Role Analysis for Improved Occupational Safety and Health in the USA and Australia
Brian Kleiner¹, Helen Lingard², Andrew McCoy¹, Nick Blismas², Thom Mills¹, and Ron Wakefield²
¹Virginia Tech, USA; ²RMIT, Australia

Introduction: In the construction sector, Australia’s fatalities per 100,000 workers is approximately one third of the USA rate. NIOSH in the USA funded a five year comparative study that was recently completed. This paper reports the results of Aim 2, which focused on assessing how different roles in the construction supply chain perceive hazards.

Method: Researchers collected data from designers, constructors and other key roles in the supply chain in each country. Actual photographs of prospective construction hazards were used in a card sort methodology.

Results: The Q method was employed. Data were statistically analysed within and between countries.

Discussion: Results suggested that roles in the supply chain do not exhibit different risk perception using a hazard identification platform. Implications for moving safety decision making upstream to design using a collaborative approach, are discussed.

Keywords Role Analysis, Construction, Safety and Health