



Reducing Injuries Through Job Safety Analysis

Management teams within the manufacturing sector are frequently faced with how to address back and upper extremity strains related to manual material handling and repetitive motion.

The job safety analysis (JSA) can identify potential ergonomic risk factors and find solutions for eliminating or significantly reducing them.

Commonly used to identify many types of hazards, including ergonomic risks, a JSA can target the underlying cause of injuries and give leadership teams an approach to reducing them and associated costs.

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Identify Hazards

The following list of questions can help you identify potentially hazardous conditions:

- Do tools, machines or equipment present hazards?
- Can the worker make harmful contact with moving objects?
- Can the worker slip, trip or fall?
- Can the worker suffer strain from lifting, pushing or pulling?
- Is the worker exposed to extreme heat or cold?
- Is excessive noise or vibration a problem?
- Is there a danger from falling objects?
- Is lighting a problem?
- Is harmful radiation a possibility?
- Can contact be made with hot, toxic or caustic substances?
- Are there dusts, fumes, mists or vapors in the air?

Job Safety Analysis (JSA) Benefits

- Helps determine cause of an accident after one has occurred
- Improves production efficiency by identifying incorrect procedures
- Increases employee involvement
- Enhances communication between management and employees
- Reduces employee injuries and lost work days
- Lowers workers' compensation loss costs

When to Perform a JSA

When assigning priority for a JSA, consider the following factors:

- Accident frequency
- Potential injuries or illness severity
- Newly established jobs
- Modified jobs
- Infrequently performed tasks

4 Steps to Remember

1. Select the job to be analyzed
2. Break the job down into a sequence of steps
3. Identify potential hazards at each step
4. Determine preventive measures

Getting Started

United Heartland Loss Control is here to assist you. Our team will tailor our approach to what works for your organization. We will work directly with your leadership team to help you form an ergonomics task force or support your existing safety committee.

We also can provide video programs and sample forms for those with their own safety resources who may require less assistance.

Contact your United Heartland Loss Control representative today.

References

OSHA — Job Hazard Analysis
www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3071.pdf?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=job-hazard-analysis-13

CDC — Ergonomic Guidelines for Manual Material Handling
www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-131/pdfs/2007-131.pdf