

Communication As A Parameter Of Control In The Level Of Preventive Action For Safety And Health In Construction Works

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Abstract

The assessing method of occupational hazards adapted to construction works called the Level of Preventive Action evaluates four of the risk control fight techniques: Safety at Work, Industrial Hygiene, Ergonomics and Psychosociology [1]. This evaluation is carried out in each of the environments of the building process: initial (or absolute) environment, documentary environment, constructive environment and social environment. The parameters of observation, according to the mathematical expression that defines this method, are the probability, the consequences, the geometry of the building, the edges of the building, the time of exposure to risk, the constructive means for safety and health systems, the participation. in the processes of safety and health, and level of satisfaction of workers [2]. The participation of all building agents and all workers, in the prevention systems of the building process, is the fundamental parameter of the Preventive Action Level method for the evaluation of occupational hazards in building works. Participation improves the physical and geometric characteristics of the design in the documentary environment of this process; in material resources, worker resources and work prevention systems in the construction environment; and in cooperation and the level of satisfaction of workers in the social environment of work.

The protocol of the Preventive Action Level determines different levels of preventive action control in the development of a construction site, based on technical observation and data collection regarding the safety, hygienic and ergonomic environment; and a psychosocial survey on site. The control levels identify the amount of preventive action required in each observation point evaluated and whose control bases are (Figure 1): exhaustive control (15-25), intensive control (9-15), greater control (5-9), more control (3-5), adequate control (1-3) and optimal control (0-1). The fundamental factor for optimal control in risk prevention is the participation of workers. Being the participation the corrective parameter, of the preventive action control bases, more efficient. Intrinsicly, communication is implicit to participation. New communication strategies must be established that adapt to the conditions of the construction processes.

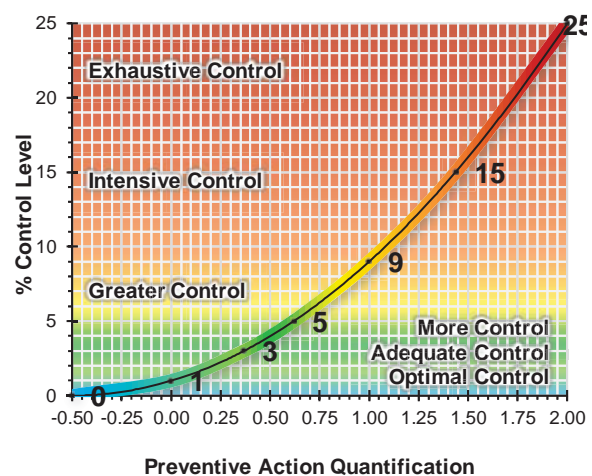


Fig. 1: Bases control of preventive action.



Fig. 2: Comunicación grupal.

There is an extensive bibliography on the study of communication systems between individuals and groups (Figure 2), and in different contexts within the business framework [3]. Implementing different models of business management in Occupational Health and Safety [4]; establishing, among others, the costumes as a determining element in non-verbal communication [5]; communication through public relations and publicity [6]; the analysis of the organizational climate; acquisition of new communication skills and attitudes; awareness of environmental

management systems [7]; emotional states as necessary and intrinsic elements to the behaviour of people and social groups, etc.

It is essential to establish the conditions of safety climate in the different work environments of the building process, observing the attitude and perception regarding the safety and health of workers. Encouraging participation involves communicating with workers and building agents, so communication becomes one of the fundamental parameters to transmit the different levels of control of preventive action of the method. The aim is to mitigate the overconfidence of construction workers, increase levels of autonomy, increase the climate of safety and job satisfaction through the participation of people involved in the development of a building, in all stages and environments of it.

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