

Roles and responsibilities during implementation of ergonomic programmes







Roles and responsibilities in the implementation of ergonomic regulations

- 1. Approach to planning, implementation, M&E
- 2. Roles and responsibilities (who does what, when)
- 3. Practical examples
- 4. Questions





# How do we approach this?

#### Choose your structure

- Approach this as you would any other new health and safety programme.
- Make sure your approach is
  - 1. Iterative
  - 2. Inclusive
  - Consultative
  - 4. Reproducible
- PDCA cycle is a preferred methodology
  - Promotes continuous improvement of processes.
  - Lets you test possible solutions on a small scale and in a controlled environment.
  - Provides a standardized method to achieve continuous improvement that can be used by employees in any department to resolve new issues.
  - Prevents wastage of time implementing ineffective or inferior solutions.
  - Promotes teamwork through brainstorming and problem-solving techniques.







#### Planning

#### Assemble planning/working group

- Appropriate people in the room
- Working group from H&S committee
- Internal stakeholders:
  - Management
  - H&S
  - Supervisor/Line Manager
  - Employee/s
- External stakeholders:
  - Ergonomist/Hygienist
  - MSP/OMP

**Draft Ergonomics Programme** 

Exco / management sign-off









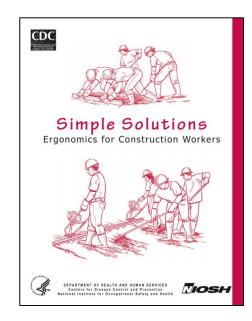
#### **Planning**

## Responsibilities of planning/working group:

- Review existing legislation, industry standards and benchmark industry best practice.
- Develop :
  - Ergonomic risk assessment
  - Risk control measures (procurement, etc.)
  - Ergonomic Programme
    - SOPs manual handling, high-risk activities, etc.

Ergonomics – Roles and Responsibilities

- Input into Medical Surveillance Programme
- Training materials/plan
- Implementation plan









#### Implementation

## **Training**

- Training and competency assurance (supervisors as assessors?)
- Frequency of training
- Green area IEC / BCC.

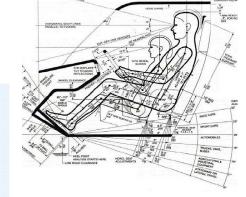
## **Workplace SOPs**

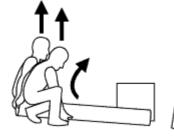
- Ensure high-risk activities are addressed
- Ensure adherence to SOPs
- Supervisors to evaluate other activities
- Identify new high-risk activities

## Contracts / procurement / supply chain

• Take ergonomics into consideration when procuring hand tools, mobile equipment, etc.







Ergonomics – Roles and Responsibilities









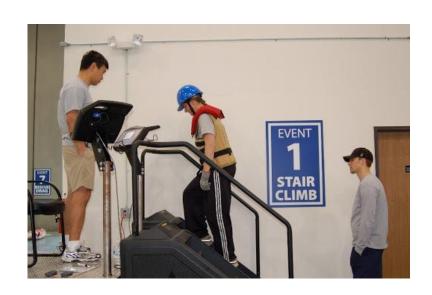
#### **Implementation**

## Medical Surveillance Programme

- Inclusion of ergonomic evaluation into Medical Surveillance Programme.
- Reactive vs pro-active.
- Multiple approaches:

### 1. Prospective evaluation

- Physical ability testing (PAT)
- Evaluates physical abilities of employees prior to ergonomic exposure in conditions that simulate working environment.
- Objective is to identify personal deviations that may indicate higher risk for adverse events when exposed to stressors.
- Important that tests are:
  - Standardised
  - Applicable / relevant
  - Reproducible







#### Implementation

## 2. Process evaluation

- E.g. Functional Job Evaluation (FJE).
- In-situ evaluation of ergonomic risks and personal abilities in existing employees performing existing tasks.
- Performed by qualified person with specific training in ergonomic risk evaluation and quantification.
- Able to quantify job, activity- and person specific risks.
- Allows employer and/or medical team to address risk on a personal level.
- Can also use REBA/RULA or multiple other evaluation tools.







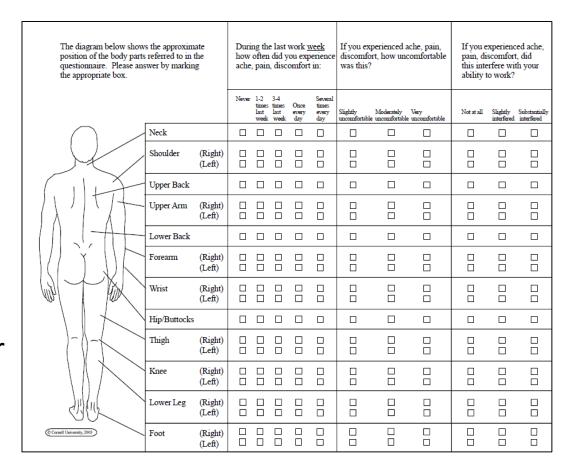




#### Implementation

## 3. Effect monitoring

- Observing pathophysiological effects of ergonomic stress on bodily systems.
- Similar to biological effect monitoring
- Looking for pathological effects following exposure.
- Multiple models allows MSP to quantify effects of exposure per person but also per body area / limb.







What is the role and responsibilities of the MSP?

# What should your MSP feed back to you?

- FTW status
- Proportion of FTW in pre-employment / periodic medicals
  - Are our tests fit for purpose?
  - Are we using the correct criteria to exclude people from certain high-risk activities / areas?
- Identification of new / unknown high-risk activities
  - Do we need new restriction for new activities?
- Increase in deviations in existing employees
  - Are our control measures effective?
  - Other confounders (Age, non-occ injuries, non-occ diseases, etc.)

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#### Evaluation of metrics

#### Re-assemble planning committee

- Periodic intervals
- New processes/activities
- Dictated by law/scientific research
- Increased incidence of ergonomic disorders
- Critically evaluate findings from:
  - Risk Assessment
  - Supervisors, PJO, etc.
  - Employees
  - Feedback from medical services provider.
- Targeted fact finding (issue based RA) may be necessary.
- May require multiple cycles to identify all non-conformances and deviations.





#### Amendments

## **Act on information**

- Adapt elements of Ergonomics Programme based on findings from review cycle.
- If required, adapt exposure following hierarchy of controls:

