

## Ashtabula Rubber Co., Ashtabula

**Intervention Key Words:** Automation, Keypunching, Office Workstation

**Industry:** Manufacturing

**Risk Factor(s):** Repetitive motion, Awkward Posture- Neck deviations, Wrist deviations

### Situation:

Ashtabula Rubber Co. manufactures molded and extruded mechanical rubber goods. Due to the custom nature of their business, it is imperative to keep a detailed log of time, attendance and labor. The tracking system used by Ashtabula Rubber is dependent on mechanical clocks and handwritten records, in which data is input by data processing clerks at a rate of 1200-1400 records per day. Despite ergonomic interventions such as alternative keyboards, wrist resting pads, variable height keyboard tables and custom designed data entry screens, numerous operators suffered from at least one sign of Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs), with Carpal Tunnel being the biggest problem. Risk factors for CTDs related to this position include the repetitive motion of keypunching, bent wrist positions, awkward positioning of monitor, and extreme neck angle to view paperwork.



**Data entry workers enter up to 1400 records per day**

### Solution:

In hopes of eliminating the CTD risks of this job completely, Ashtabula Rubber Company implemented an automated system that utilizes computerized clocks and data entry terminals throughout the factory floor. Workers access a series of scanners and bar codes to record their work, reducing the amount of data entry to a minimum. The total cost of the system was \$81,930, which included hardware, software and training. Ashtabula Rubber was awarded \$40,000 to offset the costs from the BWC Safety Grant\$ Program.



**New record tracking system**

**Results:**

- Lost Days, Restricted Days and CTD rates (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) have all decreased 100% to 0 in 24 months following the intervention.
- Despite the history of injury in the position, Employee Turnover was 0 (per 200,000 hours worked) for 1 year prior to the intervention and remained at 0 for at least 2 years after.