

# Strategic Considerations for Developing an Ergonomics Program

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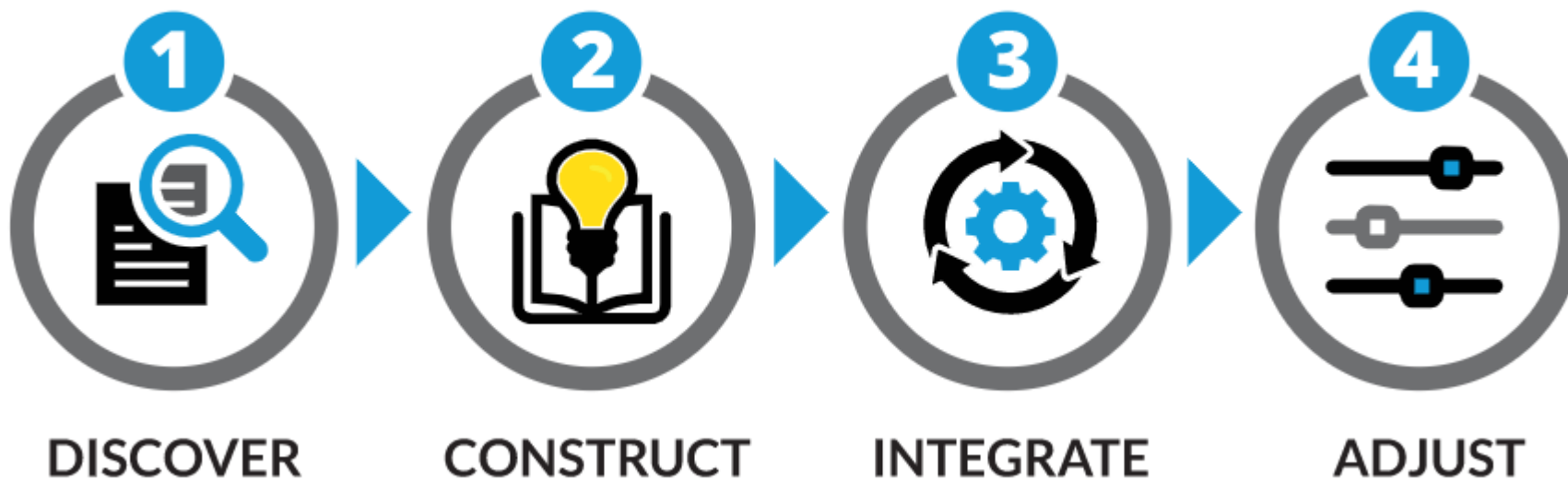
## Purpose of Session

Provide examples of program types, component options and thought-provoking questions to create strategic considerations when building an ergonomics program.

## Value Statement

Your company is not identical to another and thus, it important to strategically align your ergonomics program elements to fit your organization's specific culture and needs.

## PHASES OF IMPROVEMENT





# Determining Goals

Improve Productivity, Quality, Energy Use

Improve Employee Engagement

Develop a “For-Profit” Product

Identify Risk Profile – Reduce Injuries

Ensure Reasonable Accommodations

Keep OSHA Away

Design for Human Use (usability)



# Types of Ergo Program Design?

## Compliance Driven



- Program desires to meet minimal requirements
- Low commitment and high costs
- Use audits as form of effort and assurance

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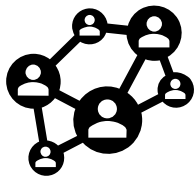
## Expert Driven



- Rely on Ergonomist / Consultant with strong skills
- Limited internal procedures, guidelines & communication
- Small skill based to utilize
- Focused on technical projects

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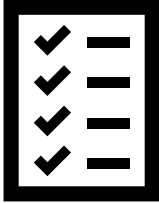
## Cultural Driven



- Widespread ownership and engagement
- Procedures / systems are in place
- Widespread skill base / employee capability
- Efforts focused on mentoring and inclusion of many

# Types of Ergo Program Design?

## Compliance Driven



### Pros

- Limited Initial \$\$\$ Commitment (not really doing much)

### Cons

- Reactive
- \$\$\$\$ - Issue Arises (OSHA)
- Ethics/ Values – Employee Care

## Expert Driven



### Pros

- Provided Expert Advice / Quality Service

### Cons

- \$\$\$ to Scale Success
- Limited Engagement w/ internal EE's

## Cultural Driven



### Pros

- Values and Long-Term Savings
- Exponential Success (3 years)
- Proactive

### Cons

- Many don't have long term vision (this takes time)

# 8 Components of a Holistic Program

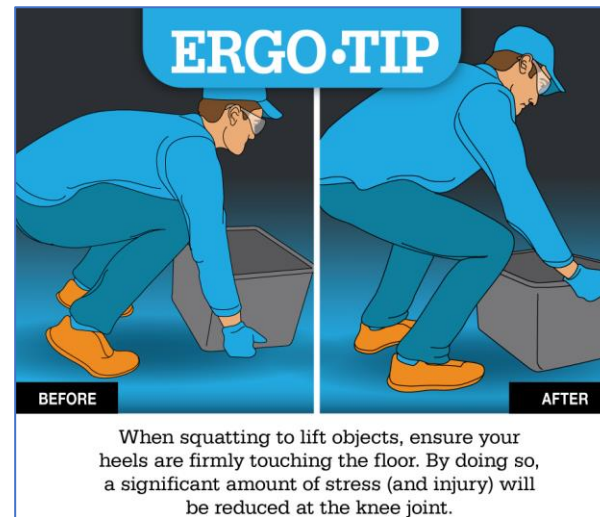
1. Recognizing Existing & Potential Problems
2. Ergonomic Assessments of Jobs with Potential Problems
3. Corrections for Ergonomics Problems (Reactive Approaches)
4. Prevention of Ergonomic Problems (Proactive Approaches)
5. Medical Management
6. Ergonomic Training & Skill Development
7. Organization & Mgmt. of the Ergonomics Program
8. Ergonomic Results (i.e., quantitative improvements)

# Recognizing Existing & Potential Problems

## Facility Ergo Committee



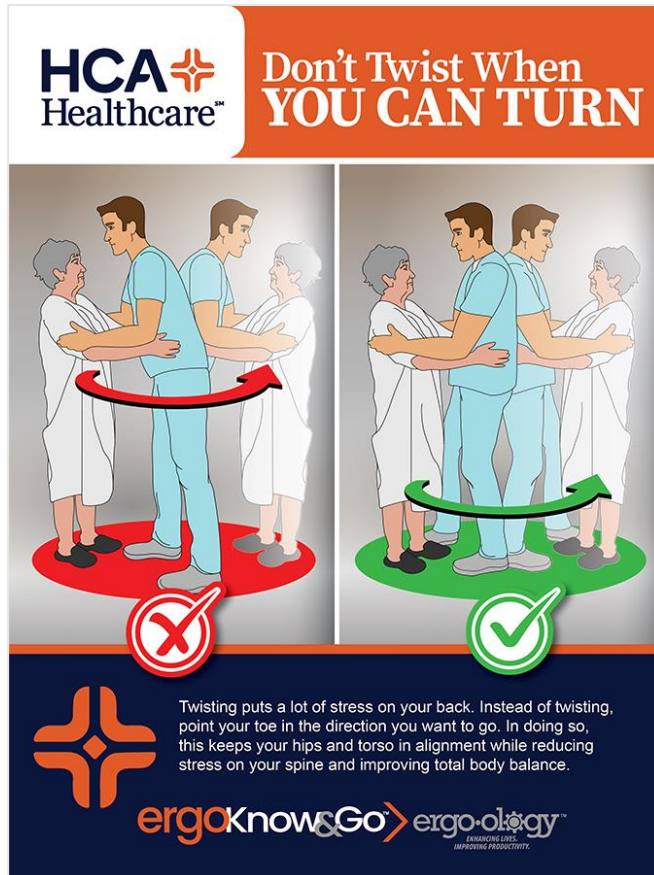
## Micro Learning (example)



- What Type of Awareness Materials are Provided?
- Platforms for Communication
- Who is Identifying
- Methods of Identification
- Motivation of Identifying
- Location and Visibility of Identified Problems

# Recognizing Situation Example 1

*“We desire to have widespread awareness but have a company COVID policy against classroom training”.*



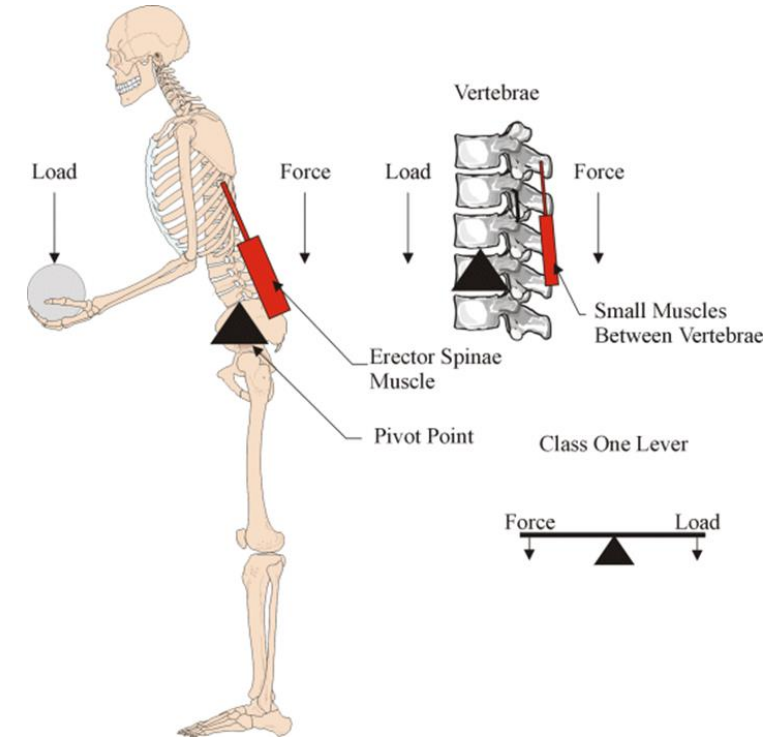


# Recognizing Situation Example 2

*"We have attempted generic material, but employees feel ergonomics is too **technical** for them."*



	Upright/ walking	Upright	Slightly bent forward ( $>20^\circ$ ) (With/without support)	Bending far forward ( $>60^\circ$ ) (With/without support)
Standing				
Seated				
Kneeling / lying down				



# Recognizing Situation Example 3

*"We have discussed various awareness topics, but employees still feel ergonomics does not apply to them."*





# Ergonomic Assessments of Jobs with Potential Problems

## Ergonomic Risk Assessment



Opportunity

Opportunity

**Risk Assessment: Red = High, Orange = Medium, Yellow = Low, Green = No**

Hand/ Wrist		Elbow		Shoulder		Back		Legs / Knee		Neck
Left	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	

Recommended Weight Limit (RWL)

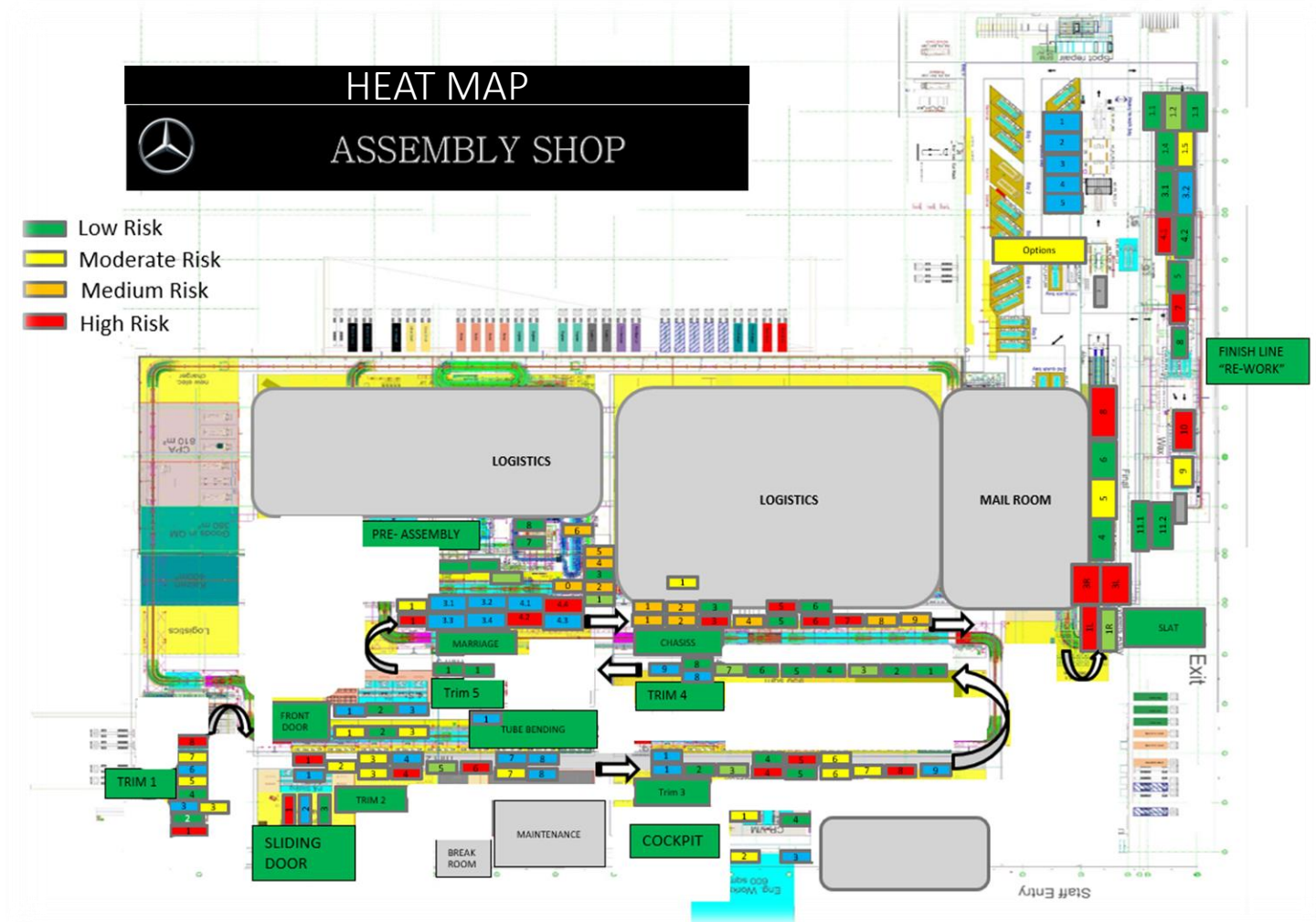
Lifting Index (LI)

Origin	Destination
17.86	19.17
0.42	0.39

- Scope of Assessment / Type?
- Who is conducting Assessments (Process)?
- Influencers of Prioritization?
- Prioritization Platform

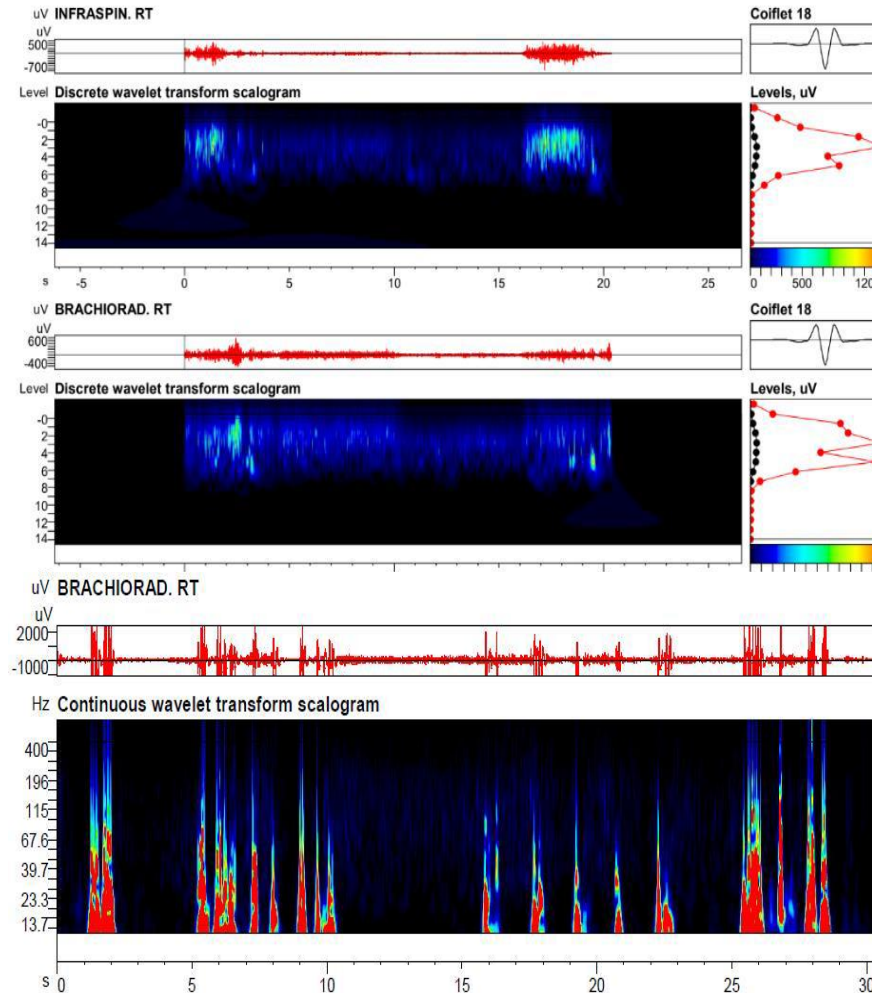
# Specific Situation Example

*“We just need to identify our general risk footprint and the level of risk at this point.”*



# Specific Situation Example

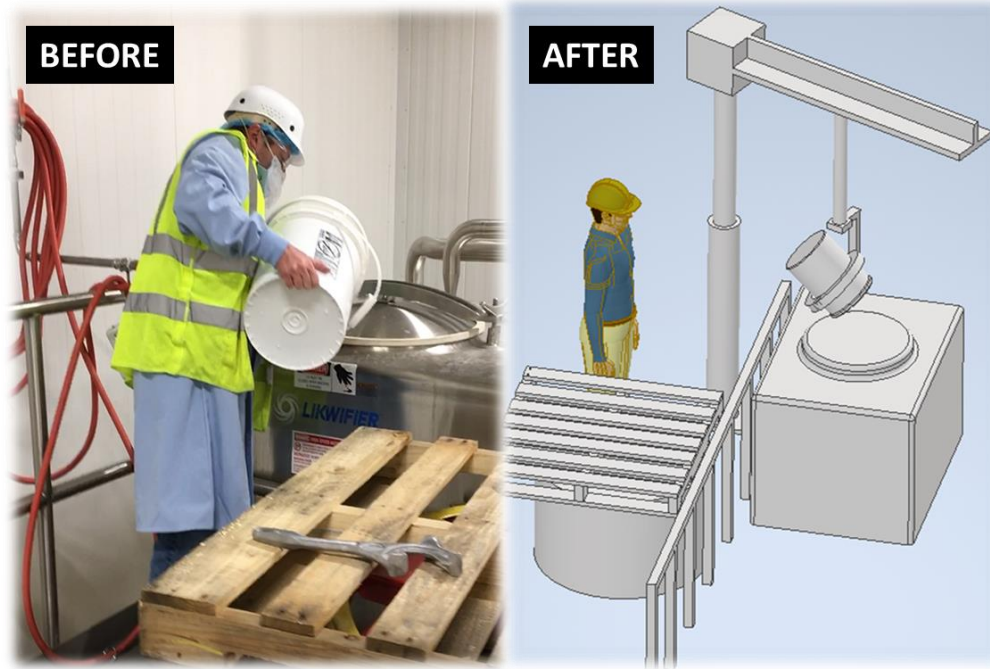
*“We need biometric responses to a specific situation to understand the level of usability and fatigue (risk).”*





# Corrections / Prevention for Ergonomics Problems

## ROI Justification (example)



Productivity Forecast: -8% | - \$2K annually

Quality Forecast (wasted product): 9 % | \$1K annually

Risk Reduction: 62% | 13K injury avoidance

Cost: \$12,000.00

- Type of Ergonomic Problems
- Problem Complexity
- Process for Corrective Actions
- Considerations for Prevention
  - New Product / Facility Design
- Business Case / Implementation Justification

# Specific Situation Example 1

*“We had engineering labor standards completed (time study) for our warehouse but employees still complain.”*

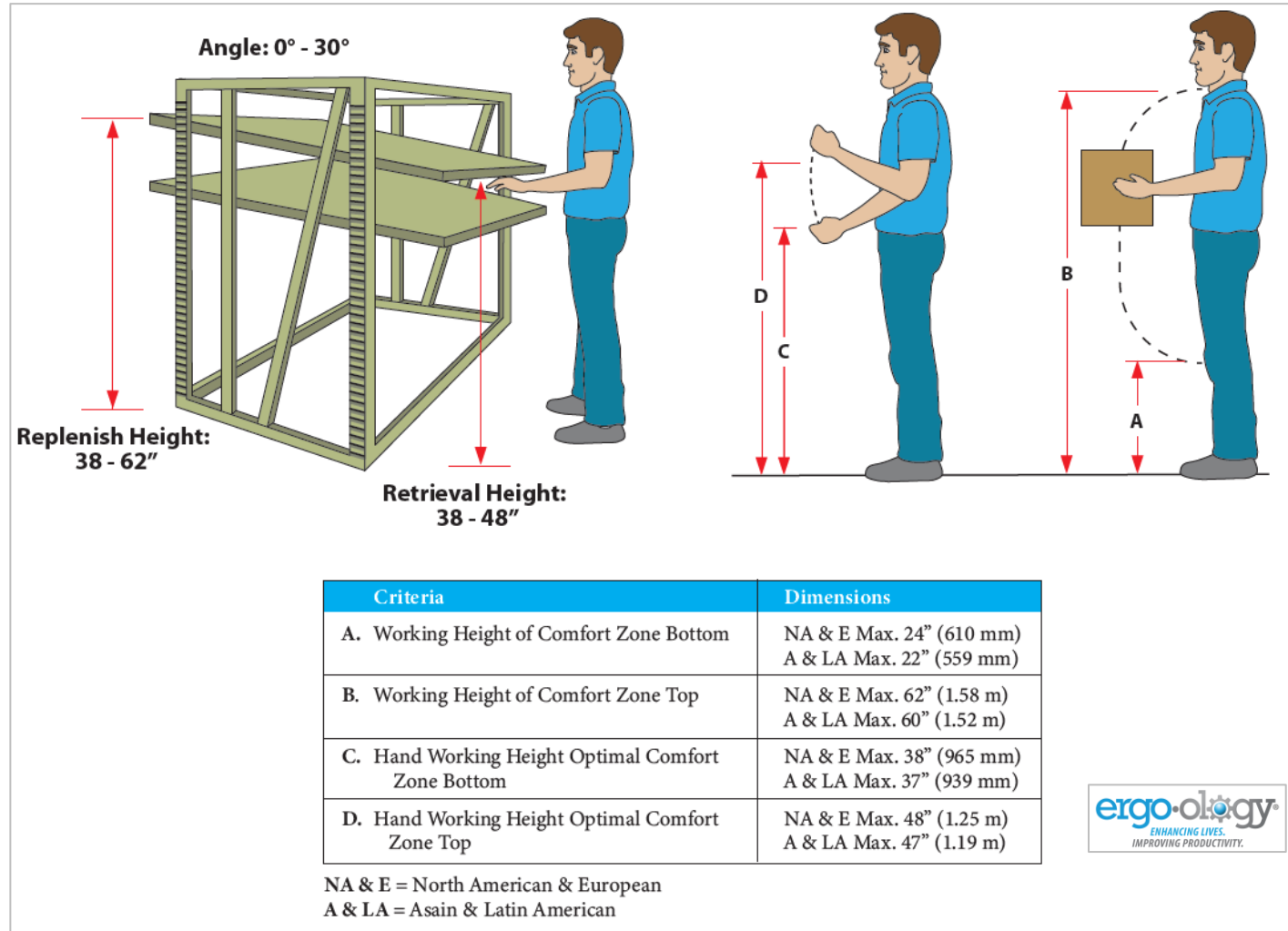
Men					
Age	Avg. Fitness Level (VO2)	METS	25%	33%	45%
20-29	48	13.71	3.428571	4.525714	6.171429
30-39	44	12.57	3.142857	4.148571	5.657143
40-49	40	11.43	2.857143	3.771429	5.142857
50-59	36	10.29	2.571429	3.394286	4.628571
60-69	31	8.86	2.214286	2.922857	3.985714
70+	26	7.43	2.451429	2.451429	3.342857

Subject	Metabolic Rate	Lift Count	Subject	Metabolic Rate	Lift Count
1	4.5 (35.8%)	131	4	4.8 (38.1%)	129
2	3.9 (31%)	99	5	4.2 (33.4%)	118
3	4.3 (34.2%)	116	6	5.1 (40.5%)	147

According to “Work Practices Guide for Manual Lifting” (NIOSH, 1981), NIOSH recommended that workers should limit their energy expenditure to **33%** of their aerobic capacity (AC) if they are to perform the task for 8 hours, (25% for 12 hours).

# Specific Situation Example 2

*“Our engineers consider items like materials, dimensions, durability but not the human conducting the work .”*



# Medical Management

## Physical Ability Testing / Fit for Duty

Quantify Demands of Essential Job Tasks



Physical Abilities Test



- Identification of Injured Employees (Process)
- “Early” Intervention Programs
- Treatment (Case Management)
- Limitations / Return To Work

**Pass : Fail Score**  
**Required Prior to Employment**  
**Required for Return to Work – Injured Employees**

<https://ergo-ology.com/physical-ability-testing/>

# Specific Situation Example 1

*“We understand the level of “risk” in our workstations but don’t have physical demands to communicate with medical.”*

## Physical Demand Analysis (PDA's)

- Metabolic Rates • Shift Length • Lifting • Reaching • Standing / Walking • Carrying • Push / Pull • Sitting • Climbing • Work Conditions • Tools, Equipment, Materials

1. Endurance		
Work Intensity	2.1 MET's (moderate intensity)	
2. Lift and Carry		
Objects Lifted	Stamped parts,	
Lift Description 1: Workers manually lift unstamped parts from bulk bin and insert into press		
Lift Description 2: Workers manually lift stamped parts and place in cardboard barrel		
	Maximum	Average
Weight	Up to 35 lbs. (over beam & 8-28)	Up to 5 lbs.
Lowest Lift Point	25"	32" (low table height)
Highest Lift Point	Up to 48"	42"
Carry Distance	Up to 40 feet	Less than 5 feet
Frequency	Weekly	Continuous
Weight	Lift	Carry
<10 lbs.	X	X
10-25 lbs.	X	X
26-50 lbs.	X	N/A
51-75 lbs.	N/A	N/A
76-100 lbs.	N/A	N/A
100 + lbs.	N/A	N/A
3. Push and Pull		
Objects Moved:	Stamped parts in barrels, pallet jack	
Push/Pull Description 1: Worker push/pulls pallet jacks with barrels of stamped parts to staging area. Low geared pallet jacks, required excessive number of pushes (down) on pallet jack handle.		
	Maximum	Average
Initial Force	Up to 36 lbs.	Up to 35 lbs.
Hand Height	36" (Pallet Jack Handle)	32"
Distance	Up to 80 feet	Up to 60 feet

\* sample page



Physical Ability Testing



RTW Communications



Determining Essential Functions (ADA)



