

Case Study

7048

Intervention key words

Table flipper, table rotator, flocking table rotator

Industry

Manufacturing

Risk factors

Manual handling – lifting/carrying; manual handling – pushing/pulling; awkward posture – shoulder deviations; awkward posture – back deviations

Situation

This manufacturer of foam products uses a silkscreen operation to apply a customer created pattern onto a carpeted mat. Companies often place these mats at their business entrances. They often display their name or logo on the mat. Employees load the plain carpet on one of four tables. As part of the process, employees must flip the table over and then flip it again to unload the finished mat. Three claims occurred in a two-year period rotating the tables. See the picture below.



Solution

This employer added a drive system to rotate the tables 180 degrees in either direction as shown in the photo below. The drive system cost \$10,075. This has eliminated manually flipping a heavy table (200 lbs.) approximately 200 times per day. No injuries have occurred in the one year since using the new equipment.



Results

- The incident rate (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 39.7 the two years prior to the intervention to 0.0 over the one year following, a 100% improvement.
- The National Safety Council reports the average cost for a workers' compensation claim is \$19,382. This employer's return on investment was four months.
- Productivity has increased significantly.