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An investigation into the use of safety risk management to improve project parameters in the construction industry in South Africa

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Abstract

Construction industry has for many years developed a very bad reputation for coping with project schedule, cost, quality and safety. Not only does construction industry deliver expensive buildings late, it contributes to disproportionate numbers of work-related injuries and fatalities as well. Project safety risk management is acknowledged as one of the techniques that can be implemented on construction projects to enhance performance of the construction contractors in South Africa. This research report investigates the use of project safety risk management by contractors, and evaluates the relationship that exists between project safety risk management and project parameters relative to schedule, cost, quality and safety in the construction industry in South Africa.

The research report adopted empirical study in order to achieve the objectives. An in depth literature review was carried out in order to identify safety project management processes that can be used by construction contractors. To establish how project safety risk management is currently being implemented in the South African construction industry and its importance to projects parameters, a research question was developed based on the information from literature review. The research questionnaire was sent out to 101 construction contractors in the Gauteng province of South Africa. Fifty eight (58) contractors completed the questionnaire.

The study has established that positive relationship exists between projects safety risk management and project parameters in the construction industry in South Africa. This study recommends that construction contractors in South Africa should proactively implement project safety risk management processes in order to improve projects performance. Furthermore, the study recommends that project safety risk management should not be implemented only during the construction phase by contractors, but should be implemented on all phases of the project cycle by all the stakeholders including clients and professional team.