

### SAFE TIME

#### Make It Safe



by Ir. Shum Keng Yan

**THIS** month, we will look at Part 5 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 on the General Duties of Designers, Manufacturers and Suppliers for:

- 1) Section 20: Plant for use at work; and
- 2) Section 21: Substances for use at work.

In Section 20, the plant (e.g. machinery, equipment, appliance, tool and its attachments) needs to be:

- 1) designed,
- 2) constructed, and
- 3) tested (examined)

to ensure that it is safe when used properly. This entails conducting proper research and providing proper instructions on its safe use to the client.

In Section 21, the focus is on substances (both natural and artificial) for use at work, and we commonly refer to these as chemicals. The substance can be formulated, manufactured, imported or supplied. The substance should be safe when properly used, handled, processed, stored or transported. The duties cover conducting proper

research, testing and providing sufficient information (mainly through Material Safety Data Sheets or Chemical Safety Data Sheets).

As you can see, this group brings in new “items” into the process. They have a special role in ensuring that the plant and substances can be used properly without risk to safety and health.

In summary, we have looked at the key accountabilities, roles and responsibilities of Employers, Employees, Contractors and Designers/Manufacturers/Suppliers.

Share your design safety experience with us at [pub@iem.org.my](mailto:pub@iem.org.my). ■

*My favourite part of the Material Safety Data Sheet is a common phrase in Section 13: Disposal Considerations: “Dispose in accordance with appropriate Federal, State and local regulations.” I suppose it is common sense for the layman to know the Federal, State and local regulations!*

#### CONDOLENCES

We regret to inform that **Engr. Chang Wei Chung (G 24982)** and **Ir. Chan Weng Chiu (F 00209)** had passed away on 15 December 2010 and 16 February 2011 respectively. On behalf of the IEM Council and management, we wish to convey our deepest condolence to their family members and would like to acknowledge their past support and contribution to the Institution.

#### ERRATA

Amendments to Q2 of Section B Essay (1.1.2011) for the Professional Interview.

##### Questions on Regulations on Professional Conduct

- 2) You are assigned by your employer to prospect an area for an extractable material. However, in the course of your work, you discover no such object material but some other valuable material which your employer is not interested. On the other hand, the information which you have is of great importance to the adjoining interest. As an engineer, can you release the particular information which you have to the other party so that the other valuable material may be explored? Please discuss taking into consideration provisions of the IEM Regulations on Professional Conduct.