

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

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From long time the occupational health and safety on work-place is matter of significant importance and evidence is given by laws that Europe has enacted. Recent developments introduced, inside laws too, risk assessment procedure and safety management systems whose specific contents were established extracting basic points by similar contexts. Necessarily the aim was and is to guarantee safe work conditions and to provide a health-observant workplace.

At the same time research efforts have studied and promoted innovative methods able to evaluate models of organization for companies of any size. One of these methods was produced by using the results of a collaboration among academic and company members of different cultural background (organizational-economic, legal and medical-psychological and engineering). This method tried to achieve the balance between two important features which are: the evaluation of systems and/or patterns of health and safety organization and management in workplace, and the ability to measure effectiveness in exempting the administrative liability (as included in Legislative Decree n. 231/2001, Italian Health and Safety laws).

The introduced measures of quantification consist of two different types of tools: check-lists and indicators. These tools are based on the tree structure of the model, represented in Fig. 2. In summary values given to check-lists and indicators allow to quantify themes and key-elements and to lay the foundation of a complete score, that means obtaining the index of global performance of the examined company (IPESHE index).

A detailed evaluation of the equation representing IPESHE requires to test consistent but theoretical considerations on actual workplaces of industries. Once the procedure is well established, its use allows to define the priority of interventions for improvements, so that the management process becomes more effective and efficient.



Fig.1 Workers in a evident non-safe condition.

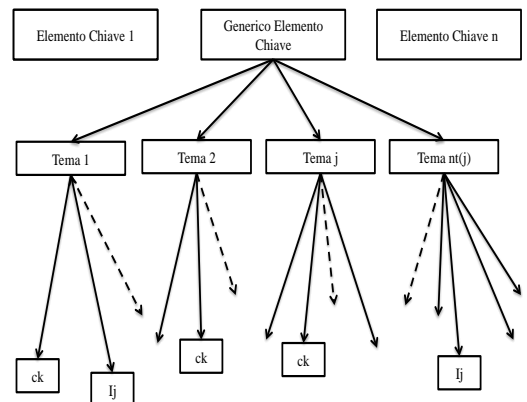


Fig.2 Tree-structure of the methodology that evaluates occupational management system.

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