

The Journal of Occupational Health
INSTRUCTION FOR AUTHORS

(Revised November 1, 2014)

1. About the journal

1.1. The Journal of Occupational Health (JOH) is published by the Japan Society for Occupational Health with the aim of publishing original contributions relevant to occupational and environmental health. The scope of the journal is broad, covering toxicology, ergonomics, psychosocial factors and other relevant health issues of workers, with special emphasis on the current developments in occupational health. The JOH also accepts various methodologies that are relevant to investigation of occupational and environmental health risk factors and exposures, such as large-scale epidemiological studies, human studies employing biological techniques and fundamental experiments on animals, and also welcomes submissions concerning occupational health practices and related issues. The JOH publishes original papers, systematic review articles, brief reports, case studies, field studies, and letters to the editor.

2. Policies

2.1. The Editorial Board decides whether a contribution will be sent for peer review, and if so, it will consider the peer reviewers' reports and make the final decision to accept or reject the manuscript for publication. The Editorial Board reserves the final right to decide the section (manuscript type) in which the paper will be published if it is found to be acceptable for publication.

2.2. Submission of a manuscript to the JOH implies that it has not been published elsewhere, that it does not duplicate material already published in any language elsewhere, and that it is not in submission elsewhere.

2.3. Embargo policy
Accepted manuscripts are embargoed until they appear online at JOH-in-press (<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/joh>). No information in accepted manuscripts can be communicated to the media prior to lifting of the embargo.

3. Ethical issues

3.1. Human studies are expected to be conducted in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki (1964, revised 1975, 1983, 1989, 1996, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2013).

3.2. Animal experiments are expected to be performed in accordance with Guidelines for Animal Experiments established at each institution.

3.3. Authors should state in their Subjects (Materials) and Methods section that their institution's review board (ethics review committee) has approved the study proposal, as well as the manner in which informed consent was obtained from the subjects (if applicable).

4. Manuscript categories

The following types of contributions will be considered for publication.

4.1. *Reviews*: Review, evaluation or commentary of a number of research reports on a specific theme.

4.2. *Originals*: Articles with new findings and original research results, research methodologies, research materials and interpretations of the authors' own or of other research results and articles of a similar nature.

4.3. *Brief Reports*: Articles with limited but original data and having the same format as originals.

4.4. *Case Studies*: Reports on cases of interest in the field of occupational health and/or cases concerning improvement in working conditions or environment.

4.5. *Field Studies*: Reports on investigation into the status of occupational health in workplaces with relevant data. International issues can be published as articles under the heading of "Occupational Health/Safety in the World."

4.6. *Opinions*: Short articles conveying authors' own opinions or comments on various aspects of occupational health.

4.7. Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor on material published in the JOH are welcome. Authors can submit Letters to the Editor by e-mail to the editorial office (joh-edit@ipecc-pub.co.jp). The length must not exceed 600 words, only one table or figure is permitted, and there should be no more than five references. When appropriate, the journal may invite replies.

5. Copyright

If the manuscript is accepted for publication, copyright of the article shall be assigned to the Japan Society for Occupational Health. After acceptance of a manuscript, the authors will be requested to complete a copyright transfer agreement form.

6. Manuscript format and style

Manuscripts should be prepared in the following manner. Submissions that do not conform to the instructions will be returned unread. The Editorial Office holds the right not to publish an article at any stage of the submission, review, and copyediting if the manuscript does not follow the required format and style.

6.1. Manuscripts should be written in English. Non-native English authors are encouraged to seek the assistance of an English-proficient colleague or commercial English editing services before submission of manuscripts to the journal.

6.2. Manuscripts should be typed in 12-point type with margins of 2.5 centimeters on A4 (ca. 22 × 28 cm) paper. Double spacing should be used throughout, and the right margin should be unjustified.

6.3. All papers should be organized to include the following: a title page, abstract, text, acknowledgments, references, figure legends, tables and figures. Each of the elements should begin on a separate page.