Job Rotations



Light Duty Identification



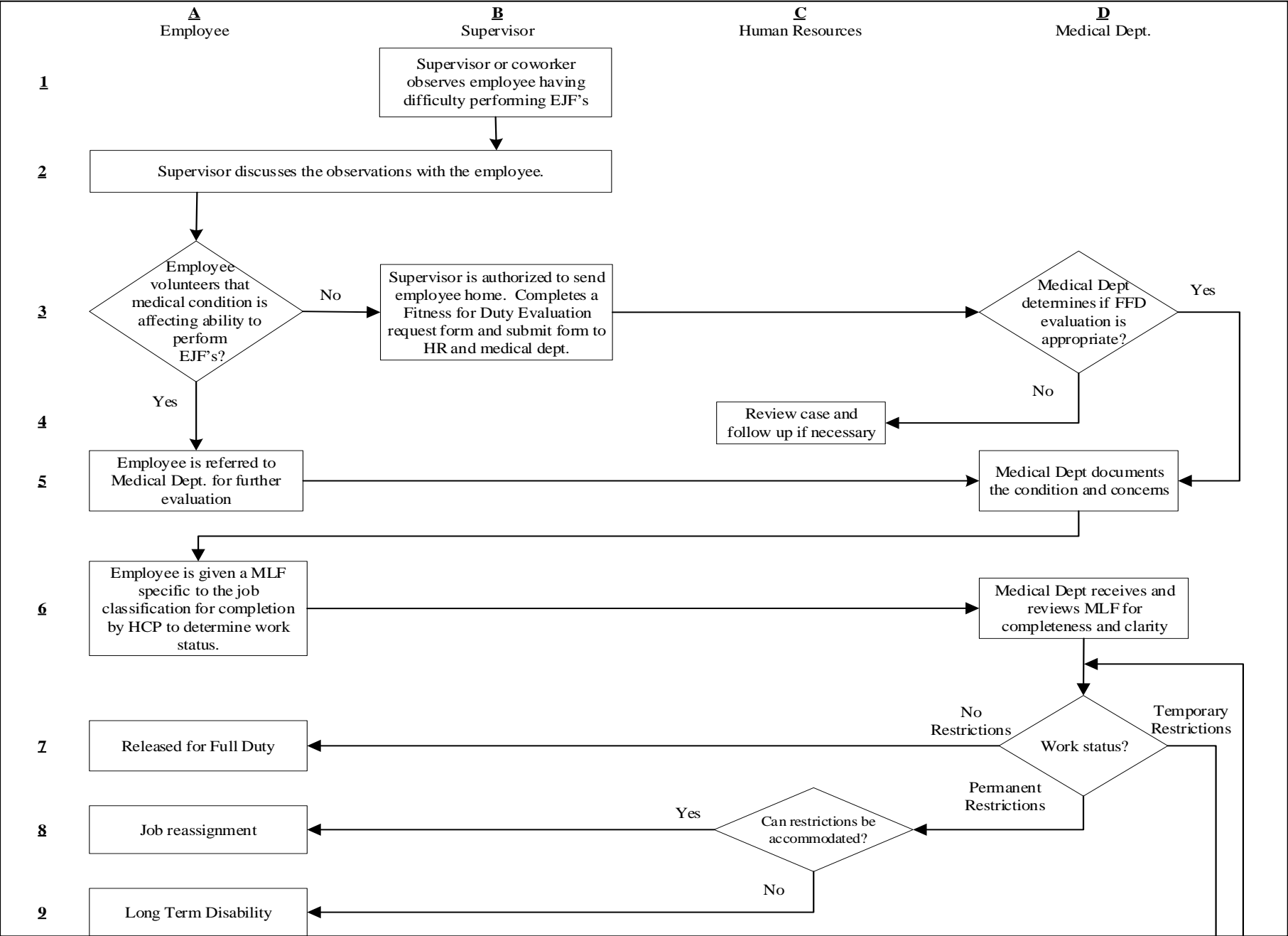
Job Descriptions



Medical Management: Swim Lane Diagram (screen shot example)

Specific Situation  
Example 2

*“We don’t have clear roles and responsibilities between stakeholders in our INTERNAL medical management program”*



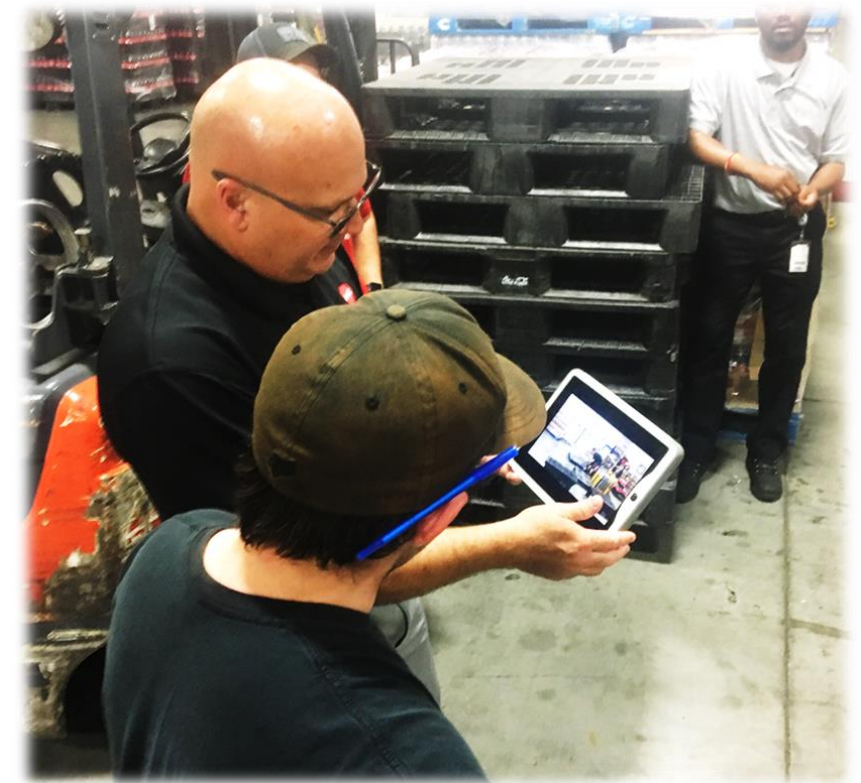
# Ergonomics Results



Did your efforts fit your organization's specific culture and goals?

# Specific Situation Example - Results

*“Our goal is to reduce injuries from poor employee decisions and improper lifting behaviors”.*



Learn It  
(Classroom)



Do It  
(Obstacle Course)



See It  
(Video Analysis)



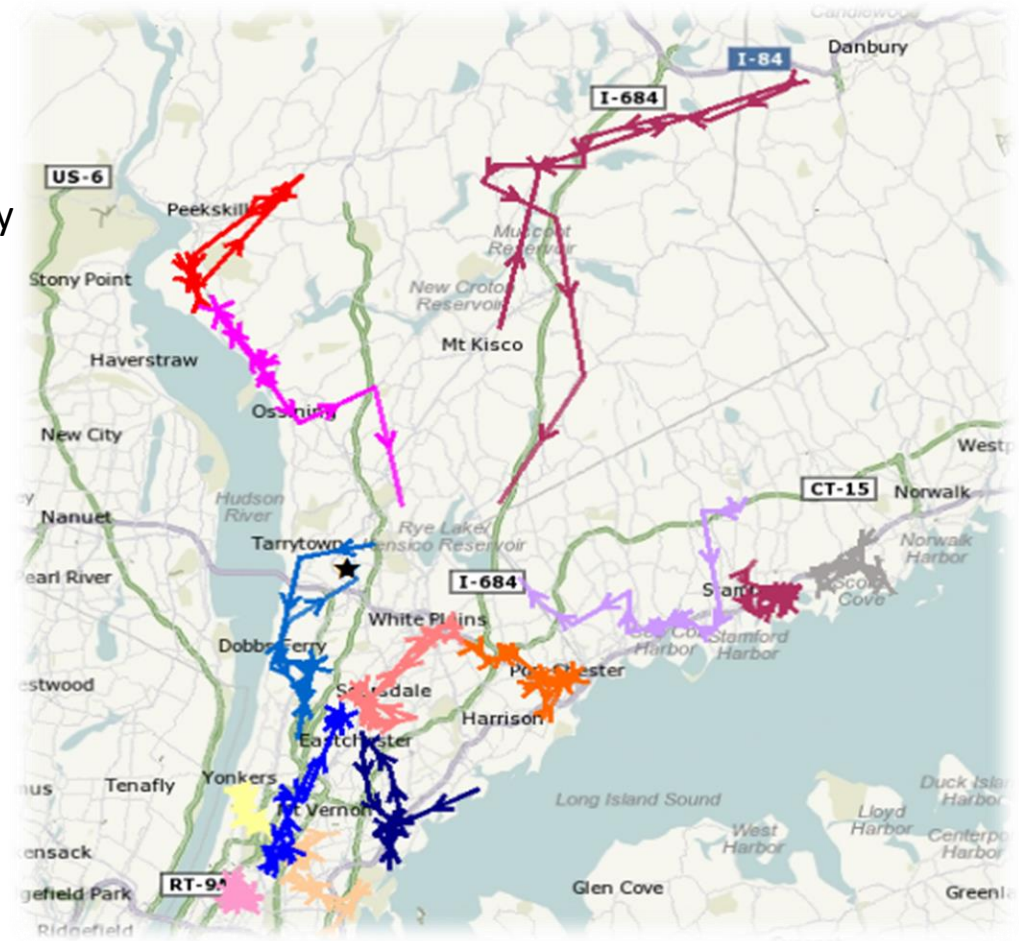
**19% reduction in lifting type injuries (2017-2020)**

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IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY.

# Specific Situation Example

*"Our goal is to reduce our carbon footprint."*

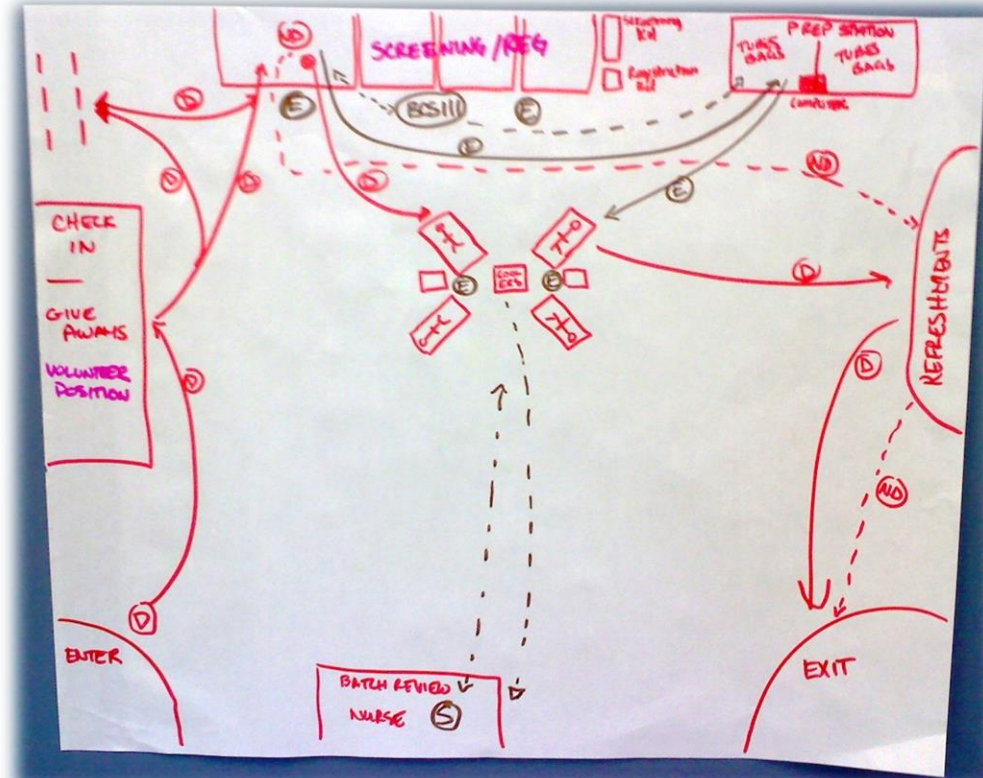
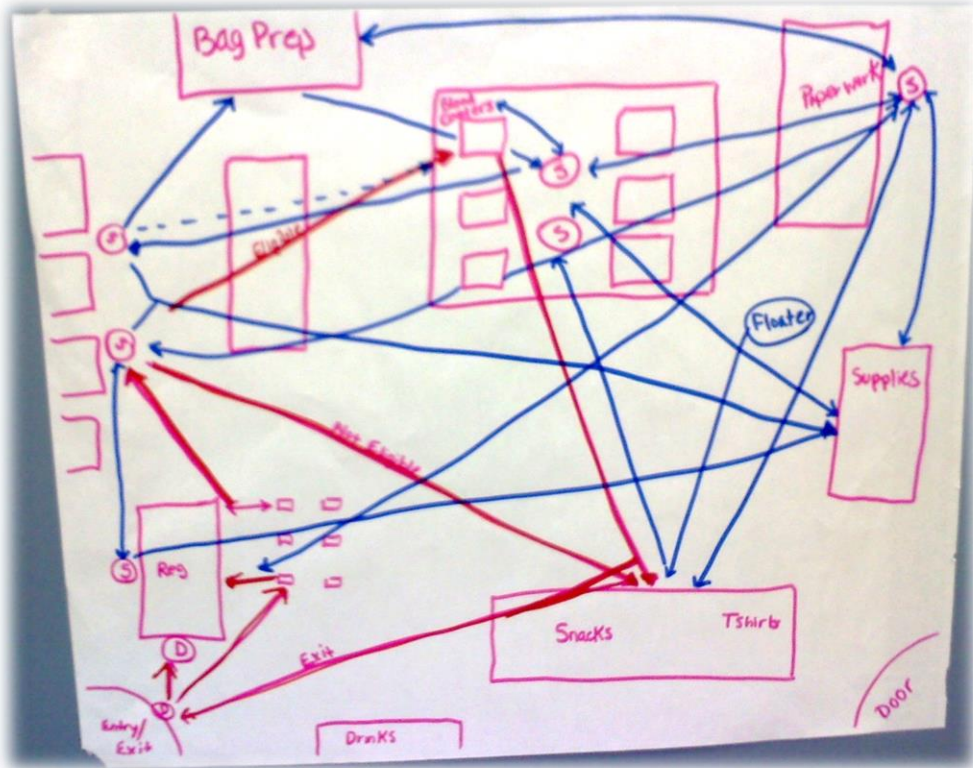
- **Work Volume:** Avg. reduction in pushing distance by 2.3 miles/ driver / day
- **Time:** \$16,425 / employee / year
  - Avg.: 45 min/day
- **Sustainability:** = \$76,700 / facility / year (assume 260 days)
  - 5-gals gas or \$14.75 / truck / day (\$2.95 gal)
  - 14.75 / truck x 20 / = \$295 / facility / day
  - \$295 / facility / day = \$76,700





# Specific Situation Example

*"We have a goal to improve patient throughput (efficiency; patients seen per day)."*



*Phlebotomy Lab – Houston Medical 2018*

**Patients realized : increased 38% / shift (\$3.6M annually)**  
Eliminated 63 lifting actions / shift and 11.3 miles (foot traffic)

# Specific Situation Example

*"We want widespread ownership with all levels of the business aware and controlling risk."*

## ERGO SPOTLIGHT

CLIENT  
**Lubrizol**  
Franklin, WI  
Medical Device Manufacturer

87%



REDUCTION OF  
INJURY COSTS  
from 2017 to 2020



1

ERGO TEAM  
DEVELOPED  
the facility built a  
cross-functional  
team of ergo  
champions from  
different  
departments.

