

Custom Cleaners, Bryan

Intervention Key Words: Automation, Roller, Mat, Cleaning, Rugs, Lift gate

Industry: Service

Risk Factor(s): High Hand Force-Pinching/Gripping, Manual Material Handling-Lifting/Carrying and Pushing/Pulling, Awkward Posture-Back, Wrists and Shoulder deviations, Repetitive motion

Situation:

Custom Cleaners is an industrial dry cleaning company which focuses on cleaning and distributing walk-off mats and hotel/hospital laundry. Risks for Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) are focused in 2 areas of their workplace. First, as a distributor of mats, they must clean and roll approximately 100 mats each morning. These rugs are all hand rolled by a single employee in a 3 hour period. Risk factors for this task include repetition, forceful exertions, awkward and static postures, which pose a threat of injury to the wrists and shoulders. Second, Custom Cleaners handles industrial laundry from local hotels and hospitals. This involves pick-up and delivery of linens on a daily basis, requiring the loading and unloading of 250 lb carts from the transport trucks numerous times per day. Custom Cleaners currently uses a loading ramp on the back of one of its trucks, imposing a CTD threat upon workers who push these carts up and down the ramp. Risk of injury includes spinal and upper extremity disorders.



Employee pushing laundry cart up ramp

Solution:

To reduce the risk of CTDs involved with mat rolling, Custom Cleaners purchased an automatic mat roller, with the ability to roll 165 mats per hour. This intervention totaled \$9,307, which was offset with an \$8000 award from Safety Grant\$. To assist with the task of pushing laundry carts into and out of the trucks, Custom Cleaners purchased a hydraulic lift gate. The lift gate eliminates the incline that employees had to push up, and electrically lifts the carts up to the desired height. Custom Cleaners was awarded \$2800 from Safety Grant\$ towards the total cost of \$3710.



Automatic Mat Roller



Hydraulic Lift Gate

Results:

- CTD, Lost Days, Restricted Days and Turnover Rates were at 0 during the 12 months prior to intervention and remained at 0 for 24 months after.
- Total Risk Factor Assessment scores for mat rolling decreased from 14 to 4, and for cart loading from 21 to 8. This constitutes a 71% and a 62% improvement respectively.

