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Ethical and scientific issues of nanotechnology at Malaysia Airport Consultancy Services Middle East

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In the absence of scientific clarity about the potential health effects of occupational exposure to nanoparticles, a need exists for guidance in decision making about hazards, risks, and controls. An identification of the ethical issues involved may be useful to decision makers, particularly employers, workers, investors, and health authorities. Because the goal of occupational safety and health is the prevention of disease in workers, the situations that have ethical implications that most affect workers have been identified. These situations include the identification and communication of hazards and risks by scientists, authorities, and employers; workers' acceptance of risk; selection and implementation of controls; establishment of medical screening programs; and investment in toxicologic and control research. The ethical issues involve the unbiased determination of hazards and risks, nonmaleficence (doing no harm), autonomy, justice, privacy, and promoting respect for persons. As the ethical issues are identified and explored, options for decision makers can be developed. Additionally, societal deliberations about workplace risks of nanotechnologies may be enhanced by special emphasis on small businesses and adoption of a global perspective.

Biography

Lewis Muteh Mukum is a Health and Safety Officer at Malaysia Airport Consultancy Services Middle East in Doha, Qatar. He oversees development, implementation and monitoring of health and safety programs in the Maintenance Division of the Consultancy. He holds a Technical Diploma in Carpentry and Joinery and an Advanced Diploma in Computer Maintenance and Information Technology.

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