

# **SIGNIFICANT WORKPLACE INJURIES AND DISEASES IN SRI LANKA**

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(138508G)



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
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Degree of Master of Science in Occupational Safety and

Health Management

Department of Building Economics

University of Moratuwa  
Sri Lanka

August 2016

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Science in Occupational Safety and Health Management

Department of Building Economics

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Sri Lanka

August 2016

## Declaration

I hereby declare that this is my own work and that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other university or institute of higher learning and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where acknowledgement has been made in the text.

.....  
A.W.M.B. Wijekoon

.....  
Date

## Certification

The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters Dissertation under my supervision.



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.....  
Ch.QS. H.S. Jayasena

.....  
Date

## Abstract

### Significant Workplace Injuries and Diseases in Sri Lanka

**Abstract:** The growth of the industrial sector has been a valuable element of the economic development strategies of many countries worldwide. However in industrial operations, there is a risk of accidents and diseases that can cause extensive harm to people, and incur huge costs. The victims need to be compensated in accordance with the Workmen's Compensation Act. This thesis presents the results of a study conducted to analyze the most significant accidents and diseases that occur in workplaces by considering the insurance claims made under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The study classifies different types of accidents, and compares and correlates their severity and frequency. During the analysis, different types of accidents that had taken place in workplaces were identified along with the most significant accidents among them. The correlation between the severity and the frequency of workplace accidents was also established. The frequency and time have a "positive linear relationship" with each other whereas severity has a "negative linear relationship" with time. The cost per accident (severity/ frequency) has a "negative linear relationship with time. With the rapid industrialization of the country, this subject has become an area that needs to be addressed early to keep up with the phase of development. Efforts made towards reducing the rate of severity/ frequency could be a good indication that the need to gradually improve workplace safety has been acknowledged. Therefore, this study is one of the important parameters that could be used to monitor the level of safety in a workplace. The ratio (cost/ accident) also could be used to benchmark a workplace against other workplaces. This study has also revealed that no compensation has been paid for occupational diseases, which raises a concern on the effectiveness of our national policy on workplace safety.

**Keywords:** Accidents, Diseases, Workmen's Compensation Act, Insurance, Cost, Workplace, Safety

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## List of Abbreviations

FIE	–	Factory Inspecting Engineer
CFIE	–	Chief Factory Inspecting Engineer
CPFs	–	Construction Project – Features
H & S	–	Health and Safety
ILO	–	International Labor Organization
LU	–	Labor Union
OSH	–	Occupational Safety and Health
OSHC	–	Occupational Safety and Health Committee
OIR	–	Occupational Injury and Illness Rate
OSHAS	–	Occupational Safety and Health Auditing System
PPE	–	Personal Protective Equipment
RTA	–	Road Traffic Accident
SLS	–	Sri Lanka Standards
UK	–	United Kingdom
WCI		Workmen's Compensation Insurance
WCO		Workmen's Compensation Ordinance



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