KEY FINDINGS FROM RESEARCH

Construction Owners Optimistic about Prospects for Prevention through Design

Owners’ perceptions of barriers to Prevention through Design diffusion


Overview

Prevention through Design (PtD) incorporates construction worker safety as a factor in design of a building project. Researchers surveyed 103 construction owners, and interviewed 65, to learn what barriers they perceived to adoption of PtD.

Key Findings

- Although almost three-quarters of respondents were unfamiliar with PtD before the survey, owners responded positively to the concept — more than four out of five said they would consider implementing PtD, or were already doing so.
- While prior research has identified a variety of barriers to adoption of PtD, owners did not find these barriers as substantial as predicted.
- While 20% of respondents believed that PtD could increase their firm’s liability to lawsuits, 55% believed that PtD could decrease liability.
- Approximately one-third of respondents believed that Architecture and Engineering (A/E) firms would resist PtD; that higher A/E firm fees associated with PtD would be a significant barrier; and that drafting suitable language for their firm’s design and construction contracts would take a lot of work. However, most respondents believed that these barriers could be overcome.

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See abstract:


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