

Ergonomic Cost Justification

Balancing the Risks

According to research, upper extremity musculoskeletal symptoms among computer users are reported to be as high as 63%.¹ Making changes to the work environment to improve the safety and health of workers will often reduce a company's costs, improve productivity and quality issues, and decrease the chance that employees will file a complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).



IDENTIFY PROBLEM

- High occurrence of accidents & injuries
- High absenteeism, turnover and material waste
- Decreasing output and/or quality performance



ASSESS FUTURE IMPACT

- Forecast future injuries/illnesses
- Determine full cost of injury/illness
- Select appropriate cost justification technique
- Analyze data



RISK VS. COST

- Calculate cost of changes
- Identify potential gains available
- Determine best solution by weighing effectiveness vs. cost of solution

DESIGN SOLUTION

- Identify ergonomic options/solutions and costs associated



COST OF IMPACT

- Direct Costs: medical expenses and workers' compensation
- Indirect Costs: accident review, job accommodations, and productivity losses



¹ Robertson, M.M., Huang, Y.H., and Larson, N. "Examining the Effects of Workstation Design Satisfaction, Computer Usage, Supervisory and Co-Worker Support on Perceived Physical Discomfort and Psychosocial Factors," Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, San Diego, CA, pp. 88-94, 2009.