

The Impact of Human Factors on the Product Safety

Steli LOZNEN

Israel Testing Laboratories Ltd., Israel
sloznen@ieee.org

Abstract

Human factors are all those things that enhance or improve human performance in the workplace. As a discipline, human factors are concerned with understanding interactions between people and other elements of complex systems. Human factors apply scientific knowledge and principles as well as lessons learned from previous incidents and operational experience to optimize human wellbeing, overall system performance and reliability. The discipline contributes to the design and evaluation of organizations, tasks, jobs and equipment, environments, products and systems. It focuses on the inherent characteristics, needs, abilities and limitations of people and the development of sustainable and safe working cultures. Situations where human error contributes to major incidents are often a consequence of inappropriate organizational arrangements or breakdowns in operational working practices. The main purpose of this paper is to bridge the gap between critical human tasks which are defined as those activities which people are expected to perform as barriers against the occurrence of an incident, or to prevent escalation in the event of an incident does occur and the principle of Product Safety. They include activities required to support or maintain physical and technological barriers.

Keywords: Safety, Ergonomics, Operator and Service, Human Factors

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