6.4. Pages should be numbered consecutively, beginning with the abstract. Line numbers should be put in the left margin of each page of the text.

6.5. Title page. The title page should include the following: a concise and descriptive title, name of each author, departmental and institutional affiliation of each author, the telephone and fax numbers as well as the e-mail address of

- the corresponding author, type of contribution, running title (not more than 60 letters including spaces), the number of words in the abstract and the text and the number of tables and figures.
- 6.6. Abstract. For all submissions except Letters to the Editor, structured abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should normally be organized under the following headings: Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions. Abstracts are necessary for Opinions; however, abstracts for Opinions can be unstructured if appropriate.
 - 6.7. Word count. Originals and Field Studies should be limited to 4,000 words, and Reviews should be limited to 6,000 words, excluding the abstract, acknowledgments, references, tables and figure legends. Brief Reports should not exceed 3,000 words and should contain no more than a total of 2 short tables or figures.
 - 6.8. Format. Originals should generally use the following format: Introduction, Subjects (or Materials) and Methods, Results, and Discussion. Subheadings are paragraph titles should be used whenever possible. Brief Reports and Case Studies should be limited to four printed pages (normally, 800–1,000 words (text base) per page) including references, tables and figures.
 - 6.9. Key words. For all submissions, give a list of not more than 6 key words in alphabetical order. The authors are recommended to refer to Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) selected from main headings listed in Medical Subject Headings in Index Medicus, published by the National Library of Medicine (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>). Key words will be placed after the abstract for Reviews, Originals, Case Studies and Field Studies.
 - 6.10. Tables and figures. Tables and figures should be of adequate quality to withstand reduction in size. Each table and figure should be submitted on a separate A4 sheet. Their locations in the text should be indicated in the right margin of the text. Only 6 or fewer tables and figures are permitted in total. Each table and figure should constitute a single unit of communications; that is, it should be completely informative in itself without reading the body of the text.
 - 6.11. Units and symbols. The following units and symbols should be used for quantities and measurements: km, m, cm, mm, μm , nm, Å; kg, g, mg, μg ; l, ml, μl ; The following abbreviations can be used after a slash (/): yr (year), mo (month), wk (week), h (hour), min (minute), s (sec), ms (millisecond), μs .
 - 6.12. References. The style of references should follow the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals (Vancouver Style) (<http://www.icmje.org/>). Please refer to the examples of references listed at the end of these instructions. List all authors when there are six or fewer; when there are seven or more authors, list the first three authors, followed by “et al.” References should be numbered according to the order in which they appear in the text and should be listed at the end of the text. References should be limited to 40 in Originals, Field Studies, and Opinions. For Brief Reports and Case Studies, the number of references should not exceed 15. Please ensure that the references include the most current articles and information. Reference numbers should be indicated in the text with numbers followed by a closing parenthesis, e.g., ...¹⁾, ...^{2,3)}, ...¹⁻⁵⁾.
7. Charges
 - 7.1. Page charges. No charge will be imposed on the authors of papers comprising up to six printed pages. However, charges for papers comprising more than six pages will be levied on the authors at a rate of 10,000 yen per page.
 - 7.2. Color figure charges. Color figures will incur a charge of 70,000 Japanese yen per each page.
 8. Submitting a manuscript

Manuscripts should be submitted online through the web site at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/joccuphealth>. Authors can suggest preferred / non-preferred reviewers for their manuscript, but the editors are not obliged to use/not to use author suggested reviewers. In the JOH editorial process, six filed editors and their associate editors will handle submitted papers according to their relevant areas of expertise. Please choose 2 appropriate fields in the order you prefer, as this will help ensure a prompt and efficient editorial process. The editorial board may allocate papers to fields other than those chosen by the authors when appropriate, but authors should endeavor to select the appropriate fields. Selection of inappropriate fields will delay the editorial process.

Six fields and the areas they cover in the JOH

Toxicology
Toxicology in chemical substances including experimental and epidemiological studies, exposure assessment and biological monitoring in working conditions or environment.

