

Improving the 'Safe to Work' Programme Initiative for Contracting Firms in the Energy Sector of Trinidad and Tobago

Kevin Hassanali

Advance Foam Limited, Orange Grove Estate, Orange Grove, Tacarigua, Trinidad, West Indies
E-mail: kevin@adfoam.com

(Received 21 January 2013; Revised 15 July 2013; Accepted 13 August 2013)

Abstract: *In 2011, the 'Safe To Work' (STOW) certification scheme was launched to pre-qualify contractors with health, safety and environmental (HSE) requirements in the energy sector of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). This paper investigates into the improvement of the current STOW structure incorporating concepts and theories relating to HSE, and advocates a project management approach for facilitating contracting firms with their STOW implementation in T&T. The current STOW structure was enhanced, and a proposed framework for a STOW-Safety Management System (SMS) was derived. Empirical data was acquired via survey and interviews, and statistical analysis was performed. Based on the empirical evidence, the proposed STOW-SMS framework would provide a viable template for improving the HSE functionality of contracting firms. The framework was also premised on contracting firms to better manage the tendering process in the energy sector. It is anticipated that the STOW initiative and the proposed framework could be applicable to other industries in public and private sectors in T&T, as well as a wider context of the Caribbean region.*

Keywords: *STOW, SMS, contracting firms, energy sector, Framework, Trinidad and Tobago*