12



ERGO CHAMPIONS MENTORED  
employees on the ergo team meet  
monthly with Ergo-ology to receive  
mentoring and education.

12

Proper  
Lifting



EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS  
applicable ergonomics topics were  
provided to the ergo champions.



54

RISK ASSESSMENTS  
were completed by  
the Ergonomics Team



25

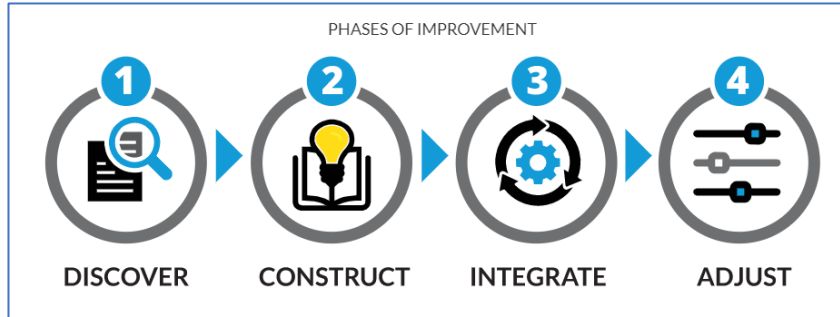
ERGO SOLUTIONS  
were implemented to  
reduce ergonomics  
risk and injury





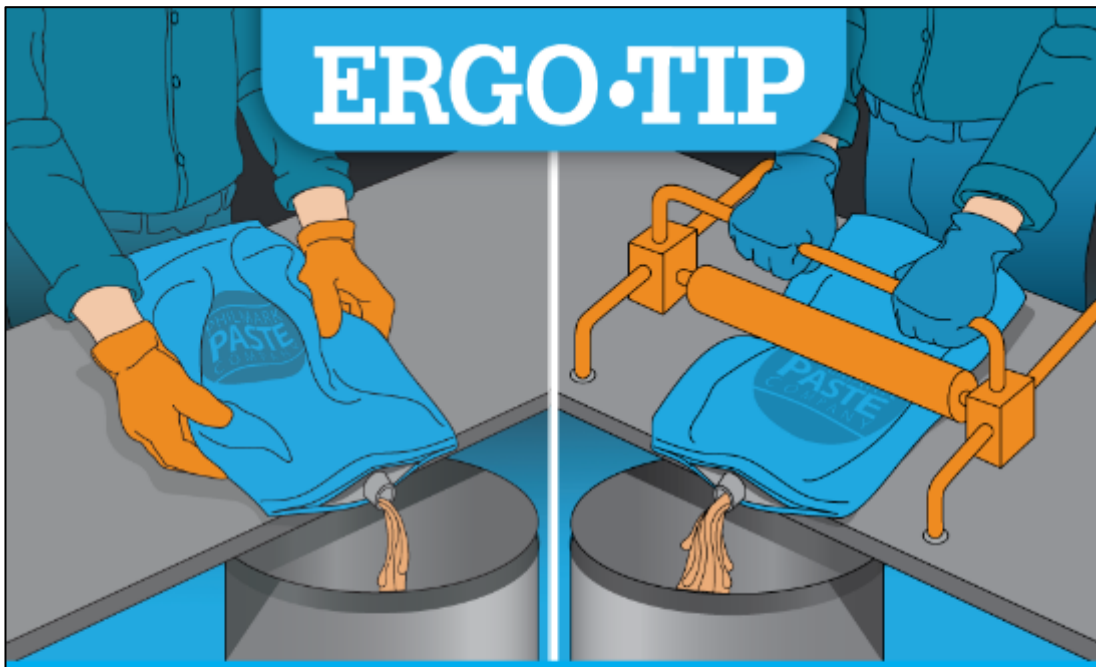
# Where should I start with Ergo?

- What are your goals, constraints, prior efforts?



<https://ergo-ology.com/our-approach/>

- Is anyone trained in ergonomics at your facility?
- Have you discussed any ergonomics process framework?
- Does Management champion ergonomics yet?
- Has a list of problem jobs been identified?



The illustration is split into two panels. The left panel shows a person's hands, wearing orange gloves, manually squeezing a blue bag labeled 'PASTE' to empty it into a grey container. The right panel shows the same bag being emptied into a similar container, but using an automated orange squeegee device. A blue banner at the top left of the illustration contains the text 'ERGO·TIP'.

**ERGO·TIP**

Manually removing product from packaging can require the hands and fingers to exert high forces. If automation is not possible, implementing a squeegee device will lower stress and improve productivity. Most also experience lower residual product being wasted too (quality savings).

**Squeegee It Out!**

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# Physical Demand Gap Analysis:

## The Bridge Between High-Performance Workforce and Peak-Safety Workplace

Presented by: Matt Jeffs DPT PSM REAS  
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[matt@thebackschool.net](mailto:matt@thebackschool.net)



# Onsite Health & Safety Specialist

by Margot Miller, PT

## Facilitating Stay at Work/Return to Work

The therapist plays a key role in decreasing unnecessary work absence and keeping patients at work and productive.

Millions of American workers develop health problems that either temporarily or permanently keep them out of work each year. In most cases, this involves a relatively brief recovery period. However, approximately 10% of these workers are affected by conditions that result in significant work absences, and some can leave an individual out of work permanently. The estimated total annual cost of disability benefits paid under sick leave, workers' compensation, short-term and/or long-term disability, SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance), FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act), and ADA (Americans with Disability Act) exceeds \$100 billion. This article will focus on the therapist's role in facilitating Stay at Work or Return to Work (SAW/RTW) to decrease long duration absences from work.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's "Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed" reported that the fundamental reason for most medically related lost work days and lost jobs is not medical necessity. Rather it is nonmedical decisions made during the SAW/RTW process, including administrative delays for treatment or specialty referral, lack of transitional or modified work, ineffective communication, and logistic problems.

The steps involved in determining SAW/RTW include the following:

1. A medical condition or precipitating event occurs—determine whether the worker can perform the job.
2. Assess worker's current ability.
  - a. Functional capacity—determine what the worker is able to do today.
  - b. Functional limitations—determine what the worker cannot do today that they can normally do.
  - c. Medical restrictions—determine what the worker cannot do due to the potential of doing medical harm.
3. Understand/Identify the job requirements.
4. Compare worker's job requirements to that person's current abilities.
5. Take necessary actions to return the worker to work. This may include modifying current job duties or identifying an alternate duty job to enable return to work.

When the medical condition will not worsen with work, when the worker wants to work, and when the employer will allow temporary modification of the job demands if needed, the above process steps can be accomplished quickly. It is at this point that therapists can be involved to facilitate SAW/RTW.

### ASSESSING THE WORKER'S CURRENT CAPACITY

Functional capacity testing is appropriate to identify the impaired worker's current abilities as well as to identify limitations that could affect SAW/RTW. The testing should be job specific, testing the worker's functional abilities specific to the job

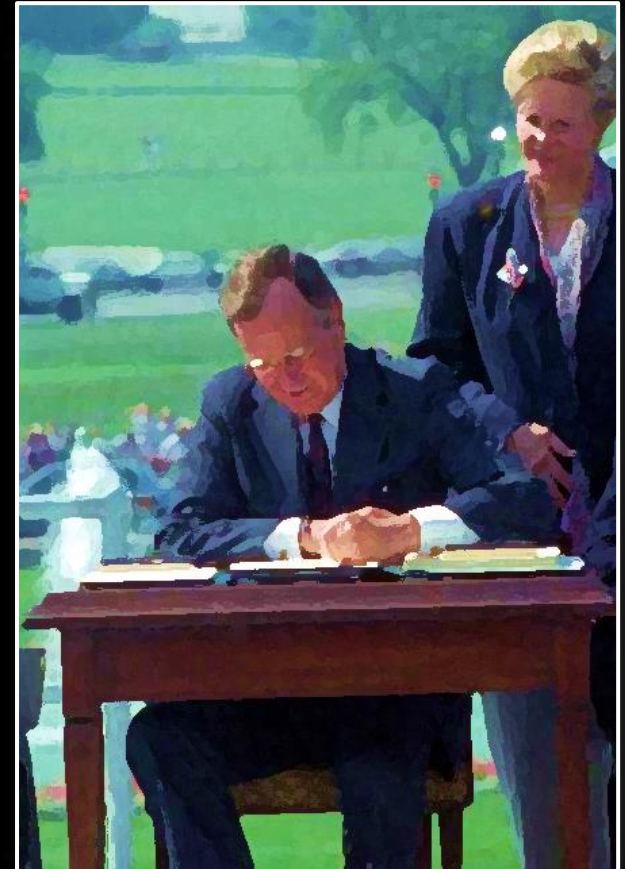


Matt Jeffs, DPT, CEAS II, performing job coaching with a worker to facilitate safe job performance.

requirements to establish a baseline of functional abilities. This functional capacity test serves as a work status test. A job-specific conditioning or job-specific functional restoration program can then be developed, in conjunction with appropriate treatment, to restore movement, maximize strength, decrease pain/symptoms, and improve functional abilities. Repeat functional tests are performed to assess functional gains. Education targeted to the medical condition and relative to the specific job functions increases the worker's knowledge and problem solving using injury prevention and rehabilitation principles. Job coaching performed at the worker's workstation assists integration of education principles, ie, appropriate movement patterns, posture changes, and strategies to reduce reported discomfort and improve safe job performance. As function improves, the worker should be able to perform more original job duties, until able to perform 100% of the job duties.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANUAL:

- Title I of the ADA - The ADA is intended to enable persons to compete in the workplace based on the same performance standards and requirements that employers expect of all persons holding that job title.





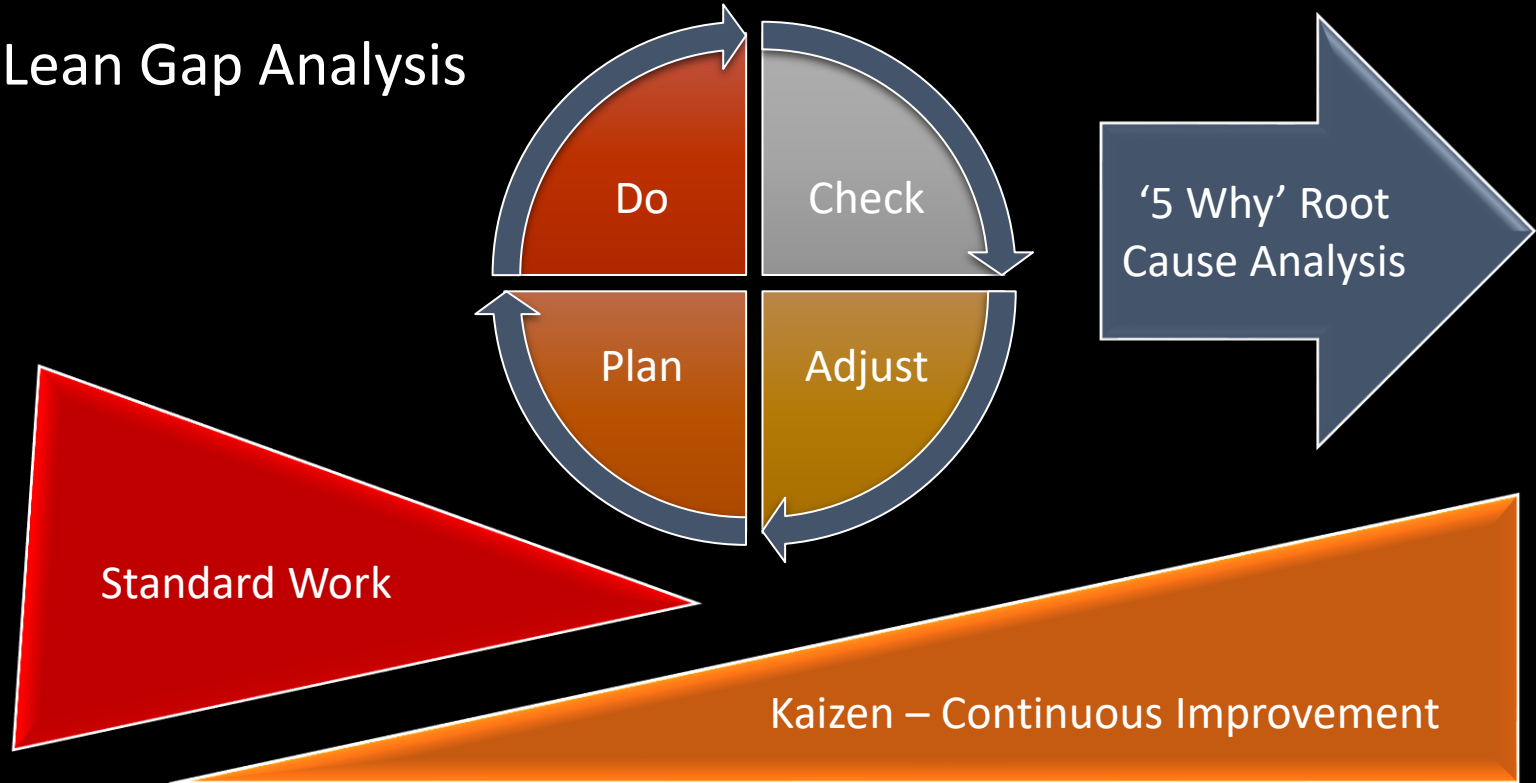
"Yeah...No..."

"Not so fast..."

"Think again..."



# Lean Gap Analysis





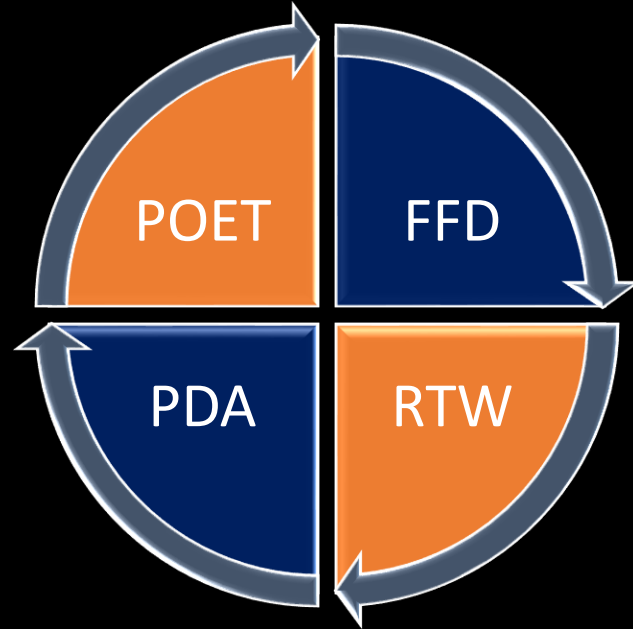
## The PDA Gap Analysis Process

5. What is the most effective and efficient way to enhance Safety & Ergonomics – and **why** does it demonstrate a workplace that makes safety a top priority business metric?

