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Determination of Ergonomic Hazards at a Semiconductor Manufacturing Company: An Initial Study

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the ergonomic hazards faced by the production line employees of a semiconductor company in Malaysia. Prolonged standing could cause circulatory problem among factory workers. The objectives of this study were to determine the effect of prolonged standing during work, to assess the work method and to evaluate employees' awareness of ergonomic hazards. The risk identification process was conducted using observation and interview involving 50 employees to collect the empirical data regarding ergonomic hazards. The interview results revealed that a total of 17 workers were suffering from sore feet and 19 workers complained about their back pain. Nonetheless, based on the Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA) Ergonomic Risk Assessment indicators, the ergonomic hazards faced by the production line workers in the company were at an acceptable level. However, the interview data showed that the level of employees' awareness about ergonomic hazards is still low and proper strategies should be adopted by the company management to enhance the workers' ergonomic awareness.

Keywords: Ergonomic hazards, musculoskeletal disorders, manufacturing sector, risk assessment, Malaysia