

Fun Hazards in Discos: a Case Study

Research Paper No. 2005-02



Department of Labor and Employment
Occupational Safety and Health Center
North Avenue corner Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines



Management
System
ISO 9001:2015
www.tuv.com
ID 9105081680



Fun and Hazards in Discos: a Case Study

Abstract

This case study aims to identify and evaluate work environment hazards in discos. Workplace conditions and existing control measures adopted by the disco houses in maintaining noise and carbon monoxide from tobacco smoke at safe levels were identified.

A total of five discos located in Malate, Manila, Makati City and Libis Quezon City was selected for the case study. Interviews were conducted with twenty one respondents, composed of fifteen disco workers and six patrons. The respondents were given questionnaires to determine their socio-economic activities, personal lifestyles, duration and frequency of their exposure to noise and tobacco smoke, and health complaints or discomforts experienced upon exposure.

To determine the environmental stresses and their hazardous effects on worker's health, Work Environment Measurement was conducted in each disco. Noise levels and airborne concentrations of carbon monoxide coming from tobacco smoke were determined. The data obtained were compared with the Threshold Limit Values based from the Occupational Safety and Health Standards, Department of Labor and Employment.

At the time of measurement, the noise levels at strategic locations (e.g bar and disc jockey stations, patrons' positions, dance floors, and entrance doors) of the five disco houses ranged from 83 – 104 dB(A). Disco workers were exposed to high levels of noise throughout their entire shifts, normally lasting for eight hours. The disco patrons were exposed to excessive noise for an average of five hours per visit.

The ambient concentrations of carbon monoxide measured in the abovementioned areas ranged from 6- 21 ppm.

From this case study, it is evident that disco workers and patrons were exposed to excessive noise and carbon monoxide from tobacco smoke. This can be attributed mainly to the inadequacy of control measures adopted by the disco establishments. Further research should be conducted to assess other work environment hazards in discos, like inadequacy of illumination and ventilation and other chemical components of tobacco smoke. To minimize the exposure of disco workers and patrons to the environmental hazards, appropriate control measures should be implemented.