk of suffering from symptoms of contact dermatitis, respiratory irritation, and eye irritation is a contributor to proper usage of the control measures provided by the employer. Moreover, the results suggest that engagement in behavioural conversations and attendance of toolbox talks have an effect that cannot be ignored on behaviours determining proper usage of control measures.