

# Work Environment Improvement: A Case Study of a Paint Industry

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## **Abstract**

Improvement of working conditions in terms of occupational safety and health are always believed to be too costly. This case study therefore is aimed to demonstrate that significant improvement of the working environment can be made at very low cost. Work environment measurements were conducted in a paint factory for two months before and after low cost improvement have been provided. The management was convinced that with the provision of low-cost improvement the workers' health can be protected. This improvement tend to be simple and yet provide opportunities for immediate action. The improvement included: the fabrication of used metal drums into removable covers for mixers, rollers/grinders and sandmills; the use of ladles with longer handles in transferring materials from one container to another; the adoption of simple good housekeeping techniques; and, the proper handling of chemicals. It is hoped that the recommended control methods will encourage employers to consider improvement favorably. For long term improvement the recommended measure is the installation of local exhaust ventilation system for all process equipment. This is more efficient however the cost of installation is relatively high.