



Chapter

Implications and opportunities in a complex construction health and safety regulatory environment

By Nnedinma Umeokafor, Konstantinos Evangelinos, Abimbola Windapo

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ABSTRACT

14 One of the ways of improving construction health and safety (CH&S) remains its regulation, the foundation and catalyst of other improvement measures. However, in Nigeria, it is poorly understood. Consequently, this chapter reports an examination of how it is regulated (including the roles of various parties), and the implications and opportunities therein for improving CH&S. Adopting semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis, the study shows that the Nigerian

construction industry is self-regulated in various ways (including by other industries such as the oil and gas sector), contesting earlier held views that the industry is unregulated. However, the regulatory structure is distributed and fragmented. There is also evidence that the nature of the legislation adopted from other countries and the local environmental laws that cover some construction activities, to name but a few, present the industry with multiple actors, bias in regulation and control, and a complicated regulatory environment, which are counterproductive to the entire regulatory regime. However, the findings also include opportunities in the regulatory systems such as risk ownership, suggesting the likelihood of an effective and accepted regulatory system where the regulated take ownership of the risk they create. Country context-based CH&S legislation and a centralised regulatory system are recommended.