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Safety, Security, Health and Environment Law

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This book deals with a series of important questions. The title makes it very attractive for anyone interested in the analysis of risk in relation to security, environment and health, principally because these topics are combined in original ways and also because the book deals with an under-researched area. On the one hand only a few studies have been carried out on risk management and on the other hand researchers often analyse these questions separately. As a result, it represents an important contribution to law, health and environmental management literatures.

Written in six parts, the book has a practical approach which will allow both academics and practitioners to find a lot of important information in order to increase security and to manage risks, learning from the Australian experience. In the first chapter, the author introduces the issues of legal frameworks in safety, security, health and environment and justifies the selection of those fields of studies. Occupational security law which is defined as "*the body of law concerned with the regulation of corporate activity impacting on terrorism and threats to security*" (p.36) is analyzed in the second chapter through the analysis of legislation and case summaries regarding critical infrastructures such as rail security, security of sensitive dangerous goods and chemicals, maritime transport, aviation securities and finally "security risk management" (p.77). The third chapter which concerns general Security, Safety, Health and Environment (SSHE) duties deals with what is called the "meaning of reasonably practicable" (p. 91) and, especially the relationship between reasonable practicability and risk management should undoubtedly be supplemented by some theoretical knowledge. Consequently, it may be useful to define more precisely the content of these fields which are composed of several practices so that the legal definition of "risk management" and "reasonable practicability" become efficient. The fourth chapter which is in relation with personal liability for SSHE Offences is examined in a practical way and should interest practitioners who might be faced with such problems. In the fifth chapter the author drives directly to the question of performance measurement and evaluation of SSHE management systems. Twenty components of successful SSHE management systems are examined comprehensively step by step. The sixth and last chapter raises the issues of SSHE into the general context of risk management. The author comes to the conclusion that it is necessary to rethink SSHE to face the evolution of technology.

The main difficulty for readers trying to understand the author's point of view is that the development of laws around risk management and their implementation are based on previous theoretical and practical knowledge which is not always available in published literature. Therefore, even if the title of the book is clear, this aspect may not be easily understood by undergraduate students or by those with less practical experience. Fortunately, the author explains the main goals to be achieved by building a matrix and methodology for risk management. Another difficulty is that even if book examines deeply some aspects of risk management in environment, health, safety or security contexts so that it becomes possible to propose a rational explanation of risk mechanisms, SSHE is founded on a new and general approach whose content are not always clearly identified. At the same time since environmental and health practices are new issues, the theoretical classification of "risk management" and "reasonable practicability" is not always useful to practitioners. As a result, this means that the different aspects chosen by the author should be supplemented by some more fundamental information about the definition of risk and the reasons why the question of risk management is different in the areas selected by the author although this has not to be seen as a critic since it is the consequence of this new field.

Furthermore, the author refers to a lot of examples founded on practical cases which is of real value since interactions between different kinds of risks such as terrorism, water and chemical attack are

clearly shown. However, even if the demonstration remains quite strong, the reader may not be totally convinced that the issue can be presented through such a formal way : practices, human behaviour and questions about SSHE are always different and have to be analyzed according to the specific context in which they took place. Regarding the figure on p.78-79 it has to be improved in several situations and such a prospective is not easy because the fields which are studied (SSHE) do not have any important scientific feedback neither separately nor together. As a result, once again it is strongly advised to supplement the book by more fundamental knowledge on a theoretical level.

In conclusion, anyone who is interested in risk management, environment risk, or health care can benefit from the analysis and the book is recommended as an example of a new integrated approach to risk.