

Reino Linen Service Inc., Gibsonburg

Intervention Key Words: Laundry Sorter, Picker

Industrial Key Words: Service, Other: Laundry, Dry Cleaning

Risk Factor(s): Repetitive motion, High Hand Force-Pinching/Gripping

Situation:

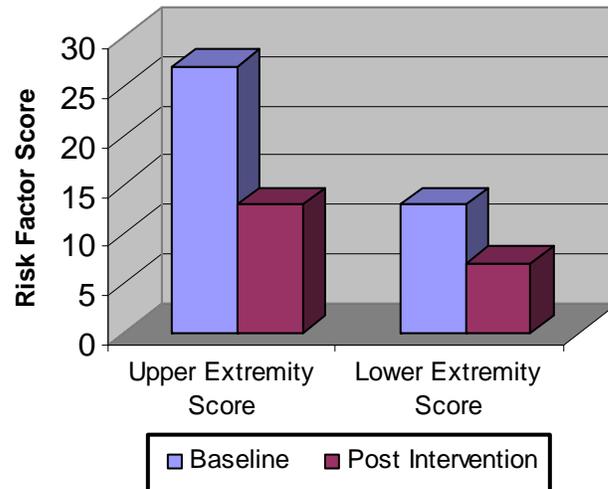
Reino Linen Service provides laundering services to local residents and health-care facilities in and around Gibsonburg. Founded in 1943, they have grown to become one of the largest hospital launderers in the state, handling over 24 million pounds of laundry per year. Although much of the work is now performed mechanically, bed sheets and other large linens often become tangled and twisted while being dried. Workers must manually separate these sheets and feed them into an iron/folding machine. Cumulative Trauma Disorder (CTD) risk factors include high forces and repetition as workers sort approximately 525 sheets per hour. Numerous strains and sprains have resulted from the difficulties in separating linens.

Solution:

In order to assist with linen separation and reduce CTD risks, Reino Linen Service purchased 2 “PikQuik” flatwork separating machines. The new machines automatically separate tangled laundry loads and present separated items directly to employees who are feeding the iron/folding machines. This effectively reduces the CTD risks involved with the manual task. Total cost to implement the new machines was \$71,900. Reino Linen Service received \$40,000 in assistance from SafetyGrant\$ to offset their costs.



Results:



- CTD Risk Factor scores decreased 50% following the intervention.
- Employee Turnover rate (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) was 460.7 the year prior to the intervention and decreased to 132.5 over the 2 years following, a 71% improvement.
- Lost Day rate was at 0 for the year prior to the intervention and remained at 0 for 2 years following.
- Increases in CTD and Restricted Days rates were observed but may not be directly attributed to the intervention.