

Ethics for the Occupational Health and Safety Professional

Final Case Study

Think about the below case study. Write an analysis that states whether or not you would tell the workers about the omission? You must state why you reached your decision and suggest which ethical framework you used to reach your decision (Utilitarianism, Kantianism, Natural Law and Natural Rights – or even a different framework you think works better).

Having reached a decision about what you would do, reanalyze the case study and describe how someone might come to the opposite decision and a framework which might fit their thinking (i.e. if you would tell the workers, describe how a person could decide that not telling the workers is the right course of action).

Note: You must present **BOTH** sides of the case study, not just what you think should be done.

Although you can write as much as you want, your complete submission must be at least 100 words.

Return your completed submission to us at newwaveohs2016@gmail.com

Case Study

You work at a facility in the midst of labour strife. Contract negotiations have been going on for months and tempers are at a flash point. People are looking for a reason to strike.

The Production Manager told you in confidence that the SDS he gave to the workers for a new product is inaccurate as it omits one ingredient. The manufacturer in China says it will take 3 months to update and translate the SDS.

Having reviewed the data, you know the product poses virtually no risk. When you asked, management said they would not tell the workers about the omission nor stop using the product.

If you tell the workers, they will be furious and immediately go on strike no matter how you tell them (i.e. there is no option to “tell them gently” and convince them to stay

calm). If they strike, every worker will lose at least \$10 000 and the company at least \$20 million.

Should you tell the workers about the omitted ingredient?