

# Waste Management Risks and Opportunities Identification in Malaysia TVET Institution

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**Abstract:** *Rising amount of generated waste is an increasing concern for the future generation potentially at risk. The purpose of this research was to identify the risks and opportunities associated with waste management practices in Malaysia TVET Institution as per requirements under ISO 9001:2015 Clause 6.1. Using Risk-Based Thinking (RBT), Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) and SWOT Analysis, this research analyzed the hazardous events of managing Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Hazardous Waste (HW). The risks associated with MSW divided into 5 categories; human damage, climate pollution, soil, air and water contamination. Whereas, HW risks US EPA characteristics were ignitable, corrosive, reactive and toxic. The findings presented in Risk Matrix (High, Medium or Low level), revealed that the top ranking risk for MSW was fatal diseases and misplacing SW4 for HW. The research recommended more ground works in RBT application as it involves thorough look at workplace to establish a most-to-least-critical importance ranking.*

**Keywords :** *Hazardous Waste, ISO 9001:2015, Municipal Solid Waste, Risk-Based Thinking*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Poor garbage waste management is a sore to the eye and not only affects the nature aesthetic value but economy as well. Improper waste dumping comes with really harmful effects, some of which may be felt earlier while others take time. In 2017, Malaysian Government launched Green-Blue Packaging (GB). The aim of this initiative was to ensure that polythene food containers are replaced, having been observed to be non-biodegradable. With toxic chemicals associated with these containers, the initiative strived to minimize environmental pollution (that had come in the form of sewerage and drainage system choking) [2]. In order to attain the objectives of the National Waste Management strategies, the cornerstone of a quality organization is an effective Quality Management System (QMS). ISO 9001 is the most widely used and recognized standard for QMS internationally [4].

In 2017, there came the QMS, which was an alternative version to the Malaysian Standard MS ISO 9001:2015. Governed by the Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM), this version replaced ISO 9001:2008, a former version.

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Regarding the process of organizing accreditation and certification, the Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) plays an important and leading role towards the implementation of these procedures. Notably, QSM called for the implementation of Clause 6.1, which requires that Risk-Based Thinking (RBT) is adopted. Particularly, the clause provides room for the implementation of several actions through which opportunities and risks are addressed. Also, the actions are expected to be proportionate to the impact that they are likely to have on product and service conformity. Poor garbage waste management is a sore to the eye and not only affects the nature aesthetic value but economy as well. Improper waste dumping comes with really harmful effects, some of which may be felt earlier while others take time. In 2017, Malaysian Government launched Green-Blue Packaging (GB). The aim of this initiative was to ensure that polythene food containers are replaced, having been observed to be non-biodegradable. With toxic chemicals associated with these containers, the initiative strived to minimize environmental pollution (that had come in the form of sewerage and drainage system choking) [2]. In order to attain the objectives of the National Waste Management strategies, the cornerstone of a quality organization is an effective Quality Management System (QMS). ISO 9001 is the most widely used and recognized standard for QMS internationally [4].

Imperative to highlight is that formal methods through which risk management systems could be documented (or implemented) are not accounted in the ISO 9001:2015 standard [1].

Risk is uncertainty that matters and may impact any of product or service objectives. This impact can be positive (opportunities) and negative (threats). The Chinese word, for risk is wēijī 危机, signifying “danger” and “opportunity” [3]. Referring to ISO 9001:2015 Clause 6.1, the new requirement RBT requires organizations to ensure that opportunities and risks that are likely to pose negative or positive effects on management system performance and operation are identified. Technically, the forecasting by practicing risk management: identification, assessment, prioritization and planning precautionary actions to mitigating or avoiding the risks

The main problem faced by organizations was ISO 9001:2015 does not prescribe a risk methodology which means they are free to adopt their own approach. The intent was that each organization assessing their own unique risks and opportunities. In other words, “is to do whatever is

right for your business”. It is also notable that there exist different methodologies but for the case of ISO 9001:2015, formal risk management is not necessary; neither does this methodology emphasize specific approaches for achieving risk identification and the documentation of the results. It is up to each organization to determine the extent of documentation needed to provide objective evidence of the RBT application. Moreover, the multiplicity of sources and methods makes it difficult to compile one compact and efficient preventive action process [7].

## II. OBJECTIVE

Since many concerns have been raised about the challenges of no standardization in new revised QMS, this research applying RBT approach as required in MS ISO 9001:2015. The objective in this research was to identify the risks and opportunities associated with waste management practices in the Malaysia TVET Institution.

## III. METHODOLOGY

Research background: Notably, this study is limited in a certain way. In particular, the aspect of Quality Management Team (QMT) may be interacted by following the procedure of government protocol and not the ISO business practice guidelines. Assumptions were the QMT had high level of environmentally awareness and practicing proper waste management on daily basis. The interest of these parties is seen to lie in idea generation but the enforcement of the perceived orders remains questionable and relatively wanting. This study’s research context was a TVET organization. The choice of this institution was based on training workshops that it holds relative to industrial skills; especially on subjects such as hazardous waste and municipal solid waste disposal. Indeed, the institution, through these workshops, gains exposure to different subjects on risks such as leachate, gaseous, bugs, infections, toxic effects and injuries from improper waste management.

Research Location: Imperatively to note is that the specific area that was chosen to gain data entailed a public vocational institute. Specifically, information was gained from a public TVET institution. The Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia (MOHR) was in charge of this institution. Founded in 1964, the organization rests on 13.7 acres of land. Geographically, it lies 3°05'33.1"N, 101°41'13.5"E in Kuala Lumpur’s Kuchai Lama area (see Figure 1). With 577 students and a staff of 182 individuals, 12 courses are offered in the institution (by 2018) [5].

## IV. CONCLUSION

Rising amount of generated waste is an increasing concern for the future generation potentially at risk. The purpose of this research was to identify the risks and opportunities associated with waste management practices in Malaysia TVET Institution as per requirements under ISO 9001:2015

Clause 6.1. Using Risk-Based Thinking (RBT), Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) and SWOT Analysis, this research analyzed the hazardous events of managing Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Hazardous Waste (HW). The risks associated with MSW divided into 5 categories; human damage, climate pollution, soil, air and water contamination. Whereas, HW risks US EPA characteristics were ignitable, corrosive, reactive and toxic. The findings presented in Risk Matrix (High, Medium or Low level), revealed that the top ranking risk for MSW was fatal diseases and misplacing SW4 for HW. The research recommended more ground works in RBT application as it involves thorough look at workplace to establish a most-to-least-critical importance ranking.

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