CHAPTER 5

HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

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The function of a safety director or safety engineer in industry is to assist line management in achieving maximum production by limiting the number of disabling accidents which occur as a result of the failure of some unit in the industrial process This unit could be the equipment, materials, or methods used, the safety devices, or the individual worker To do his job properly, the safety man must make the worker conscious of the importance of safety, either as a goal in itself or as a means to some other goal Consequently, a major portion *of safety work lies in the realm of* human relations

The importance of the other facets of a sound safety program must not, of course, be minimized The safety man is also concerned with safe plant layouts, safety devices on machines and use of such devices by employees, the wearing of safe clothing and use of protective equipment, all of which contribute to the reduction of disabling accidents

When, however, in spite of every precaution on the part of the manufacturer of equipment, the supplier of materials, the supervisor, and the safety man accidents are caused, the human element emerges as an important factor It takes working with supervisors, foremen, and other line management as well as individual employees before the safety man is rewarded by better accident reduction

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This chapter was revised by the original author Howard C Klopp, Dean of Bogan Junior College, Chicago, based upon reviews by selected members of the National Safety Council