

**ABSTRACT****Complying with the Factories Ordinance: A Study of Industrial Accidents in Trinidad and Tobago****Colin Gaskin**

Statistical data reveal an increase in occupational accidents over the past four years with particularly high frequencies in the Food Processing and Drink Industries. This trend can only be exacerbated by the present health and safety legislation, which has become increasingly incapable of dealing with the new hazards engendered by industrial expansion and diversification.

This investigation was directed as an exploratory study of twenty-five (25) major food and drink manufacturing firms. One hundred (100) questionnaires were distributed to factory workers with a view to evaluate their knowledge, attitude and perception with regard to industrial safety. The likelihood of such employees operating within the boundaries imposed by the Factories Ordinance and the proposed Occupational Safety and Health Bill was consequently gauged.

Though most of the respondents expressed a propensity to comply with legislative provisions, there was evidence to suggest a lack of effective training programmes in these organizations. This was verified by the inadequate awareness of some critical health and safety themes and significant deviation from safe systems of work. The onus must lie on the employer to develop and implement higher standards of health and safety performance.

**Keywords:** Colin Gaskin; Legislation; Health and Safety; Accidents; Trinidad and Tobago.