Study on Hazardous Substances: Their Nature, Use and Handling Procedures in Small Manufacturing Enterprises

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Abstract

Two hundred leather, chemical and fabricated metal establishments were surveyed with regards to the use, nature and handling procedures of hazardous substances. Result showed that:

- 93% of the chemicals used were supplied without material safety data sheet;
- Workers were not given precautionary instructions on the proper handling and use of chemicals, resulting from workers' exposure to vapors and solvents through splashing and spillages;
- Chemicals were repacked manually into smaller volumes in areas within the premises of their homes;
- Mechanical mixers were often used without cover;
- The wrong practice of washing hands with solvents like thinner and oil was likewise observed;
- Smoking is not prohibited in the workareas where flammable chemicals are used/handled.