ABSTRACT

Several millions of tonnes of waste are generated in the construction industry annually. This rate is alarming because it is in multiples of household waste production. Construction industry gives less concern to waste reduction due to the complex nature of reuse and recycling which is a top priority in curbing waste generation. Effective implementation of waste management plan (WMP) is a major means of reducing waste on construction projects. A waste management plan represent waste issues on the map and identification of existing waste problems is of top priority; it then pinpoint the volume of waste for reduction, salvage, reuse or recycling. This study focuses on the use of waste management plan at construction sites in Nigeria. A survey was conducted on a sample of construction companies in Nigeria using convenience-sampling technique. In the paper, the most important factors that underlie effective implementation of WMP is staff training and it reveals ten items that should form the content of a good WMP. The paper suggests that practitioners should be cognizant of the factors discover in this research for implementing WMP and to ensure that WMP consist all the contents identified in the study to reduce waste on construction projects.

Keywords: construction projects, Nigeria, waste management plan, waste reduction.

INTRODUCTION

According to Famuyibo (1997) waste is any unwanted or discarded material, which may be in solid, liquid or gaseous form and apparently has no consumer value to the person abandoning it. The subject of waste generation on construction sites is a major problem all over the world (Faniran and Caban, 1988). This stemmed from the dangers posed by this problem such as high depletion of construction materials and contractors’ profits, environmental hazards, reduction of contractors competitiveness and so on (Olateju, 1997; Ademoroti & Ozo, 1997; Motete et.al, 2003). Hence the issue of waste reduction is of prime importance to all stakeholders in the construction industry and the society at large. Interestingly, Chadrankanthi et. al. (2002) signify the waste reduction potentials of waste management plan when effectively implemented. This opinion is also shared by various researchers in related studies (Garas et. al. 2001; Poon et. al.2004; McDonald and Smithers, 1998). A waste management plan represents waste issues on maps and reveals waste problems and measures to minimize it. The onus of this study therefore is to explore this potential in WMP to reduce waste on construction projects. The key objectives of the study are: to identify the factors that underlie effective implementation of WMP; to identify the content of a