CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Operation of building and engineering work of the construction industry in Malaysia has achieved significant progress in recent years and the increase in their activities affect the safety and health of the people. Construction site creates the risk not only for construction workers, but also for people who move around the site or who may live adjacent to them.

Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in Malaysia is Act which provides the legislative framework to secure the safety, health and welfare among all Malaysian workforces and to protect others against risks to safety or health in connection with the activities of persons at work gazetted on 24th February 1994 by Malaysian Parliament. OSHA has issued Guidelines for Managing the voluntary protection program to encourage employers to do more than just comply with regulations to prevent injuries and occupational diseases. Increasing of Occupational accidents at construction site which is probably due to lack of safety culture and noncompliance of OSHA requirements (1994) (Hui-Nee: 2014). The scope of OSHA was made to covers all persons at work in both private and public sectors except on board ships and the armed forces. Occupational Health
and Safety regulations are expected to positively impose penalties in the presence of unsafe working conditions for employers who do not comply with standards (Hui-Nee:2014).

According to Record of DOSH, there are 49,883 accidents at work placed reported during the period of 2012 to March of this year with 664 fatalities recorded. Deputy Human Resources Minister which is Datuk Ismail Abd. Muttalib said, the sectors involved in workplace accidents is manufacturing and construction, manufacturing, mining, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport and services to the public. For accidents at construction sites, the number of cases reported in the period from 2009 to 2013 was 15,419 cases which are 14,946 were injured while 473 fatalities. He emphasized that the government is revising upwards the penalties on employers and contractors who are found guilty and enforce and audit security acts in order to prevent accidents in the workplace.

However, the contractor or an employer will appoint a safety officer to cover all expenses and responsibilities related to the safety and health of workers at construction sites. Safety Officer is appointed and employed by the main contractor in addition to helping for ensures the safety and health of the construction site. One of the responsibilities of a Safety Officer is to ensure that all activities and works carried out at the construction site must comply with all OSHA regulations and requirements. This study is to analyse the challenges of OSHA requirements at construction site for perspective Safety Officer.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

In general, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) have been introduced by government agencies which is Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to parties involve in construction. Various methods have been implemented for conducting and practice OSHA in construction site. The reason of these initiatives is to reduce the accidents from occurring. However there are many deficiency and constraints that occur in implementation safety and health at construction site.
There many issues were raised in implementation of OSHA requirements at construction site. As a Safety Officer, ensure the project follow all the OSHA requirements is the main of his/her responsibility. Not only for Safety Officer but all parties that take apart in works and activities at construction should aware about safety and health. The OSHA requirements are appoint the parties and their responsibility in safety and health section. The problem that will inextricably in this study is to identify whether Safety Officer had any challenges in ensuring all parties follow and carry out their responsibly as has been specified in OSHA requirements.

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of this research are as follow:

i) To identify the OSHA requirement that gives the most challenges.

ii) To identify the factors that influent OSHA requirement as challenging task.

iii) To study how that factors can give influent to the OSHA requirement.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.4.1 Which one of Occupational Safety and Health Acts requirements are challenges to implement at construction site?

1.4.2 What are the factors that influent Occupational Safety and Health Acts requirements as challenges?