Ergonomics
Musculoskeletal disorders, fatigue and other health risks related to workstation design and working conditions; physical environment and safety in the workplace.

Mental health / psychosocial factors
Factors associated with the mental health of workers; psychosocial factors at work and health outcomes.

Occupational health practice / Occupational health practitioner
Role and activities of occupational health practitioners; regulations related to occupational health practice.

Health promotion
Factors that contribute to many health and safety problems among workers, measures for protection and health promotion of the health of workers.

Epidemiology
Large-scale epidemiological studies, trends of health problems in workers, international surveys, studies utilizing risk factors beyond the workplace such as socioeconomic factors and specific epidemiological methodologies.
 9. Accepted manuscripts
 - 9.1. Research articles accepted for publication in the JOH will appear initially as author-supplied unedited files online in the JOH-in-Press section on the J-STAGE website (<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/joh>) shortly after acceptance. The article will be citable using a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) code. The date the articles was included on the website will be considered the publication date. Any substantive changes at this

stage will require an erratum to be published. Articles will be published in the print version in order of acceptance as journal space permits.

9.2. Copyediting

Accepted manuscripts will undergo copyediting. The authors of the accepted manuscript are asked to make appropriate changes requested by the Editorial Office. The authors will be asked to submit the corrected manuscript to the Editorial Office as a Microsoft Word file(s).

9.3. Page proofs will be made available once to the submitting author.

9.4. The submitting author will receive fifty free offprints from the journal. Accepted manuscripts can also be accessed from the journal's page on the J-Stage website free of charge. Authors can download the PDFs of their accepted articles and send them to colleagues for noncommercial use.

10. Editorial Office contact information

Questions regarding the instructions for authors should be addressed to the journal office via e-mail (joh-edit@ipecc-pub.co.jp).

Examples of references

The examples follow the format of the Uniform Requirements of Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals. Please refer to Index Medicus for abbreviations of journal names.

Journal article

Each reference should be written in the following order: names of authors, title, name of journal, year of publication (Gregorian)

- 1) Hosoda Y, Hiraga Y, Sasagawa S. Railways and asbestos in Japan (1928–1987)—Epidemiology of

pleural plaques, malignancies and pneumoconioses—. *J Occup Health* 2008; 50: 297–307.

- 2) Tomioka K, Sakae K, Yasuda J. Low back load reduction using mechanical lift during transfer of patients—A validation study designed to the acquired skill for caregivers—. *Sangyo Eiseigaku Zasshi* 2008; 50: 103–10 (in Japanese).

Journal article with digital object identifier (article not yet in print)

- 3) Choi WJ, Cho SI, Han SH. A Case-crossover Study of Transient Risk Factors for Occupational Traumatic Hand Injuries in Incheon, Korea. *J Occup Health* [published online ahead of print December 16, 2011]. (doi:10.1539/joh.11-0101-FS).

Article in an online-only journal that accounts for the lack of a page range

- 4) Azagba S, Sharaf MF. The association between workplace smoking bans and self-perceived, work-related stress among smoking workers. *BMC Public Health* 2012, 12:123. (doi:10.1186/1471-2458-12-123).

Monograph

- 5) Chiyotani K. Silicosis. In: Miura T, Ikeda M, Osanai H et al, editors. *Modern hand book on industrial medicine*. Kawasaki (Japan): Institution for Labor Science; 1988. p. 723–6.

- 6) Rosenberg J. Effects of medications on biological levels of industrial chemicals. In: Fiserova-Bergerova V, Ogata M, editors. *Biological monitoring of exposure to industrial chemicals*. Cincinnati (OH): ACGIH; 1990. p. 159–62.

Online database or materials

- 7) International Council on Archives. ISAD(G): General International Standard Archival Description. [Online]. 1994 [cited 1997 Sept 2]; Available from: URL: <http://www.archives.ca/ica/isad.html>