

# WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE: NORA SECTOR BULLETIN



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## WRT Public Health Practice Projects (PHPPs)

NIOSH introduced a new intramural program in 2007 for supporting projects aimed at “those governmental activities performed to prevent or control disease and improve health or to improve a public health program or service in a specific program.” PHPPs will also serve to engage the Cross-Sector and Coordinated Emphasis Areas of the NIOSH Program Portfolio in meeting the strategic goals of the industry sectors. (Dr. John Howard, Nov. 1, 2006). See [NIOSH Program Portfolio | CDC/NIOSH](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/) at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/>

The Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) Sector identified five PHP proposals to support over the next three years that will serve to advance occupational safety and health objectives in the wholesale and retail trade industry.

### Brief Description of PHPPs

**Prevention Campaigns for High-Risk WRT Sector Injury** Information campaigns will be developed to target sub-sectors that have a high risk of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) or injuries in the wholesale and retail trade industries. The campaigns will be tailored for employees, employers, and other decision makers within the individual sectors.

**Training to Reduce Broad Risks of Work-Related Sleep Loss** After development and beta-testing, a work-schedule risk prevention training program will educate workers, managers, and job trainees about the risks associated with long work hours and shift work. Training will be tailored to the WRT sector.

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**Safety Training for Workers with Developmental Disabilities** A model training program for workers with developmental disorders will be developed in conjunction with a large retailer to address reduction of MSD and traumatic injuries in the retailer's warehousing operation. An outcome assessment will be conducted documenting the number of workers at the facility with developmental disabilities who are trained using this model program and remain uninjured for at least one year. When the initial developmental work is completed, a generic product will be developed and disseminated to the WRT sector.

**Employee Guidance: Addressing High Rates of Specific Diseases** Materials will be developed that summarize what is known about relevant occupational exposures, the magnitude of their contribution to disease burden, the types of control measures used, and links to further information and prevention resources.

**Evaluation/Dissemination of the NIOSH Lifting Equation CD-Rom** A CD-based training module for the NIOSH lifting equation will be developed that is more suitable for use in WRT facilities by non-experts. A set of supporting educational materials will also be developed. Following the introduction of the training module, the effectiveness of these materials will be evaluated in a number of WRT workplace settings.

## Serious Workplace Injuries Cause Financial Impact

Despite a 6.2% fall in the number of serious workplace injuries, employers spent \$50.8 billion in 2003 on wage payments and medical care for workers hurt on the job according to studies conducted by Liberty Mutual.

The Liberty Mutual Financial Officer Survey offers a glimpse of how chief financial officers (CFOs) view safety.

The leading cause of worker's compensation loss, according to CFOs:

- ✚ Overexertion (34.4%)
- ✚ Repetitive motion (13.5%)
- ✚ Bodily reaction (11.6%)
- ✚ Falling on same level (8.8%)
- ✚ Highway incidents (5.1%)



The top benefit of workplace safety, according to CFOs:

- ✚ Productivity (42.5%)
- ✚ Reduced costs (28.3%)
- ✚ Employee retention (7.1%)
- ✚ Employee morale (5.8%)

CFOs most frequently identify "better training" as their preferred safety intervention, followed by better equipment and workspace. For more information, see <http://www.libertymutual.com/omapps>.

## Safe Practices for Motor Vehicle Operations ANSI/ASSE Z15.1-2006

Motor vehicle related injuries and fatalities were identified by the WRT Sector Council as one of four primary hazards that needed to be addressed in developing strategic goals and objectives. A new consensus standard, ANSI/ASSE Z15.1-2006, Safe Practices for Motor Vehicle Operations, contains minimum requirements for workplace traffic safety programs, and was designed for use by any organization whose employees drive on the job. Topics addressed in the standard include the importance of management commitment, driver selection and qualification, maintenance and inspection procedures, driver risk factors such as impaired and aggressive driving, incident reporting, and recommended measures for tracking safety performance. Appendices provide sample policies that can be adapted by organizations for their own use. The

Z15.1 standard fills a critical gap in worker protection. Prior to its publication, operation of commercial motor vehicles such as large trucks and buses was the only type of workplace driving covered by occupational safety standards.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is secretariat for the Z15 Accredited Standards Committee. The Z15 Committee draws its membership from more than 30 government agencies, insurance companies, employers, consulting groups, and trade associations. For more information on the Z15.1 standard, or to order a copy, see <http://www.asse.org/publications/standards/z15/index.php>. You may also contact Stephanie Pratt ([spratt@cdc.gov](mailto:spratt@cdc.gov)), who represents NIOSH on the ANSI Z-15 Committee.

## What's New in the WRT News?

The following is information about topics and events that may be of interest to a WRT audience.

1. Theory at a Glance: A Guide for Health Promotion Practice (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and National Institutes of Health, and sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, the guide offers a single summary of health behavior theories that is basic and user-friendly. Free copies available at <http://www.cancer.gov/PDF/481f5d53-63df-41bc-bfaf-5aa48ee1da4d/TAAG3.pdf>.
2. Injury Facts<sup>®</sup>. The National Safety Council introduced several new and expanded topics in the 2005-2006 edition of Injury Facts<sup>®</sup>, their guide for workplace, highway, home, and community injury data. Among the added and expanded topics are occupational injury and illness profile data for 16 NAICS industry sectors, and occupational injury and illness rates by industry. Copies can be purchased from the NSC at <http://www.nsc.org/onlinecart/>.
3. NIOSH Prevention through Design: Workshop. Mark your calendar for July 9–11, 2007, to attend this important workshop. It will be held in Washington DC at the Washington Hilton in DuPont Circle. For more information contact Richard Rinehart at [RRinehart@cdc.gov](mailto:RRinehart@cdc.gov) or 202-205-8556.
4. Universality of Disability – Focus on the Workplace. This follows up an article that appeared in the February 2007 e-Bulletin. Ms. Illise Feitshans provided additional information about the project at the following websites: [www.trainingprofessionals.com](http://www.trainingprofessionals.com) and [www.trainingprofessionals.com/internationalhealthlaw](http://www.trainingprofessionals.com/internationalhealthlaw).

Send ideas suggestions or questions for our next WRT e-Bulletin in April.

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