

Vision Center Industries, Columbus

Intervention Key Words: Adjustable Tables, Ergonomic Chairs, Table Edge Pads, Anti-fatigue Floor Mats, Hydraulic Lift tables, Roller Cart, Drum Caddies

Industry: Manufacturing, Other: Packaging

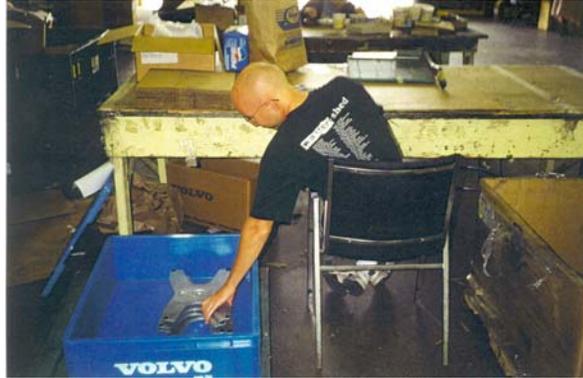
Risk Factor(s): Repetitive motion, Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Neck deviations, Wrist deviations, High Hand Force- Pinching/Gripping, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying

Situation:

Vision Center Industries is a non-profit sheltered workshop that employs primarily vision impaired workers. The company specializes in the assembly and packaging of products for various industries. Workers spend much of their time sitting at a desk, repeating the same procedure throughout the day. Many of the jobs involve detailed, hand intensive tasks along with lifting and transferring heavier parts while seated. The lack of adjustable chairs and tables throughout the facility creates an unsuitable work environment for employees who rarely leave their station due to physical impairments. In addition, workers who must stand are encountering foot, leg and back discomfort as a result of concrete flooring and inappropriate table heights. The repetition involved with the tasks plus the work conditions are significant risk factors for Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs).



Chair lack ergonomic consideration and are unsafe



Worker must reach to floor to lift steel parts

Solution:

To reduce the risk of CTDs, Vision Center Industries purchased a variety of adjustable work tables, adjustable padded chairs, soft table edge pads, hydraulic lift tables, two drum caddies to assist in parts transfer, fatigue relief floor mats, and a cart to assist in distribution. With the new products employees can adjust their work environment to suit their anthropometric needs. The total cost of the intervention was \$22,680. Safety Grant awarded Vision Center Industries \$18,147 to offset the costs.

Results:

- CTD rate and Restricted Days rate (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) were 0 for 24 months before the intervention and remained at 0 for 24 months following the changes.
- Increases in Lost Days rate and Employee Turnover were seen in the 2 years following the intervention, but are not necessarily attributed to the new equipment.
- Risk Factor Assessment scores for 3 tasks decrease an average of 19% following the intervention.