CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research background

The involvement of government in worker safety has gone through major changes in past 200 years. During the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century employer where seldom held responsible for the work related injuries of their employees. The common law defences of assumption of risk (the workers knew the job was dangerous), contributory negligence (the worker's action helped cause the accidents), and the fellow workers doctrine (the accident where precipitated by another worker, not the employer) gave considerable relief to employer. Thus the industrial worker often responsible for their own job-site well-being and for any injuries they might receive during the course of their employment. (Jimmie W. Hinze, 1997). The number of industrial accidents reported to the Social Security Organization (SOCSO) has declined by 35 percent from 1995 to 2003. SOCSO had received 114,134 reports on industrial accidents in 1995 and in 2003, the number had reduced to 73,858 cases. However, the number of fatalities arising from industrial accidents for the same period only marginally decreased by 0.7 per cent from 828 in 1995 to 822 in 2003 (SOCSO, 2001). Over the years, the construction industry has consistently been among those industries with the higher injury and fatality rates. (Jimmie W. Hinze, 1997). The number of construction accidents for the same period on the other hand has increased by 5.6 per cent from 4,406 cases in 1995 to 4,654 cases in 2003. In addition, the fatality rate has increased by 58.3 per cent from 60 cases in 1995 to 95 cases in 2003. The fatality rate from construction accidents are among the highest compared to the overall industry (NSTP, 2000).
By far the largest category is falls, which include people falling from one level to another, people falling at the same level and plant and material falling including a structure or part of a structure collapsing and striking, crushing or burying people. Each year 70-80% of all fatalities and 35-40% of all injuries may be attributed to this cause.

An incident is defined as an unintentional and undesirable event that may or may not result in an injury, and an incident that results in an injury or fatality is defined as an accident. This definition clearly indicates that the occurrence of a construction incident is a random event caused by such factors as window of accident opportunity, chance, and luck, which are frequently mentioned in the incident causation literature (Ramsey 1985; Sanders and Shaw 1988; Reason 1990; McKinnon 2000).

Accidents which is classified into two categories, direct (immediate) and indirect (distant) causes. The direct causes refer to causes which have an immediate effect on workers safety condition example structural failures and insufficient PPE. Nevertheless, what gives room for this unsafe condition on site depends on indirect causes such as poor organization and economic concern (Rita Yi Ma Lin & Sun Wah Poon, 2013).

Accident in construction industry still occurs even with the enforcement of safety. Workers fail to follow the proper procedures for minimizing hazard and the safety guideline in site. Even the best site management of safety cannot prevent all accident without the discipline from workers that performing the job able to fulfil and follow the right instruction in using the equipment. In this research the case study is focused on the comparative between guideline and actual practice of Safety procedures in site in perspective of PPE.

1.2 Problem statement

Accidents occurring at the construction site in Malaysia recorded a worrying increase in numbers by the Social Security Organization and with the unpredictable
accident reported this industry have captured attention and concern from both government and non-government. Based on the report recorded by DOSH top five categories of fatalities in construction site that cause hazard is falls, electrocutions, vehicles rollover, personal run over by vehicles and excavation caveins. The practice of safety guidelines in perspective of PPE with the smallest differential in adoption of actual practice contribute on the occurrence of accidents and its frequencies in Malaysia.

The most communities would conclude that the employers are at fault based on methods and ways these accidents occurred. Others believe it is the attitudes and recklessness of the workers themselves that caused these accidents by not following the safety guidelines. Besides safety issue always considered second behind time, quality and cost that are always as main factor. Hectic schedule that result workers careless, irresponsible attitudes and workers negligence.

1.3 Research Aims and Objectives

The aim of this research is to understand the comparative studies between guidelines and actual practice. The following are the objectives in this research

1. To determine factors why workers not follow safety guidelines in perspective of PPE
2. To propose method minimize Occupational Safety and Health issue

1.4 Scope and limitations

The scope of this research is based on a current construction project in Setapak area. Case study method is used to determine the application of Personal Proactive equipment in actual practice of safety following DOSH guideline by the workers in construction site that might contribute to the numbers of hazard in site. The case study is explanatory in context practice of safety procedures among workers in site following DOSH guidelines. This study is limited to the person that responsible for safety on site, to determine application of PPE (Personal proactive equipment).