

A Strategy to improve the management of Ergonomic risk in the workplace

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IOSH Build Health Annual Conference.
"Getting to grips with Manual Handling"
Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim.
October 17th 2018



Solution



Managing Ergonomic Risk:

- Collecting information on task requirements
- Communicating and consulting with staff
- Using evidence based risk assessment tools to (e.g. Use of Manual Handling Assessment (MAC) Tool)
- Developing appropriate or innovative solutions to reduce or eliminate risk
- Transferring knowledge of new control measures or solutions in place
- Influencing management



Statistics

- The occupational illness rate increased from 21.7 per 1,000 workers in 2001 to 27.1 per 1,000 workers in 2012. Musculoskeletal disorders account for over 60% of all illnesses. (ESRI 2015).
- Manual Handling continues to be the most common accident trigger accounting for 33% of all reported non-fatal accidents (Health and Safety Authority Summary of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics 2016)
- 28% of over 10000 occupational injury benefit claims relate to injuries to the back, with an average of 57 lost days (Occupational Injury Benefit Claims, Department of Social Protection 2015)



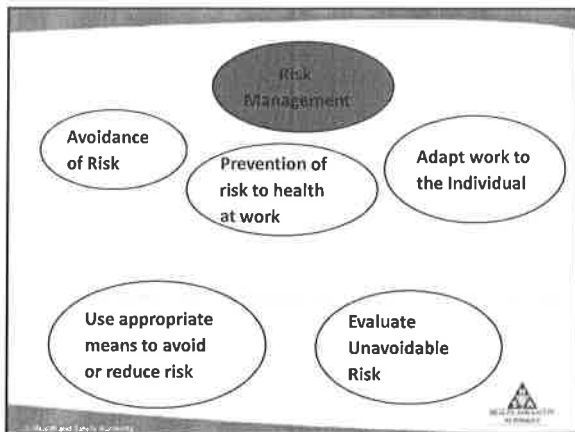
Problem



Ergonomics and its legal context

- The 2005 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act and the Hierarchy of Controls
- The Manual Handling of Loads Regulation
- The Display Screen Equipment Regulation





Ensure legal compliance through proportionate enforcement

Ergonomist and local Inspector had concerns about the manual lifting of 90kg stone cladding units on site

Health and Safety Authority

**Strategy of the Health and Safety Authority 2016-2018:
Focus on health risks in the workplace.**

- Increase the knowledge and understanding of occupational health and welfare risks.
- Raise awareness of the value of controlling occupational health risks and promoting positive health and well-being.
- Ensure legal compliance through proportionate enforcement
- Influence the EU agenda on laws and policy on occupational health.

Health and Safety Authority

Ensure legal compliance through proportionate enforcement

- New Operational Minute for Inspectors which gives guidance on addressing ergonomic issues during inspection
- 250 Inspections addressing the management of Ergonomic risk in the workplace;

Health and Safety Authority

Increase Inspector knowledge and understanding of managing ergonomic health risks

Mac Tool Risk Assessment Training by Health and Safety Laboratory UK

Health and Safety Authority



Raise awareness of the value of controlling occupational health risks


- Raise awareness amongst stakeholders on the need to manage ergonomic risks at workplace level: Practical Ergonomic Risk Assessment Workshops

Health and Safety Authority

Raise awareness of the value of controlling occupational health risks

**Ergonomics Good Practice Guidance documents for
Industry**



Thank you



Health and Safety Authority

QQI Manual Handling and People Handling Framework 2010 Outcomes

- Training Provider Organisations who want to deliver Instructor Training Programmes to attain the new FETAC Level 6 Manual Handling and People Handling Instruction Award Standards must agree their quality assurance procedures and be registered with FETAC
- All new Manual Handling and People Handling Instructor Training Programmes must be validated by FETAC in line with the requirements of the new FETAC Level 6 Manual Handling and People Handling Instruction Award Standards
- All new instructors should complete a FETAC Level 6 Manual Handling Instructor Training programme or FETAC Level 6 People Handling Instructor training programme
- All existing instructors should aim to attain a FETAC Level 6 Award for Manual Handling or People Handling Instruction before the end of April 2012. There will be a phasing-in transition period of two years from the date of release of the new standards of March 31st 2010 during which the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) will recognise existing manual handling instructors and new manual handling instructors with a Level 6 FETAC Award
- Registered Training organisations who wish to facilitate existing instructors to achieve the FETAC Level 6 Manual Handling or People Handling Instruction Award on the basis of recognition of prior learning (RPL) must have prior approval for RPL from FETAC

**Guidance on the Manual
Handling Training
System – 2010 Revision**

