

Study on Work Environment in the Paint Industry

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Abstract

To upgrade the occupational safety and health status of industrial workers, a fact-finding study was conducted on seven (7) printing ink manufacturing and 20 paint manufacturing industries in Luzon. Work environment measurements focused on workplace air concentrations of acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, isopropyl alcohol, methyl isobutyl ketone, toluene, xylene and lead; noise and illumination. Results indicated that toluene was the sole component which exceeded its Threshold Limit Value; the filling area had a high occurrence rate of concentration index greater than 1; significant concentrations of lead in the pigment preparation areas were noted; the grinding area was the noisiest; 67% of all the paint establishments surveyed failed to meet the minimum lighting requirement; and lighting at the can-filling, labeling and packing areas were below the standard. Recommendations were given based on the evaluated results of the work environment measurements.