

Improving the Work Safety System in the Factory

Nountex Co., Egypt

IN BRIEF

It is a family company established at 1938 with a single company. By year 1959 the company's activity has turned to be a big industrial company managed by Hajj Mohamed Nounou, and the company's activity become in the industry of the textile, and clothes made of cotton, wool, and tricko. Nountex company with its 3 factories resident in "Abbaseyah, Sahel Road El Farag, and the 10th of Ramadan" has become one of the biggest companies specialized in the (Tricko) industry with its three kinds "circular, flat, and wrap knitting" in addition to producing all kinds of needle looms. The company started exporting in April 1994, now the exporting rate achieved a ratio of 15 % of the products.

PREMA programme: PREMA Egypt Programme for textile sector, January-June 2007. It was a complete PREMA programme of 4 modules: GHK, EoCM1, EoCM2 and Integration, in addition to three network meetings. The enterprise implemented 5 measures, and has some other measures to implement.

The measure in concern was to improve the work safety plan in the factory by introducing some new rules, improving the safety and construction signs, and doing some safety experiments.

THE PROBLEM AND ITS CAUSES

The health and safety system inside the factory was not good, and needed to be improved. This had bad effects on the workers health, which lead to increasing the sick-leave days of the workers. Also, the workers didn't care much on the cleanliness of the workplace.

APPLICATION OF PREMA[®] (GHK + EoCM)

This measure was discovered during the GHK WS. The company visit and the GHK guide were helpful to discover this weakness.

*Logo of the
respective
PREMA module*

ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE ENTERPRISE

Following measures were implemented to overcome this weakness:

1. Hiring a consultant in workplace health and safety to improve the company system.
 2. Constructing a health and safety team to work with this consultant.
 3. Some real experiments were conducted in the factory.
 4. Improving and renewing of the safety equipment and the signs inside the workplace.
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ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Expected reduction of the workers sick leaves will increase their productivity. However, it is not easy to calculate the economical benefits of this measure.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

ORGANISATIONAL BENEFITS

Participation of all the workers in the safety experiments, and in some parts of this training will increase the organizational capacities in the company.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND WORKPLACE SAFETY

Better work environment for the workers in the company. In addition to increasing the awareness of the workers regards the importance to workplace safety and cleanliness.

INFORMATION ON THE ENTERPRISE

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Number of employees in the three factories is 260. The capital of the company is EGP 13 millions. Total sales in 2006 were EGP 22 millions.

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