

**FACTORS AFFECTING MATERIALS MANAGEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION FIRMS  
IN KENYA.**

**(A CASE OF KENYA STEEL AND CONSTRUCTION LIMITED HEAD OFFICE)**

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## ABSTRACT.

Materials Management is a tool to optimize performance in meeting customer service requirements at the same time adding to profitability by minimizing costs and making the best use of available resources. This study sought to determine factors affecting materials management in construction firms with a focus on Kenya steel and Construction Limited. The study was guided by the following objective: to analyze the effect of inventory control and information communication technology; on materials management in construction firms. The study adopted descriptive research design to determine factors affecting materials management. A sample size of 46 respondents was selected from a list of 230 employees of Kenya steel and Construction Limited. The data was collected from the respondents (material managers) through a questionnaire which was self-administered and analyzed using SPSS. The data was then presented in form of tables and charts. Regression model was used to show the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The study found that good inventory control is important in materials management because it reduces stock levels and hence increases profitability. Also ICT helps firms in planning, controlling and processing of materials. The study recommends that firms should embrace good inventory control systems in order to minimize cost associated with materials management and maximize profit through employing effective and efficient methods of controlling materials management. Also, firms should employ qualified staffs who are competent and skilled to help firms to achieve its goals in materials management. Construction firms should adopt new information and technology for planning, controlling and processing of materials management.