## The Physical Demand Analysis



## The PDA Gap Analysis Process





# Four Stage Process

## Information Gathering

□ Stage-1: Screening – Interview

□ Stage-2: Observation – Measurement

Source: Int Arch Occup Environ Health (2002) 75:  
459–467 DOI 10.1007/s00420-002-0327-3

Int Arch Occup Environ Health (2002) 75: 459–467  
DOI 10.1007/s00420-002-0327-3

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

J.B. Malchaire · A. Piette

#### Co-ordinated strategy of prevention and control of the biomechanical factors associated with the risk of musculoskeletal disorders

Received: 22 October 2001 / Accepted: 16 February 2002 / Published online: 12 June 2002  
© Springer-Verlag 2002

**Abstract Objectives:** To propose a cost-effective set of methods (strategy) to improve biomechanical working conditions and prevent the development of musculoskeletal disorders. **Methods:** The strategy was developed according to the philosophy already used for other aspects of working conditions. It was then tested in ten industrial situations with various characteristics, to check its understanding, its usability, and its efficiency. **Results:** The strategy includes a five-page leaflet (screening) aimed at motivating the operators to check the problems and bring about immediate solutions if possible. A stage-2 observation checklist is then proposed to guide the discussions during a meeting of the protagonists (workers and management). The assistance of an occupational health practitioner might become indispensable at stage 3 to deepen the analysis of the remaining problems, while experts are requested only in exceptional cases (stage 4, expertise). This strategy was positively judged by the users and proved to be effective in motivating and co-ordinating the protagonists. **Conclusion:** The strategy proved to consider effectively all biomechanical aspects that might contribute to the development of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). It proved also to be participatory, placing the operators and their management at the centre of the intervention as the main actors, and organising when to turn to an occupational health practitioner or an expert for assistance.

**Keywords** Prevention · Ergonomics · Repetitive strain injuries · Low back pain · MSD

Initial documents (in French and Dutch) can be downloaded from <http://www.md.ucl.ac.be/hytr/new/fr/index.html>

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### Introduction

Numerous methods are described in the literature to evaluate the risk of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) of the upper limbs. These include checklists (Ahonen et al. 1989; Kilbom 1994; Silverstein 1997), assessment scales (Rodgers 1992; McAtamney and Corlett 1993; Moore and Garg 1995), observation techniques (Kemmlert 1995), or even very sophisticated measurement procedures (Ranaivosoa et al. 1992; Marras and Schoenmarklin 1993; Malchaire et al. 1997).

It appears, clearly, that the large majority deal with the biomechanical constraints only, and attempt to characterise the whole situation by a single figure or set of figures defined on semi-arbitrary scales of risk.

Most of these researchers published epidemiological studies aimed at defining the dose (constraints)–response or effect (complaints or disorders) relationship. In such studies, subjects from many diverse workplaces were included and the range of constraints was the largest possible. Numerical indices were required for the statistics (logistic regressions) and for including, in the study, constraints for different body zones. These methods were then proposed in the literature and used by practitioners to assess the risk of MSDs at a given workplace.

The RULA method (McAtamney and Corlett 1993) is probably the archetype of these indices, summarising in a single number the constraints in all main body regions. Other similar methods were proposed by Occhipinti (1998) and Moore and Garg (1995). In these methods, the main issue for the authors was the scoring system, scoring that, undeniably, also became, for many users in practice, the main objective of the study.

Questions can be raised concerning the significance of such methods for industry:

1. They usually require qualifications and technical and time possibilities that few people have in practice in the field, in industry. This is particularly true in small and medium-sized companies where, whatever the



THE  
BACK SCHOOL®

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Art E. Fischel

Job Title Journeyman Plumber

Never 0% shift	Occasional <33% shift	Frequent <66% shift	Constant >67% shift	Plumber - Essential Job Functions – Job Specific	Demand Level
	✓			Install pipes and fixtures such as sinks, urinals or toilets to complete job order	Light
✓				Install pipes and equipment such as water heaters or dishwashers to complete job order	N/A
		✓		Inspect and test installed pipe systems and pipelines during routine maintenance	Heavy
			✓	Troubleshoot malfunctioning systems	Light
		✓		Repair and replace worn parts	Heavy
	✓			Connect pipes and perform pressure tests to ensure a system is airtight and watertight	Medium
			✓	Use power tools including grinders, threaders, drills and saws	Heavy
	✓			Use welding torches and welding equipment	Light
✓				Direct electrician apprentices and helpers	N/A

Additions / Deletions: Check equipment sheds, tool rooms and supply closets for some of our heavy, awkward machines & materials

Signature Art E. Fischel

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### OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search Handbook

Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters

What Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters Do

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters install and repair pipes that carry liquids or gases to, from, and within businesses, homes, and factories.

Other:

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters typically do the following:

- Prepare cost estimates for clients
- Read blueprints and follow data and local building codes
- Determine the material and equipment needed for a job
- Install pipes and fixtures
- Design and test installed pipe systems and pipelines
- Troubleshoot malfunctioning systems
- Repair and replace worn parts

The movement of liquids and gases through pipes is critical to modern life. In homes, water is needed for both drinking and sanitation. In factories, chemicals are moved to and to produce manufacturing. In power plants, steam is moved to drive turbines that generate electricity. Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters install and repair these pipe systems.

Although plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters perform these distinct and specialized roles, their duties are often similar. For example, they all install pipes and fittings that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. They determine the necessary materials for a job, correct pipes, and perform pressure tests to ensure that a pipe system is airtight and watertight. Their tools include drills, saws, welding torches, and wrenches.

Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters may use many different materials and construction techniques, depending on the type of project. Residential water systems, for example, use copper, steel, and plastic pipe that can be installed by hand. Some steel water systems, in contrast, are made of large steel pipes that usually take a crew of pipefitters to install. Some workers install stainless steel pipes in dairy farms and in factories, mainly to prevent contamination.

In addition to performing installation and repair work, journey and master level plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters frequently direct apprentices and helpers. Master plumbers or steamfitters also may be involved with developing blueprints that show the placement of all the pipes and fixtures. Their work helps ensure that a structure's plumbing meets building codes, state or federal codes, and meets with the location of other features, such as electric wires. Many designers use computer-aided design (CAD) software to create a building's plumbing system, which allows a building's physical system to be planned and coordinated more efficiently.

The following are examples of types of plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters:

**Plumbers** install and repair water, drainage, gas, and other piping systems in homes, businesses, and factories. Plumbers install plumbing fixtures such as bathtubs and toilets, and appliances, such as dishwashers and water heaters. Plumbers also maintain water systems that supply underground buildings that collect waste from houses that are not connected to a sewer system.

**Pipefitters** sometimes are called fabric welders and maintain pipes that carry chemicals and gases. These pipes are used mostly in manufacturing, commercial, and industrial settings. They install and repair gas systems in power plants, as well as heating and cooling systems in large office buildings. Some pipefitters specialize as gasfitters, gasfitters, or steamfitters.

Related Occupations



Carrying Loads  
Over Distances



Static Balance  
Dynamic Balance



Lifting Loads  
Lowering Loads



Awkward Working  
Postures



# Four Stage Process

## Information Processing

□ Stage-3: Analysis – Assessment

□ Stage-4: Expertise – Report Prep

Source: Int Arch Occup Environ Health (2002) 75:  
459–467 DOI 10.1007/s00420-002-0327-3

Int Arch Occup Environ Health (2002) 75: 459–467  
DOI 10.1007/s00420-002-0327-3

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

J.B. Malchaire · A. Piette

#### Co-ordinated strategy of prevention and control of the biomechanical factors associated with the risk of musculoskeletal disorders

Received: 22 October 2001 / Accepted: 16 February 2002 / Published online: 12 June 2002  
© Springer-Verlag 2002

**Abstract Objectives:** To propose a cost-effective set of methods (strategy) to improve biomechanical working conditions and prevent the development of musculoskeletal disorders. **Methods:** The strategy was developed according to the philosophy already used for other aspects of working conditions. It was then tested in ten industrial situations with various characteristics, to check its understanding, its usability, and its efficiency. **Results:** The strategy includes a five-page leaflet (screening) aimed at motivating the operators to check the problems and bring about immediate solutions if possible. A stage-2 observation checklist is then proposed to guide the discussions during a meeting of the protagonists (workers and management). The assistance of an occupational health practitioner might become indispensable at stage 3 to deepen the analysis of the remaining problems, while experts are requested only in exceptional cases (stage 4, expertise). This strategy was positively judged by the users and proved to be effective in motivating and co-ordinating the protagonists. **Conclusion:** The strategy proved to consider effectively all biomechanical aspects that might contribute to the development of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). It proved also to be participatory, placing the operators and their management at the centre of the intervention as the main actors, and organising when to turn to an occupational health practitioner or an expert for assistance.

**Keywords** Prevention · Ergonomics · Repetitive strain injuries · Low back pain · MSD

Initial documents (in French and Dutch) can be downloaded from <http://www.md.ucl.ac.be/lytr/new/fr/index.html>

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### Introduction

Numerous methods are described in the literature to evaluate the risk of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) of the upper limbs. These include checklists (Ahonen et al. 1989; Kilbom 1994; Silverstein 1997), assessment scales (Rodgers 1992; McAtamney and Corlett 1993; Moore and Garg 1995), observation techniques (Kemmlert 1995), or even very sophisticated measurement procedures (Ranaivosoa et al. 1992; Marras and Schoenmarklin 1993; Malchaire et al. 1997).

It appears, clearly, that the large majority deal with the biomechanical constraints only, and attempt to characterise the whole situation by a single figure or set of figures defined on semi-arbitrary scales of risk.

Most of these researchers published epidemiological studies aimed at defining the dose (constraints)–response or effect (complaints or disorders) relationship. In such studies, subjects from many diverse workplaces were included and the range of constraints was the largest possible. Numerical indices were required for the statistics (logistic regressions) and for including, in the study, constraints for different body zones. These methods were then proposed in the literature and used by practitioners to assess the risk of MSDs at a given workplace.

The RULA method (McAtamney and Corlett 1993) is probably the archetype of these indices, summarising in a single number the constraints in all main body regions. Other similar methods were proposed by Occhipinti (1998) and Moore and Garg (1995). In these methods, the main issue for the authors was the scoring system, scoring that, undeniably, also became, for many users in practice, the main objective of the study.

Questions can be raised concerning the significance of such methods for industry:

1. They usually require qualifications and technical and time possibilities that few people have in practice in the field, in industry. This is particularly true in small and medium-sized companies where, whatever the



## PHYSICAL DEMAND ANALYSIS SAMPLE - PLUMBER

COMPANY NAME	Sample Company
JOB TITLE	Plumber
DEPARTMENT	Plumbing Department
SUPERVISOR / CONTACT	Plant Maintenance Manager
PHYSICAL DEMAND LEVEL OF JOB	Heavy

## BASIC JOB PURPOSE

Repairing and maintaining all above and below ground plumbing systems in the plant, including its fire systems. This includes installation, troubleshooting, and repair of plant plumbing to be kept in safe and sanitary conditions.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	% of Workday
----------------------------------	--------------

Essential Function 1. Installation, troubleshooting, and repair of plumbing systems for the entire facility

A. Repair and replace worn plumbing parts, piping systems and fixtures such as sinks, urinals toilets or water heaters to complete job orders as needed

## Physical Demands:

Lifting – 55.0 lbs. (B hands) toilet from floor to waist to (re)position near work 4 – 8 times  
Carrying – 55.0 lbs. (B hands) toilet 10 – 20 ft. to set-up and position near worksite 4 – 8 times  
Lifting – 48.0 lbs. (B hands) 12 ft. step ladder from floor to waist to position near work 4 – 8 times  
Carrying – 48.0 lbs. (B hands) 12 ft. step ladder 60 - 80 ft. to position near worksite 4 – 8 times  
Lifting – 37.0 lbs. (1 hand) gas welding kit from floor to waist to position near work 4 - 8 times  
Carrying – 37.0 lbs. (1 hand) gas welding kit 60 - 80 ft. to position near worksite 4 – 8 times  
Lifting – 31.0 lbs. (1 hand) tool bucket from floor to waist to position near work 4 – 8 times  
Carrying – 31.0 lbs. (1 hand) tool bucket 60 - 80 ft. to set-up and position near work 4 – 8 times  
Pushing – Up to 49.0 lbs. hand truck positioning sinks, toilets, water heaters 20-40 feet 4 – 8 times  
Pulling – Up to 49.0 lbs. hand truck positioning sinks, toilets, water heaters 20-40 feet 4 – 8 times  
Lifting – 9.5 lbs. (1 hand) 24" pipe wrench varying between floor and overhead heights 4- 8 times  
Reaching – Repeatedly at varied heights holding hand and power tools, parts or equipment  
Gripping - Using 18 to 34 lbs. gripping pipe wrenches, hand tools, plumbing parts and equipment  
Dexterity – Up to 45 min. using both hands manipulating hand tools, plumbing parts and rigging  
Walking – Up to 15 min. continuously while surveying worksite requirements for repairs  
Kneeling / Squatting – Up to 15 min. while surveying worksite requirements for repairs  
Climbing – Up to 10 – 20 feet up and down ladders 4 – 8 times while holding tools and parts  
Crawling – Up to 60 ft. on varied surfaces holding hand tools, plumbing parts and equipment  
Standing – Up to 45 min. on varied surfaces using hand and power tools, parts and equipment  
Stooping / Forward Bending – Up to 15 min. on varied surfaces using parts, hand and power tools

Frequent =  
34 to 66% of  
8 hr. work day,  
or 2.5 to 5.25  
hrs.



