Abstract

The development of age-friendly occupational health and safety guidelines

Objectives:

To develop age-friendly occupational health and safety guidelines in rapidly aging Korea.

Methods and contents:

1) Evaluation of age-friendly occupational health and safety policies and regulations in developed countries by literature review

2) Selection of 15 occupations in which aged workers occupies major proportion of the workforce by in-depth analysis of labor DB.

3) Evaluation of occupational health and safety hazards of aged workers and the prevention measures in specified 15 occupations by comprehensive questionnaires.

4) Evaluation of occupational health and safety hazards of aged workers and work conditions in specified 15 occupations by interview.5) Development of age-friendly occupational health and safety guidelines on the specified occupations.

Results:

We selected 15 occupations in which aged workers occupies major proportion of the workforce by in-depth analysis of labor DB as KSCO three digit-occupation, Cleaner and Sanitation Workers (941), Guards and Ticket Examiners (942), Automobile Drivers (873), Food Related Elementary Workers (952), Medical and Welfare Related Service Workers (421), Construction and Mining Elementary Workers (910), Domestic Chores and Infant Rearing Helper (951), Chefs and Cooks (441), Production Related Elementary Workers (930), Construction Related Technical Worker (772), Store Sales Workers Finishing Related Technical (521), Construction Workers (773), Deliverers (922), Textile and Leather Related Workers (721), and Welders (743).

We also benchmarked age-friendly occupational health and safety policies and regulations in developed countries such as USA, Canada, EU, and Japan.

Hazards and work-related diseases in the specified occupations were evaluated with analysis of workers' compensation DB, and Korean Working Conditions Surveys (KWCS). Aged workers were mainly exposed to ergonomic hazards, and thery suffered from slip, trip, and fall-related injuries and work-related musculoskeletal disorders. These work-related injuries and diseases are due to decline in some functional capacities (mainly physical and sensory). Interviews and questionnaires showed that age-related work accomodation were rarely made. Therefore we developed age-friendly occupational health and safety guidelines to promote employment of aged workers and their health and safety.

Key words:

aged workers, aging, occupational health and safety guidelines, occupational slip, trip, and fall, work ability