

**ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES ON PREVENTION OF
OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS, WORKPLACE WOOD DUST CONCENTRATION AND
NOISE LEVEL AT NO.2 PLYWOOD FACTORY, YANGON REGION**

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ABSTRACT

Being a developing country, part national economy of Myanmar mainly depends on industry. Occupational safety free from hazards was paramount for well-being of any industrial worker. The operations of wood processing industry are generally associated with high levels of occupational hazards with consequent health risks. The main aim of the study was to explore the actual knowledge of industrial workers on occupational hazards, to study the practice of industrial workers on Personal Protective Equipments (PPE), to check out workplace compliance according to the checklist and to measure the noise and wood dust level at workplace. It was a cross-sectional descriptive study with 171 respondents only from production and engineering departments at No.2 Plywood Factory, Yangon. Semi-structured questionnaires, workplace compliance checklist were used as study tools and digital sound level meter and 3M Air Sampler were used as measurement tools. The data were analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists, version 16. According to the findings, mean age of respondents was 32.77 years with SD of 12.57 and 64% of respondents were in age group of 20-29 years. Female population represented two third of population and 52.7% of respondents had below high school education level. Few of the respondents (9.9%) had good knowledge level regarding occupational hazards and there was association between age, gender, service years, education level and level of knowledge ($p < 0.05$). Those worker who were male, passed high school, equal and above 30 years of age with service more than three years had good knowledge. Majority of the workers in the study area did not utilize PPE when operating machine or performing jobs. Workplace compliance level was poor in all sections (score of < 26.5 out of total 53) by using the compliance checklist in walk through survey. None of the sections exceeded the recommended exposure limit of noise level at workplace (85dB_L) and recommended exposure limit of particulate matter 4 (1mg/m³). Health and safety education as well as training and provision of PPE were therefore strongly recommended to prevent or minimize work related accidents, injuries and illness.