## PHYSICAL DEMAND ANALYSIS SAMPLE - PLUMBER

Essential Function 2. Transport tools and position machinery, equipment and materials for plumbing job

A. Read blueprints, prepare costs / supplies / equipment manpower estimates for work order

## Physical Demands:

Standing – Up to 30 min. voluntarily while reading blueprints, preparing costs, placing orders  
Sitting – Up to 15 min. voluntarily while operating computer mouse / keyboard for inventory  
Dexterity – Up to 45 min. with work orders manipulating paper documents and plans

B. Load, transport and / or unload manufactured or plumbing materials at job site

## Physical Demands:

Lifting – 55.0 lbs. (B hands) toilet from floor to waist to load / unload in vehicle 4 – 8 times  
Lifting – 48.0 lbs. (B hands) 12 ft. step ladder from floor to waist to load / unload 4 – 8 times  
Lifting – 37.0 lbs. (1 hand) gas welding kit from floor to waist to position near work 4 – 8 times  
Lifting – 31.0 lbs. (1 hand) tool bucket from floor to waist to load / unload in vehicle 4 – 8 times  
Pushing – Up to 49.0 lbs. hand truck with sinks, toilets, water heaters 40-60 feet to vehicle  
Pulling – Up to 49.0 lbs. hand truck with sinks, toilets, water heaters 40-60 feet to vehicle  
Reaching – Repeatedly at varied heights loading, unloading and operating service vehicle  
Dexterity – Up to 15 min. using both hands manipulating service vehicle steering and controls  
Climbing – Up to 12 – 24 in. into and out of service vehicle during loading and unloading

Occasional =  
0 to 33% of  
8 hr. work day,  
or 0 to 2.5 hrs.

Essential Function 3. Maintain all features of the plant water and sewer systems in a safe and sanitary condition

A. Troubleshoot malfunctioning fresh water or sewer piping systems to return laminar flow

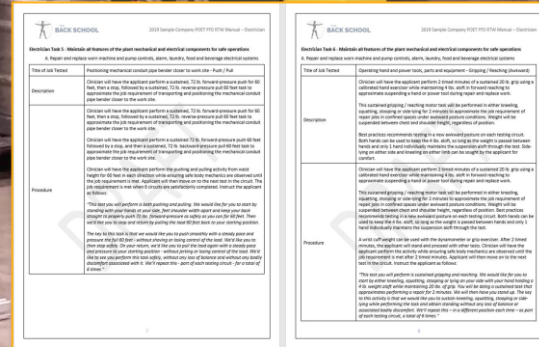
## Physical Demands:

Standing – Up to 45 min. on varied surfaces using hand and power tools, parts and equipment  
Kneeling – Up to 45 min. on varied surfaces using hand and power tools, parts and equipment  
Lifting (2-man) – Up to 73.0 lbs. positioning gas powered water pump from floor to waist height  
Carrying (2-man) – Up to 73.0 lbs. positioning water pump from floor to waist 60 - 80 feet  
Lifting – 9.5 lbs. suspending a 24" pipe wrench varying between floor and overhead heights  
Reaching – Repeatedly at varied heights holding hand and power tools, parts or equipment  
Gripping - Using 18 to 34 lbs. gripping pipe wrenches, hand tools, plumbing parts and equipment  
Dexterity – Up to 45 min. manipulating hand and power tools, plumbing parts and equipment  
Walking – Up to 15 min. on varied surfaces holding hand and power tools, parts and equipment  
Climbing – Up to 10 feet up and down ladders 2-4 times / hr. while holding tools and, parts  
Balancing – Up to 15 minutes on narrow base of support – sometimes at heights – while working  
Crawling – Up to 60 ft. on varied surfaces holding hand tools, plumbing parts and equipment

Occasional =  
0 to 33% of  
8 hr. work day,  
or 0 to 2.5 hrs.







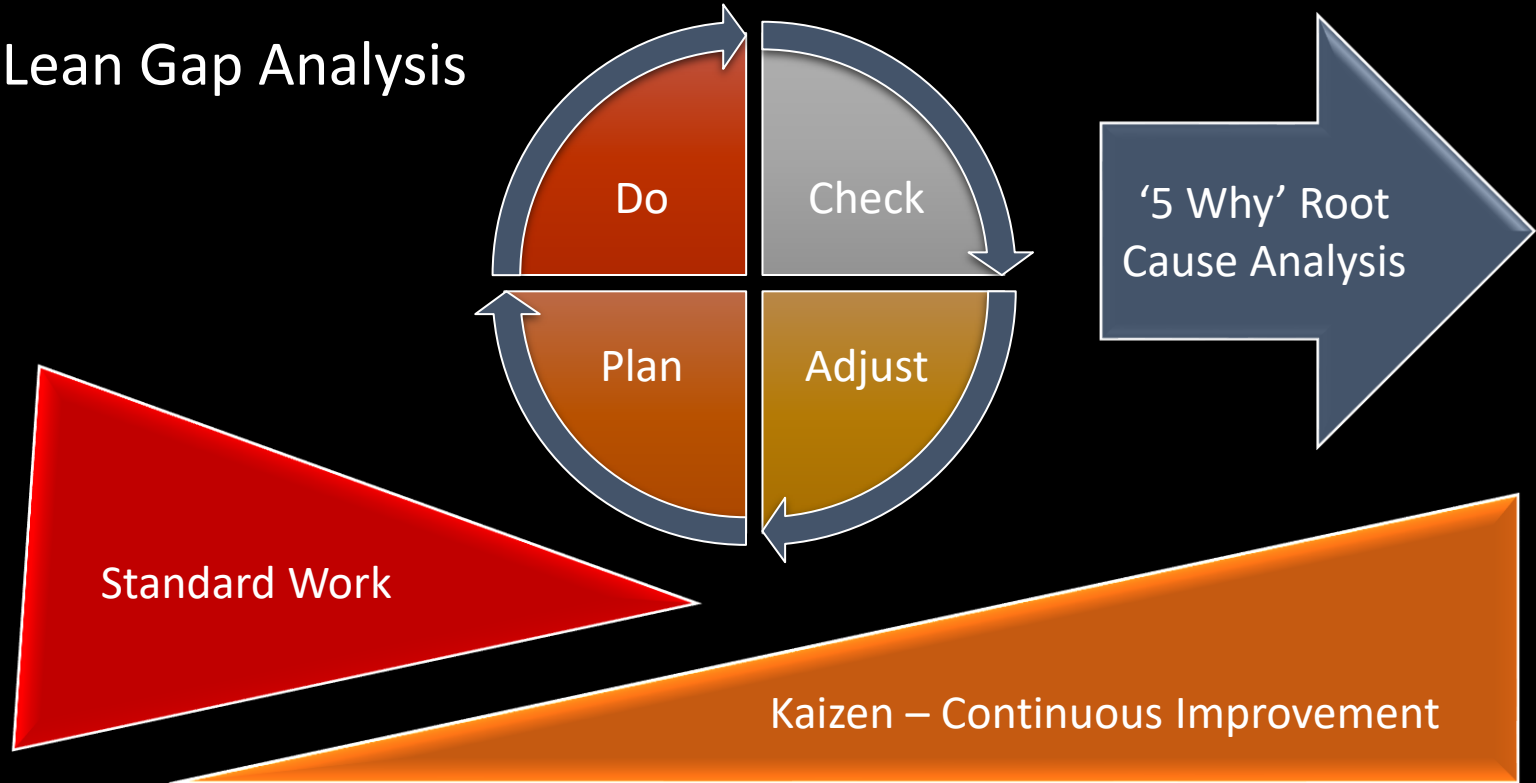
# Physical Demand Gap Analysis:

## The Bridge Between High-Performance Workforce and Peak-Safety Workplace

Presented by: Matt Jeffs DPT PSM REAS  
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# Lean Gap Analysis





## The PDA Gap Analysis Process

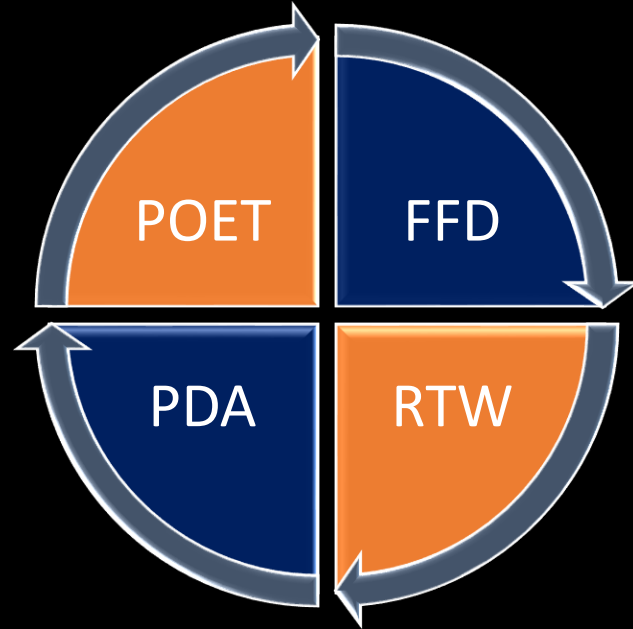
4. What is the most effective and efficient way to reduce new hire injury exposure – and **why** does it enhance new hire onboarding, orientation and training?

## The Post-Offer Employment Screen





## The PDA Gap Analysis Process



Luis S. – Electrician  
Rotator Cuff

Carl B. – Carpenter  
Knee Osteoarthritis

Roger K. – Mechanic  
Low Back Injury



Luis S. – Electrician  
Rotator Cuff

## Case Study: Luis S. – History of Rotator Cuff Surgery

Position: **Electrician** / POET New Hire

Luis S. is an energetic, 48-year-old Master Electrician who recently hired-in to our industrial plant to fill a vital role in the Maintenance Department.

Without prompting, he volunteered he had undergone a R shoulder rotator cuff repair 'a little over a year ago' and that 'sometimes, it still bothers me'.

His procedure was performed in an outpatient surgery center, after which he received extensive physical and occupational therapy as an outpatient for 6 months.

# Electrician Physical Demand Analysis

## Information Gathering

- Stage-1: Screening – Interview
- Stage-2: Observation – Measurement

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/electricians.htm>







Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Luis S-----

Job Title Master Electrician

Never 0% shift	Occasional <33% shift	Frequent <66% shift	Constant >67% shift	Electrician - Essential Job Functions – General	Demand Level
	✓			Clean and prepare work sites by removing debris and possible hazards	M
	✓			Load or unload manufactured or building materials at job site	H
	✓			Build or take apart bracing, scaffolding, and temporary structures	L
	✓			Operate or tend equipment / machines used in positioning manpower / rigging structures	L
	✓			Follow building plans / instructions from supervisors or coworkers	L
✓	✓			Assist other skilled building craftworkers with their duties when required	M
		✓		Repair and replace worn parts, equipment and accessories as needed	M / H
✓	✓			Maintain production area 5S cleanliness and orderliness for safety	L

Never 0% shift	Occasional <33% shift	Frequent <66% shift	Constant >67% shift	Electrician - Essential Job Functions – Job Specific	Demand Level
✓	✓			Follow blueprints and building plans to meet the needs of work order	L
		✓		Install and maintain wiring, control, and lighting systems	M
		✓		Inspect electrical components, such as transformers and circuit breakers	M

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Occupational Outlook Handbook - Construction and Extraction

### Electricians

Summaries | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook | State & Area Data | Similar Occupations | More Info

#### What Electricians Do

Electricians install, maintain, and repair electrical power, communications, lighting, and control systems in homes, businesses, and factories.

**Duties**

Electricians typically do the following:

- Read blueprints or technical diagrams
- Install and maintain wiring, control, and lighting systems
- Inspect electrical components, such as transformers and circuit breakers
- Identify electrical problems using a variety of testing devices
- Repair or replace wiring, equipment, or fixtures using hand tools and power tools
- Follow state and local building regulations based on the National Electrical Code
- Draw and train workers to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring or equipment

Almost every building has an electrical power, communications, lighting, and control system that is installed during construction and maintained after that. These systems power the lights, appliances, and equipment that make people's lives and jobs easier and more comfortable.

Installing electrical systems in newly constructed buildings is often less complicated than maintaining equipment in existing buildings because electrical wiring is more easily accessible during construction. Maintaining equipment and systems involves identifying problems and repairing broken equipment that is sometimes difficult to reach. Maintenance work may include fixing or replacing parts, light fixtures, control systems, motors, and other types of electrical equipment.

Electricians read blueprints, which include technical diagrams of electrical systems that show the location of circuits, outlets, and other equipment. They use different types of hand and power tools, such as conduit benders, to run and protect wiring. Other commonly used hand and power tools include screwdrivers, wire cutters, drills, and saws. While troubleshooting, electricians also may use ammeters, voltmeters, thermal scanners, and cable testers to find problems and ensure that components are working properly.

Many electricians work alone, but sometimes they collaborate with others. For example, experienced electricians may work with building engineers and architects to help design electrical systems for new construction. Some electricians may also consult with other construction specialists, such as [plumbers](#), [carpenters](#), and [painters](#) and air conditioning contractors to help install or maintain electrical or power systems. At larger companies, electricians are more likely to work as part of a crew; they may direct [apprentices](#) and [trainees](#) to complete jobs.

Although [firearm electricians](#) install distribution and transmission lines to deliver electricity from its source to customers, they are covered in the [firearm electricians and linemen](#) profile.

[Learn More](#) [View Career Info](#)



THE  
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# Electrician Physical Demand Analysis

## Information Processing

□ Stage-3: Analysis – Assessment

□ Stage-4: Expertise – Report Prep

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/electricians.htm>

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Electricians

Summary | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook | State & Area Data | Similar Occupations | More Info

### What Electricians Do

Electricians install, maintain, and repair electrical power, communications, lighting, and control systems in homes, businesses, and factories.

#### Duties

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- Read blueprints or technical diagrams
- Install and maintain wiring, control, and lighting systems
- Inspect electrical components, such as transformers and circuit breakers
- Identify electrical problems using a variety of testing devices
- Repair or replace wiring, equipment, or fixtures using handtools and power tools
- Follow state and local building regulations based on the National Electrical Code
- Direct and train workers to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring or equipment

Almost every building has an electrical power, communications, lighting, and control system that is installed during construction and maintained after that. These systems power the lights, appliances, and equipment that make people's lives and jobs easier and more comfortable.

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Many electricians work alone, but sometimes they collaborate with others. For example, experienced electricians may work with building [engineers](#) and [architects](#) to help design electrical systems for new construction. Some electricians may also consult with other construction specialists, such as [elevator installers](#) and [heating and air conditioning workers](#), to help install or maintain electrical or power systems. Electricians employed by large companies are likely to work as part of a crew; they may direct [helpers](#) and apprentices to complete jobs.

