

2012年度日本経済学会春季大会研究報告要旨

Safety and Health of Contract Workers in Japanese Regulated Industry

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Abstract

We present a theoretical explanation for the intuitive proposition that the occupational safety conditions of contract workers and directly hired workers in Japan are likely to be different. Ordinary imperfect-information models are derived from a review of the regulations of Japanese nuclear power generation industry. The models imply that the use of contract workers enables plants to implement a lower level of occupational safety and health than that imposed by regulations and to reduce its cost, due to the difference of employer responsibilities between the contractor and host plant. We show that the level of occupational safety and health differs among plants which are governed by the same regulations, using data of the radiation dose received by workers in nuclear power plants.

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