



Ergonomics

Real People

Real Problems

Real Solutions

OSHA Ergonomics Chronology

Fiscal Year 2001 Appropriations Bill pending

November 14, 2000

OSHA issues Ergonomics Program Standard.

August 10, 2000

Ergonomics record closes.

July 7, 2000

Informal public hearing on the proposal held in Atlanta, Ga. regarding economic impact on state and local governments, the U.S. Postal Service and railroads.

May 22, 2000

OSHA seeks comments on the economic impact of ergonomics proposal on the state and local governments, USPS and railroads.

May 8-12

Informal public hearings on the proposed rule extended in Washington, D.C.

April 11, 2000

Informal public hearings on the proposed rule begin in Chicago, Ill.

March 21, 2000

Informal public hearings on the proposed rule begin in Portland, Ore.

February 22, 2000

Informal public hearings on the proposed rule begin in Washington, D.C.

January 24, 2000

Notice of Intention to Appear at hearings must be postmarked.

November 23, 1999

OSHA publishes proposed ergonomics standard for comment in the Federal Register.



September 9, 1999

11th regional ergonomics best practices conference held in Silver Spring, Md.

April 30, 1999

SBREFA panel report submitted to OSHA Assistant Secretary.

February 19, 1999

OSHA begins small business review of its draft ergonomics rule, makes draft regulatory text available to stakeholders.

September 24-25, 1998

OSHA holds stakeholder meetings on ergonomics rulemaking in Washington, D.C.

July 23, 1998

OSHA holds stakeholder meeting on ergonomics rulemaking in Atlanta, Ga.

July 21, 1998

OSHA holds stakeholder meeting on ergonomics rulemaking in Kansas City, Mo.

March 16, 1998

OSHA releases video entitled "Ergonomic Programs That Work."

February 4-6, 1998

OSHA holds stakeholder meetings on ergonomics rulemaking in Washington, D.C.

October, 1997

Congress allows OSHA to work on ergonomics in Fiscal Year 1998 but prohibits issuance of any proposed or final standard or guidelines; House Conference Report says this will be last time OSHA's work on an ergonomics standard is restricted.

April 28, 1997

OSHA launches ergonomics page on the Internet.

January 8-9, 1997

OSHA/NIOSH conference on successful ergonomics programs held in Chicago, Ill.

October, 1995

Congress prohibits use of OSHA Fiscal Year 1996 funds to issue proposed or final ergonomics standard or guidelines.

July, 1995

Congress prohibits use of OSHA Fiscal Year 1995 funds to issue proposed or final ergonomics standard or guidelines.

March, 1995

OSHA begins series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss outline of draft ergonomics standard.

August 3, 1992

Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on ergonomics published requesting comments by February 1, 1993.

January 15, 1992

OSHA begins a special emphasis inspection program on ergonomics in meatpacking.

August 13-15, 1991

Three-day course for red meat industry covering ergonomics guidelines and medical management of cumulative trauma disorders offered by OSHA to the public in Washington, D.C.

July 29, 1991

OSHA publishes a 24-page booklet, "Ergonomics: The Study of Work," as part of a nationwide educational and outreach program to raise awareness and reduce cumulative trauma disorders.

1990s

Through the 90s OSHA signed 11 more corporate-wide settlement agreements to bring ergonomic programs to nearly half a million workers.

November 20, 1990

OSHA/UAW/GM sign agreement bringing ergonomics programs to 138 GM plants employing more than 300,000 workers.

Fall 1990

Then Secretary of Labor, Elizabeth Dole, emphasizes need to eliminate hazards of ergonomic-related disorders. OSHA creates Office of Ergonomics Support.

August 30, 1990

The agency publishes ergonomics guidelines for the red meat industry, "Ergonomics Program Management Guidelines for Meatpacking Plants."

July 23, 1990

OSHA/UAW/Ford corporate-wide settlement agreement commits Ford to reduce ergonomic hazards in 96 percent of its plants through model ergonomics program.

July 2, 1990

Directive CPL 2.88 "Information Dissemination System for Ergonomic Inspections and Consultative Visits Resulting in Significant Benefits" issued.

November 2, 1989

OSHA/UAW/Chrysler sign corporate-wide settlement agreement for comprehensive ergonomics program to control cumulative trauma disorders at five auto assembly plants.

July 7, 1989

OSHA cites Ford's Lansdale, Pa., assembly plant for ergonomic hazards.

May 1, 1987

OSHA cites Chrysler plants in Belvedere, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo. (two); Newark, Del.; and Toledo, Ohio for recognized ergonomic hazards.

April 21, 1987

Comments on manual lifting extended to June 30, 1987, scope of concern extended from general industry only to all industries.

February 9, 1987

OSHA issues directive CPL 2.78 establishing regional ergonomics coordinators to provide technical assistance to OSHA area offices, consultation programs and state programs and mandating training for compliance staff.

October 2, 1986

OSHA requests information by Jan. 30, 1987, on reducing back injuries in general industry resulting from manual lifting.

May 16, 1986

OSHA begins a pilot program to reduce back injuries through review of injury records during inspections and recommendations for training or job redesign using NIOSH's Work Practices Guide for Manual Lifting.

August 16, 1983

The OSHA Training Institute offers its first course on ergonomics.

Early 1980s

OSHA begins discussing ergonomic issues with labor, trade associations and professional organizations.

1979

First ergonomist joins OSHA.