

## O.E. Meyer Co., Sandusky

**Intervention Key Words:** Label Eater, Anti-Fatigue Mats, Cylinder Cages

**Industry:** Other: Distributor of compressed gases, welding, and medical equipment

**Risk Factor(s):** Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying, High Hand Force- Pinching, Repetitive motion

### Situation:

O.E. Meyer is an employee owned company serving northwest Ohio that distributes compressed gases, welding and medical equipment and industrial and home care supplies. At their production facility, employees fill, maintain, and deliver the compressed gas cylinders. Cumulative Trauma Disorder concerns have arisen at the Medical Filling Station. The tasks involve a high degree of repetition and force as they turn cylinder valves during filling. They must also bend and lift the cylinders from a storage pallet to a filling rack and back to a pallet. In addition, regulations require that they remove all labels from the cylinders, which is done manually. Elbow extension is very prevalent with this task along with high repetition. Over 4,000 cylinders are processed monthly.



**Employee manually removes labels**

### Solution:

O.E. Meyer Co. addressed their CTD issues by purchasing a Label Eater device. The Label-Eater is designed to mechanically remove the adhesive labels using brushes while an employee turns the cylinders. Label removing is now done in half the time. The company also purchased several anti-fatigue mats for the Medical Fill Station as the operators spend 5 or more hours per day standing/walking on a corrugated steel platform. Engineers designed a cylinder cage that the company had made to store the cylinders in. The cage brings the cylinders up to a more optimal height for the employees, eliminating the bending required when using pallets and increasing floor space in this area.

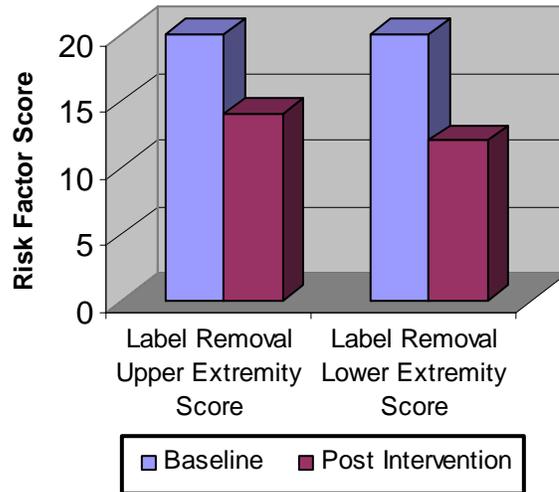


Label-Eater in use



Storage rack similar to new one

**Results:**



- CTD Risk Factor scores decreased 35% following the intervention.
- Lost Days and Restricted Days rates (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) were at 0 the year prior to the intervention and remained at 0 for 2 years following.
- Employee Turnover rate decreased from 6.7 to 3.3 over the same time period, a 51% improvement.
- CTD rate increased from 0 to 3.3 following the intervention.