

Wholesale and Retail Trade: NORA Sector Council Bulletin:

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We are listening!

In This Issue:

Ergonomics Contributes to Workforce Efficiency and Productivity

Are You Using Your Workers' Comp Data to "Encourage Workplace Safety"?

New Source for WRT Sector News

Follow Up from January 2010 WRT Sector Council Meeting

Contact Details

New Source for WRT Sector News & Follow Up from January 2010 WRT Sector Council Meeting

Welcome to the re-launch of the WRT Bulletin.

This quarterly publication will provide short news items, announcements, and links to information of interest to the WRT Sector Council.

Save the Date: The next WRT Sector Council meeting will be July 12-14, 2011, in Cincinnati, OH

A workshop will be scheduled in fall 2011 to draft a Manual Materials Handling Health and Safety Guide for the Wholesale and Retail Sector featuring materials for retail stores, warehouses, and the wholesale distribution centers that serve them. Members will be needed to serve on the workshop planning committee. The workshop will be an opportunity to collaborate with a number of trade organizations that represent manufacturers, distributors and educators on material handling issues.

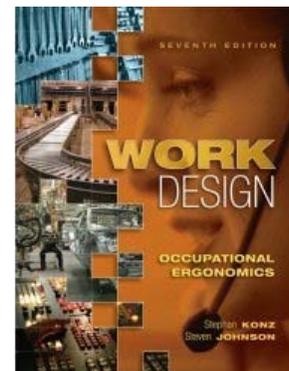
Top 10 Injury Risks Subsectors

These are the top 10 retail businesses that carry the greatest risk (ranked from highest to lowest) of nonfatal injuries to employees, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data for the past 5 years.

1. Pet and pet supply stores
2. Home centers
3. Hobby, toy, and game stores
4. Warehouse clubs/superstores
5. Supermarkets/other groceries
6. Tire dealers
7. All other general merchandisers
8. Other building material stores
9. Fuel dealers
10. Department stores

Ergonomics Contributes to Workforce Efficiency and Productivity

"OSHA Leaves Door Open to Address Ergonomics in Upcoming Rule"



This recent headline from Inside OSHA, a publication of the Inside Washington Press (July 27, 2010), has once again galvanized the business community against the so-called ergonomics rule (that is, OSHA's intent to propose a rule on illness and injury prevention programs). Ergonomics has become synonymous in recent years with workplace musculoskeletal injuries, but many consider the term vague and too broadly defined.

If the previous headline about OSHA gave you a sense of déjà vu, let's back up for a moment and pretend that all of the noise about the "ergonomics rule" over the last ten years has not happened. Now, if this same headline with "ergonomics" and "OSHA" mentioned together in the same sentence had occurred, your reaction may very well have been different.

You may have even applauded OSHA for recognizing that ergonomics is the science of work that aims not only to ensure health but also to increase productivity. Productivity can be a natural byproduct of designing jobs to fit people.

Productivity is a good thing not only for businesses, but also for our economy. Ergonomics is about designing the job, equipment, and workplace to ensure that workers can do their jobs more efficiently. A more efficient workforce is a more productive workplace.

Today's retail businesses have benefited from the science of ergonomics. Ergonomic principles have improved the design of checkout stands and shopping carts, the layout of the aisles, and the design of displays and shelving, to name just a few areas.

Ergonomics has benefited both employees and customers by making the experience of shopping more efficient and safer. Workplace designs that enable customers to quickly find the products they want and to transport them through the store improve the customers'

Source: Wholesale and Retail Trade Program,
www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/wrt/

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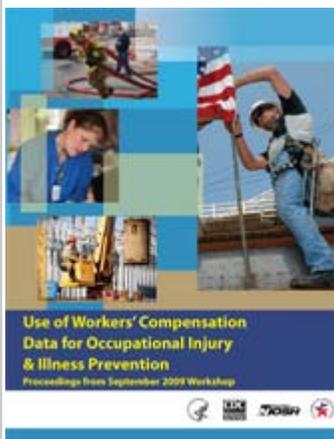
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experience and reduce their risk of injury.

In short, ergonomically designed workplaces contribute to productivity by reducing the risk of unnecessary fatigue from awkward postures and wasted motions. Employees whose workplaces have been designed with ergonomic principles are not only more productive but also less likely to develop signs and symptoms of musculoskeletal injuries—a win-win situation.

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Are You Using Your Workers' Comp Data to "Encourage Workplace Safety"?



In order to remain competitive, businesses must improve safety, but they have another incentive: reducing premiums. The key feature is that insurance premiums are experience-rated. Yes, there is moderate evidence that the introduction of experience rating reduces the frequency of injuries, although the severity may increase (Tompa et al., J Occup Rehabil 2006;16: 367–392).

Has anyone in your company examined this relationship? If you are interested in this and similar articles dealing with workers' compensation, then you may want to check out the following document recently released by NIOSH, Pub. No. 2010-152: Use of Workers' Compensation Data for Occupational Injury and Illness Prevention, www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-152/.

[READ MORE](#)

About NIOSH: As part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIOSH is the Federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations to prevent work-related illnesses and injuries.

To receive NIOSH documents or more information about occupational safety and health topics, please contact NIOSH at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) TTY: 1-888-232-6348 Email: cdcinfo@cdc.gov Website: www.cdc.gov/niosh/

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