



Ergonomics

Real People

Real Problems

Real Solutions

What Others Are Saying About OSHA's Final Ergonomics Standard

"For the past several years, APHA has strongly supported OSHA's efforts to develop an ergonomic standard. We are pleased that it has finally been issued and that some of our comments were used in strengthening the final standard. We applaud OSHA's efforts to protect current and future workforces from crippling ergonomic injuries."

Mohammad N. Akhter, MD, MPH
Executive Director, American
Public Health Association (APHA)

"OSHA's final ergonomics standard is the most important worker safety action developed in the agency's history. Ten years in the making, the new standard will prevent hundreds of thousands of crippling repetitive strain injuries each year...Workers in poultry plants, meat packing, and auto assembly, along with computer operators, nurse aides, cashiers and others in high-risk jobs will finally have much-needed protection. Since the passage of OSHA in 1970, the job fatality rate has been cut by 75 percent—saving more than 220,000 lives. Job injury rates have been lowered by 39 percent. With this rule, even greater progress will be made in reducing injuries."

John J. Sweeney
President, AFL-CIO
Washington, DC

"Every year, 600,000 workers are disabled by back pain and hand/arm injuries like carpal tunnel syndrome. Hundreds of thousands more workers keep working every day in pain, to feed their families. Workers desperately need strong OSHA standards on extreme workloads and heavy packages...The time is right for action."

Jay Mazur
President, UNITE
Washington, DC

"Although ergonomics is an evolving science, proper application of its principles can achieve the benefits, which are significant and immediate...AIHA supports the need for an ergonomics standard. We also believe in an open process for the development of regulations, legislation, and standards and applaud the open stakeholder process OSHA has used."

The American Industrial Hygiene Association
Fairfax, VA



“This is a great day for American workers. This long-awaited standard will finally allow OSHA to protect all workers across the country from these disabling disorders. Every worker, including those in poultry plants, should be whole at the end of their workday.”

Douglas H. Dority

International President

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)

“This standard will play a major role in preventing the back injuries that affect up to 38 percent of all nurses...OSHA should be commended for its persistent efforts to make this final standard a reality for all workers. The ANA believes that this standard will make a tremendous difference in the health and safety of its members.”

Mary E. Foley, MS, RN

President, American Nurses Association

“This is a truly historic victory for worker safety. OSHA’s new standard is intended to protect millions of U.S. workers from job-related repetitive stress injuries. Each year 1.8 million workers report MSD’s and 600,000 of these injuries result in time off work to recover...A successful business is not just measured by the dollars it brings in, but by the health and safety of its employees.”

Gerald W. McEntee

President, AFSCME

“The UAW applauds OSHA’s release of the Ergonomics Program Standard...The UAW fully participated in the OSHA standards process. Our evidence included the experience of shop floor workers who are using ergonomics programs to prevent injuries...We made it clear that ergonomics programs work, that they are necessary, and that they prevent injuries and improve efficiency and quality.”

Stephen P. Yokich

President, International Union, UAW

“This common sense rule is badly needed to prevent pain and suffering for millions of nursing home workers and patients...Working in a nursing home is one of the most dangerous jobs in America, more dangerous than working in a coal mine, steel mill, warehouse or paper mill...Every year, out of 100 nursing home workers, 18 will be injured; six will need to spend time away from work to recover; and four will be hurt so badly they need a week or more to recover.”

Andrew L. Stern

President, SEIU