

Assessing the Safety and Health Condition of Child Labor in the Pyrotechnic Industry

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Abstract

A joint project with ILO-IPEC, the study aimed to determine OSH conditions of child labor in the pyrotechnics industry. The sample included 100 working children exposed to hazards, 83 school children not working in the pyrotechnics industry as control group and 32 adult workers with previous work experiences in their childhood. All were subjected to medical examinations. Selected working children and adult workers were also monitored for dust exposure concentration. Some 18 working stations were evaluated for safety. Results indicated minimal compliance with existing safety standards and legislation. Absence of safety practices in most work stations exposed workers to explosion and fire risks. Intestinal parasitism and primary tuberculosis infection were high among exposed children.

As part of the Center's response, information materials on OSH in the pyrotechnics industry have been developed. The OSH guide teaches safety and health tips to workers and owners using simple "ready-to-use" information and is available in English and Filipino.

The results of the study will provide guidelines to prevent accidents and injuries in the workplace of some 314 licensed pyrotechnics dealers and manufacturers.