Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence and predictors of onboard injuries among Sri Lankan flight attendants

Version: 1 Date: 4 May 2009

Reviewer: Alana Harrington

Reviewer's report:

This paper does provide interesting information regarding injuries for flight attendants in Sri Lanka. This paper will be useful when addressing occupational injuries in this particular work environment and provides useful information around the experiences of employees working in a developing nation. That being said there are a number of changes that need to be addressed prior to the publication of this paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

• Please indicate the population that was used to calculate your injury rates. It is not clear if the entire population of current flight personnel for the airline was used or another group.

• The use of a 95% CI is unnecessary for the injury incident as this should be an exact number and not an estimated one. Clarification of calculation and why a range is presented should be justified (i.e. the calculated number for those surveyed but the range estimate for the entire population).

• For the logistic regression the way the data is presented suggests that all ethnic groups were grouped and Moor was the referent. A stratified ethnic analysis would be better as almost 70% of the participants are Sinhalese and this is likely driving the relationship and potentially masking other impacts.

• For the logistic regression weight but not height was included in the regression. Since a large portion of injuries are due to lifting/stretching, and females are typically smaller in stature than males this would be important to include in the regression model if available. There is potential for females to have to reach more due to their smaller stature, which could be explained in part by their height.

Minor Essential Revisions:

• Please indicate what cut-off was used for inclusion in the final regression model (i.e. p <0.1 or 95% CI etc.).

• For the descriptive information (Table 1):
  o Please stratify demographic information by group (i.e. injured and not
injured). It is important to see if there are any characteristic differences between these groups.

- Please include all descriptive information (i.e. weight was used in the regression model but not reported in the characteristics table as was ergonomics training status).

- The English needs to be corrected in a few spots of the paper (i.e. page 4, paragraph 3; occupational injuries being a major part of global injury burden, it is important to know...)

- Sources of for information presented in the introduction are required (i.e. page 4, paragraph 2; majority of these studies are from developed...)

- The paper should address the response rate – although a power calculation was performed to ensure an appropriate number of people were surveyed a response rate would provide useful information.

- In the limitation section, please address the potential for those who participated in the study to do so because they had experienced past injuries and wanted them documented etc.

Discretionary Revisions:

- Including the total number of participants in the tables would be useful for readers.

- For the table presenting the logistic regression indication of the outcome (any injury) would be useful.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.