

Quick Tips

Completing Ergonomic Assessments Leave it to the Experts



Supporting Your Investment in People



Most agree on the value of completing a site-wide ergonomics assessment. The question is how to get it done in a timely, accurate, and cost-effective way. Many companies choose to take on the task internally. They'll bring a vendor onsite to provide training, or they'll send personnel offsite to a training workshop and expect them to come back and complete the site-wide assessment. In our experience this doesn't work well and here's why:



- It's unrealistic to expect individuals with little experience in ergonomics to take a 2- to 3-day course and then complete an accurate site-wide assessment. The field of ergonomics is complex and involves a variety of factors including humans, tasks, products, and systems.
- Some of the most widely used assessment tools taught by ergonomics vendors do not validly predict the risk of injury for jobs. They are simple and easy to learn and use, but their simplicity produces invalid assessment results. The tools either flag jobs as "high risk" when they are not or do a poor job of differentiating jobs across a large site, which defeats the purpose of prioritization altogether.
- Environments with long cycle times and task variability require a variety of assessment methods, and data must be normalized to make prioritization meaningful.
- And finally, their day jobs get in the way. Site personnel time gets taken up to "fight fires" or deal with other issues. The result is a stretched schedule and by the time the last job is assessed, the first jobs assessed have changed.

Leave it to ergonomics professionals with experience to quickly and accurately assess jobs. Yes, there is a cost to hiring a professional, but there is also a cost to performing the work internally. Our suggestion is to save money where you can by minimizing travel costs and using local professionals. Here at Atlas we have consultants in over 15,000 cities and towns across the US to assist if needed.