**Lineman electricians** install distribution and transmission lines to deliver electricity from its source to customers; this occupation is covered in the [line installer and repairer](#) profile.

Summary | Work Environment

**HOUSEHOLD CITATION:**  
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Electricians, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/electricians.htm> (visited March 07, 2020).

Last Modified Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020



**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The physical job tasks of an Electrician with Sample Company are performed primarily in the Maintenance Department of the industrial facility in Anytown, US. The Electricians are responsible for performing work to keep electrical components of machines and mechanical equipment of the plant in safe, optimal operation.

**ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS**

From a Physical Demand Analysis perspective, the Sample Company Electrician is responsible for the following Essential Functions related to the job title duties and responsibilities:

- 1) Rehabilitate, repair, install, adjust, or perform preventive maintenance to plant electrical systems
- 2) Transport parts, tools and position equipment and materials for electrical job near worksite
- 3) Maintain all features of the plant machine and electrical components for safe operations

**EQUIPMENT LIST: POST-OFFER EMPLOYMENT TEST**

- ☐ Tape Measure
- ☐ Blood Pressure Cuff / Stethoscope
- ☐ Equipment substitutes for:
  - ☐ Welding Kit – Gas Tanks (37 lbs.)
  - ☐ 12' Fiberglass Step ladder (48 lbs.)
- ☐ Push / Pull Sled
- ☐ Staircase / Cones
- ☐ Heart Rate Monitor
- ☐ Boxes / Crates
- ☐ 2" x 6" x 20' Pressure-Treated Lumber (10' = 2x Frequency)
- ☐ 'Air-Ex'-Style Closed-Foam Balance Pad
- ☐ Grip Dynamometer
- ☐ Goniometer / Inclinator
- ☐ Plate, Handheld and Cuff Weights

**CONSENT FOR TESTING**

- ☐ Have client read and sign the attached consent form

**MUSCULOSKELETAL TESTING**

1. Obtain Height (in.) and Weight (lbs.)
2. Obtain Resting Heart Rate and Calculate Maximum HR (220 – Age) X (.85) = Max. HR  
If the applicant exceeds the 85% of max heart rate that specific individual test should be stopped, the applicant shall be given a 90-second rest break and then the overall test is continued. If they continue to exceed the 85% of heart rate after 90 seconds, then the entire test is stopped.



3. Obtain Resting Blood Pressure (if >160/100 STOP)  
If at any point during testing, the test is stopped due to elevated heart rate and/or blood pressure, this IS NOT considered a "failed" test. The test is simply being stopped due to safety measures.
4. Gross Cervical ROM Screen:  
Document any measurements (in degrees) that are NOT within normal limits. Note any complaints of pain.
5. Gross Lumbar ROM Screen:  
Document any measurements (in degrees) that are NOT within normal limits. Note any complaints of pain.
6. Gross Upper Extremity ROM Screen:  
Document any measurements (in degrees) that are NOT within normal limits. Note any complaints of pain.
7. Gross Lower Extremity ROM Screen:  
Document any measurements (in degrees) that are NOT within normal limits. Note any complaints of pain.

**JOB REPLICATED TESTS**

Pre and Post heart rates are monitored then recorded, and the clinician will state the applicant's ability to meet the job requirement safely. If safety cannot be completely assured without reasonable accommodation, the clinician may offer safe modification suggestions where appropriate.

**A NOTE ABOUT JOB REPLICATED TESTING**

Best practices recommend testing in this section be performed in a 'round robin' circuit style to better approximate the varied job demands of a typical workday. In this fashion – not unlike cross-training in a gym setting – each repetition of one test would be followed by another test sequentially on the list until one repetition is performed for every test.

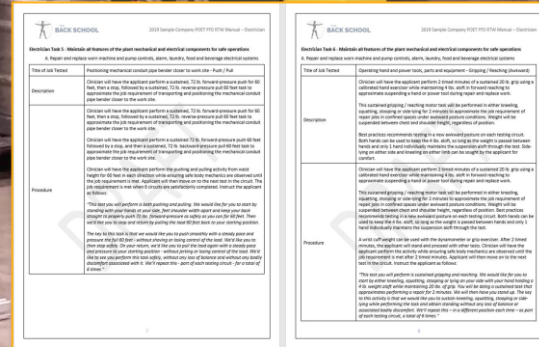
This would be the completion of one full circuit. The circuit would then be repeated for the set number of repetitions – in this case, six – until the applicant has performed all testing tasks the recommended (6) number of times. This is not a timed test, but the applicant is expected to perform it – in its entirety – within 40-50 minutes from start to finish.

After each test, evaluator must note the following:

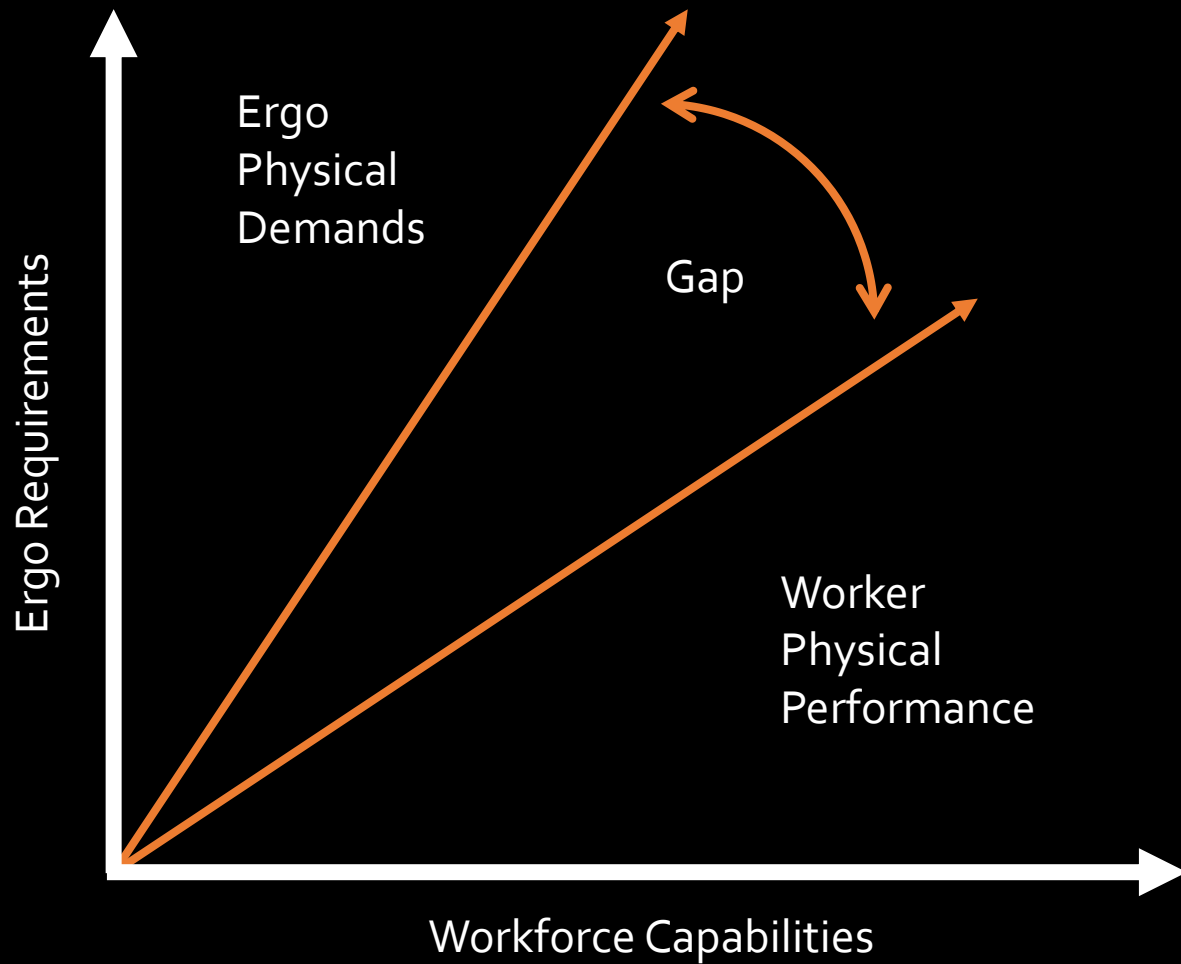
- ☐ Heart Rate
- ☐ Reported Discomfort / Pain (if appropriate)
- ☐ Score (Pass / Fail)
- ☐ Limiting Factors (if appropriate, consider noting the following)
  - ☐ Perceived Effort – Low or Self-Limiting
  - ☐ Muscle Recruitment – Kinesio-physical Signs
  - ☐ Trunk Counterbalance – Kinesio-physical Signs
  - ☐ Base of Support – Kinesio-physical Signs
  - ☐ Respiration Quality – Coincides with Cardiac & Effort Measures
  - ☐ Performance Pace – Coincides with Kinesio-physical Signs
  - ☐ Performance Control – Coincides with Kinesio-physical Signs
  - ☐ Performance Safety – Coincides with Kinesio-physical Signs







## POET Data Gap Analysis



Luis S. – Electrician  
Rotator Cuff



## Physical Demand Data-Driven SMART Goals

Specific – To the physical demands of the job

Measurable – Sequential to physical job demands

Attainable – Right-sized to manage and matter

Relevant – To physical job demands vs. clinically vague

Time-Based – Rapid rise to high-performance



Luis S. – Electrician  
Rotator Cuff





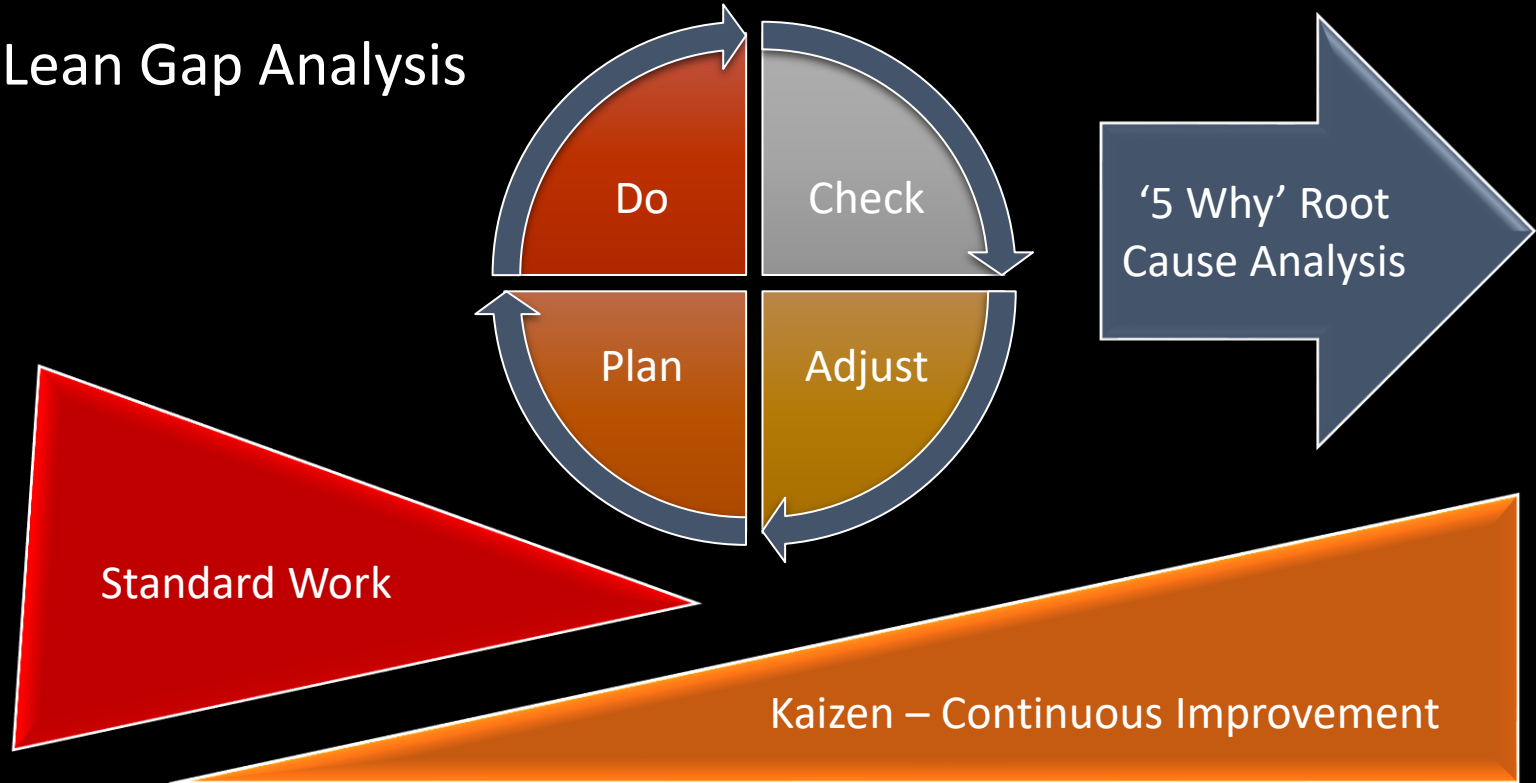
# Physical Demand Gap Analysis:

## The Bridge Between High-Performance Workforce and Peak-Safety Workplace

Presented by: Matt Jeffs DPT PSM REAS  
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# Lean Gap Analysis





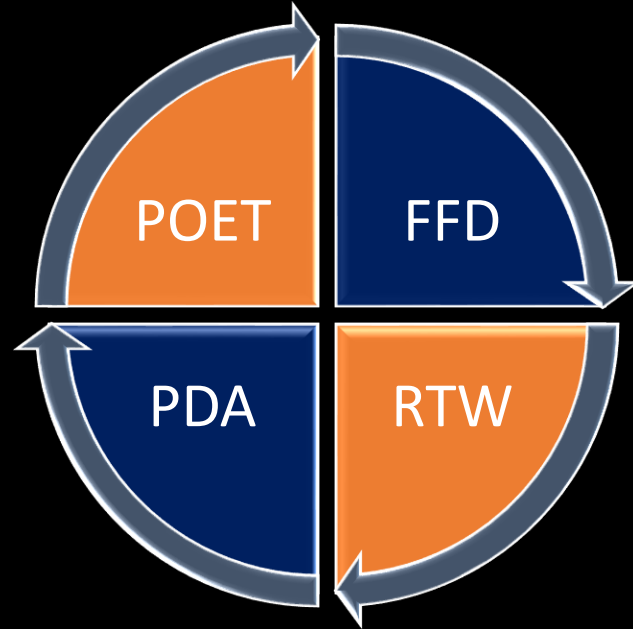
## The PDA Gap Analysis Process

3. What is the most effective and efficient way to reduce OSHA Recordable Incident Rates – and **why** does it reduce Work Comp premium inflation and Experience Modification Scores?

