Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol use and misuse: What are the contributions of occupation and work organization conditions?

Version: 4 Date: 12 May 2008

Reviewer: Paul Hewson

Reviewer's report:

I find the paper a little unclear on the methodology.

As far as I can see, the "chi square tests" are being used as an overall assessment of model fit. It isn't too clear to me what is going on, and I feel that this should be set out more carefully, with appropriate referencing. I also feel it would be useful to have a little more information about the model building strategy, which variables were excluded and why, which were included and why, and comparative measures of model fit for these models during the model fitting process. These seems to be particularly important in relation to gender and terms allowing gender to interact with other variables.

Is it not possible to provide wald statistics for the various model parameters, so that we have some idea of significance with a control for the issues raised by referee 1?

Finally, I do feel that Referee 1’s main comment deserves attention. A lot of the theory around Neyman-Pearson type significance testing was developed on much smaller sample sizes, and I’m not sure that there really is a theory yet for very large samples. Great care therefore should be exercised with odds ratios that are significant, but very small. Personally, my definition of an interesting odds ratio is lower than referee 1’s, but certainly the rather small odds ratio for smoking does need careful handling.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.