## The Fit-For-Duty Screen



## The PDA Gap Analysis Process





Luis S. – Electrician  
Rotator Cuff

Carl B. – Carpenter  
Knee Osteoarthritis

Roger K. – Mechanic  
Low Back Injury



## Case Study: Carl B. – Knee and Hip Arthritis

Position: **Master Carpenter** / FFD from FMLA

Carl B. is a pleasant and engaging 52-year-old carpenter complaining of B knee pain with functional limitations. These include moving from kneeling, squatting or sitting to standing, prolonged stair and ladder climbing and descending, and retrieving items from the floor.

Pain interferes with his work activities as a Master Carpenter. He takes OTC extra-strength acetaminophen prn for pain relief however, he is concerned about its use as a long-term intervention.

Carl B. – Carpenter  
Knee Osteoarthritis



# Carpenter Physical Demand Analysis

## Information Gathering

- Stage-1: Screening – Interview
- Stage-2: Observation – Measurement

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/carpenters.htm#tab-2>





Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Carl B - - - - -

Job Title Master Carpenter

Never 0% shift	Occasional <33% shift	Frequent <66% shift	Constant >67% shift	Carpenter - Essential Job Functions – Job Specific	Demand Level
		✓		Construct building frameworks, including walls, floors, and doorframes	H / VH
	✓			Erect, level, and install building framework with the aid of rigging hardware and cranes	L
			✓	Inspect and replace damaged framework or other structures and fixtures	L
		✓		Construct, repair, install building frameworks and structures made from wood etc.	H / VH
	✓			Insulate buildings and install drywall or kitchen cabinets	M
		✓		Wrap materials for blasting and spraying	M
		✓		Prep areas for paint, mask at risk materials, and spreading protective tarps and plastics	M
		✓		Brush and roller painting of structures as necessary	M
		✓		Install wooden concrete forms for cement footings or pillars	H
	✓			Erect shoring and scaffolding	H

Additions / Deletions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Carl B - - - - -

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Occupational Outlook Handbook | Construction and Extraction

### Carpenters

Summary | What They Do | Work Environment | How to Become One | Pay | Job Outlook | State & Area Data | Similar Occupations | More Info

#### What Carpenters Do

Carpenters construct, repair, and install building frameworks and structures made from wood and other materials.

**Duties**

Carpenters typically do the following:

- Follow blueprints and building plans to meet the needs of clients
- Build structures and fixtures, such as windows and moldings
- Measure, cut, and shape wood, plastic, and other materials
- Construct building frameworks, including walls, floors, and doorframes
- Sketch, build, and install building frameworks with the aid of rigging hardware and cranes
- Inspect and replace damaged framework or other structures and fixtures
- Install and level windows and other construction fixtures

Carpenters are a versatile occupation in the construction industry, with workers usually doing many different tasks. For example, some carpenters install office buildings and others install plywood or kitchen cabinets in homes. Those who help construct tall buildings or bridges often install wooden concrete forms for cement footings or pillars and are commonly referred to as rough carpenters. Rough carpenters also erect shoring and scaffolding for buildings.

Carpenters use many different tools to cut and shape wood, plastic, fiberglass, or drywall. They commonly use hand tools, including squares, levels, and chisels, as well as many power tools, such as routers, circular saws, nail guns, and mending machines.

Carpenters often material together with nicks, screws, staples, and adhesives, and check their work to ensure that it is precisely completed. They use tape measures or levels to ensure proper to quickly measure distances. Many carpenters require apprentices to learn their own trade.

The following are examples of types of carpenters:

- Construction carpenters** construct, install, and repair structures and fixtures of wood, plywood, and masonry, using carpenter's hand tools and power tools.
- Rough carpenters** build rough wooden structures, such as concrete forms, scaffolding, tunnel, bridges, or sewer supports and temporary frame shapers, according to drawings, blueprints, or oral instructions.

See [Carpenters](#)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Carpenters, or its Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/occupational-outlook-handbook/occupational-outlook-handbook> (retrieved May 10, 2016).

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<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/carpenters.htm#tab-2>

38

**Carpenter Task 1 - Installation, troubleshooting, and repair of wooden and structural components for the plant**

A. Repair and replace worn structural components of wooden structures, fencing, cat walks, remodels, etc.

Title of Job Tested	Reach work areas in plant inaccessible at ground level – Romberg Static Balance
Description	<p>Clinician will have the applicant perform 4 separate 30-second timed Romberg tests. This test is designed to evaluate and approximate safe access to narrow, uneven, awkward or elevated repair and replace work sites with limited visibility and requiring static balance.</p>
Procedure	<p>Clinician will have the applicant perform 4 separate 30-second timed tests over 2 minutes. In each test, the participant will be standing with feet side-by-side (though not necessarily touching) with arms-crossed over the chest, hands resting on each shoulder.</p> <p>Each 30-second test will advance as follows: Test 1) on a hard surface - eyes open – for 30 seconds; Test 2) on a hard surface - eyes closed – for 30 seconds; Test 3) on a soft surface - eyes open – for 30 seconds; and finally, Test 4) on a soft surface - eyes closed – for 30 seconds.</p> <p>The soft surface used is a standard 20" x 16" x 2.5" closed-foam "Air-Ex"-style pad used for balance, proprioception and vestibular training. Test failure is defined as an applicant 1) needing to open their eyes during eyes-closed tests, 2) moving their arms or feet in order to achieve stability, or 3) beginning to fall or requiring provider intervention to maintain balance within a 30-second test interval.</p> <p>As there is a training effect, any subject who doesn't pass any one of each successive tests is given an opportunity to retry. This test is designed to approximate access to narrow, uneven, awkward or elevated repair and replace work sites with limited visibility that requires sustained static balance.</p> <p>These balancing tasks must be performed with the option of allowing 3-point contact (one hand, both feet) to either a rail, a wall or a person throughout its execution. This precaution is required to reduce exposure to a fall during testing. Clinician will have the applicant perform the activity while ensuring safety is observed until the job requirement is met. The requirement will be met after all four tests have been performed successfully - one time through each testing circuit - for a total of 6 times through the circuit. Instruct the applicant as follows:</p> <p><i>"This test you will perform is static balance. We would like for you to start by performing the first of 4 separate 30-second timed tests. Each one is a little more challenging than the last one. In each test, you will be standing with feet closely side-by-side with arms-crossed over your chest, hands resting on each shoulder. Each 30-second test will advance as follows: Test 1) on a hard surface - eyes open – for 30 seconds; Test 2) on a hard surface - eyes closed – for 30 seconds; Test 3) on a soft surface - eyes open – for 30 seconds; and finally, Test 4) on a soft surface - eyes closed – for 30 seconds. The key to this activity is that we would like you to perform the 4 tasks safely and calmly without any falling, loss of balance or associated bodily discomfort 1 time, before moving on in each circuit interval. We'll repeat this - as part of each testing circuit - for a total of 6 times total."</i></p>

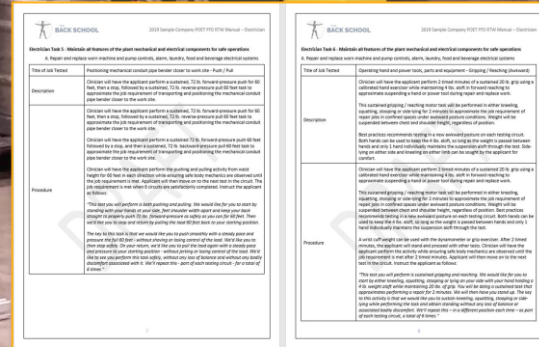
**Carpenter Task 2 - Installation, troubleshooting, and repair of wooden and structural components for the plant**

A. Repair and replace worn structural components of wooden structures, fencing, cat walks, remodels, etc.

Title of Job Tested	Reach work areas in plant inaccessible at ground level – Dynamic Balance
Description	<p>Clinician will have the applicant perform twenty feet – two times – while walking on a 2" x 6" beam while unilaterally carrying a 34 lb. tool bag or bucket. The bag or bucket will then be placed down, and the applicant will perform twenty feet – two times – while walking back on the 2" x 6" beam without the bag or bucket. This test is designed to approximate access to narrow, awkward or elevated work sites requiring dynamic balance.</p>
Procedure	<p>Clinician will have the applicant perform twenty feet walking on a 2" x 6" beam while unilaterally carrying a 34 lb. tool bag or bucket. The bag or bucket will then be placed down, and the applicant will perform twenty feet walking back on the 2" x 6" beam without the bag or bucket. This activity will be then repeated one additional time. This test is designed to approximate access to narrow, awkward or elevated work sites requiring dynamic balance.</p> <p>These balancing tasks must be performed with the option of allowing 3-point contact (one hand, both feet) to either a rail, a wall or a person throughout its execution. This precaution is required to reduce exposure to a fall during testing. Clinician will maintain close-proximity safety guarding as the applicant performs the activity. Applicant may perform side-stepping, reciprocal foot-over-foot, heel-to-toe or whatever method for comfort, ease and safety.</p> <p>Clinician will have the applicant perform the activity while ensuring safe body mechanics are observed until the job requirement is met. The requirement will be met after the beam has been traversed twice in both directions successfully through each testing circuit - for a total of 6 times through the circuit. Instruct the applicant as follows:</p> <p><i>"This test you will perform is dynamic balance while first carrying a tool bag or bucket. Then, the load will then be put down, and the you will return to the starting position without it. We would like for you to start by safely lifting the bag or bucket with either hand. Only grasp the handrail, wall or assistant with the other hand if necessary, and smoothly traverse the balance beam.</i></p> <p><i>After safely placing the bag or bucket back down on the floor, we'd like you to smoothly return to the starting position without it. The key to this activity is that we would like you to perform the task two times, doing so both safely and smoothly without any loss of balance or associated bodily discomfort. We'll repeat this - as part of each testing circuit - a total of 6 times."</i></p>

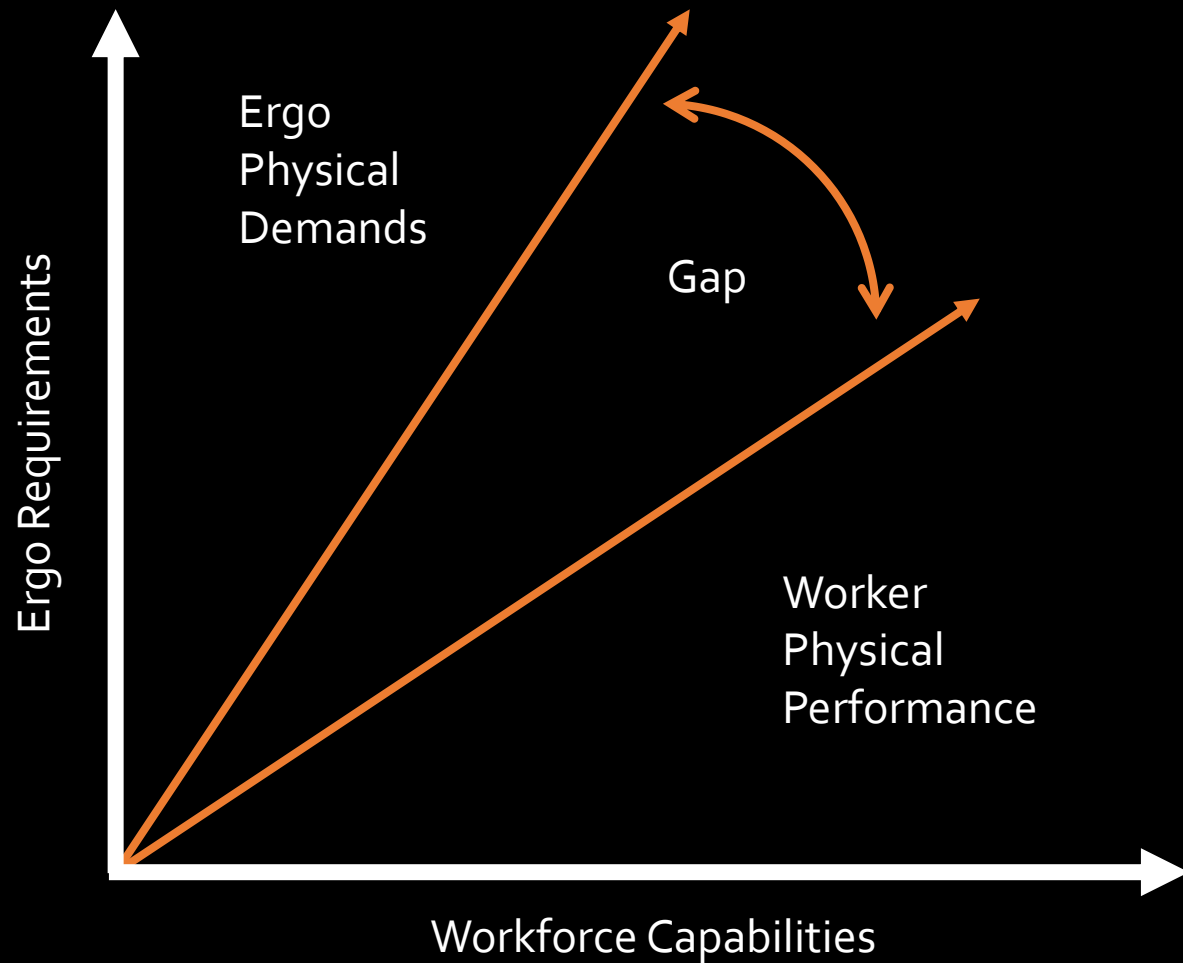








## FFD Data Gap Analysis



## Physical Demand Data-Driven SMART Goals

Specific – To the physical demands of the job

Measurable – Sequential to physical job demands

Attainable – Right-sized to manage and matter

Relevant – To physical job demands vs. clinically vague

Time-Based – Step-wise performance enhancement

Carl B. – Carpenter  
Knee Osteoarthritis





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# Physical Demand Gap Analysis:

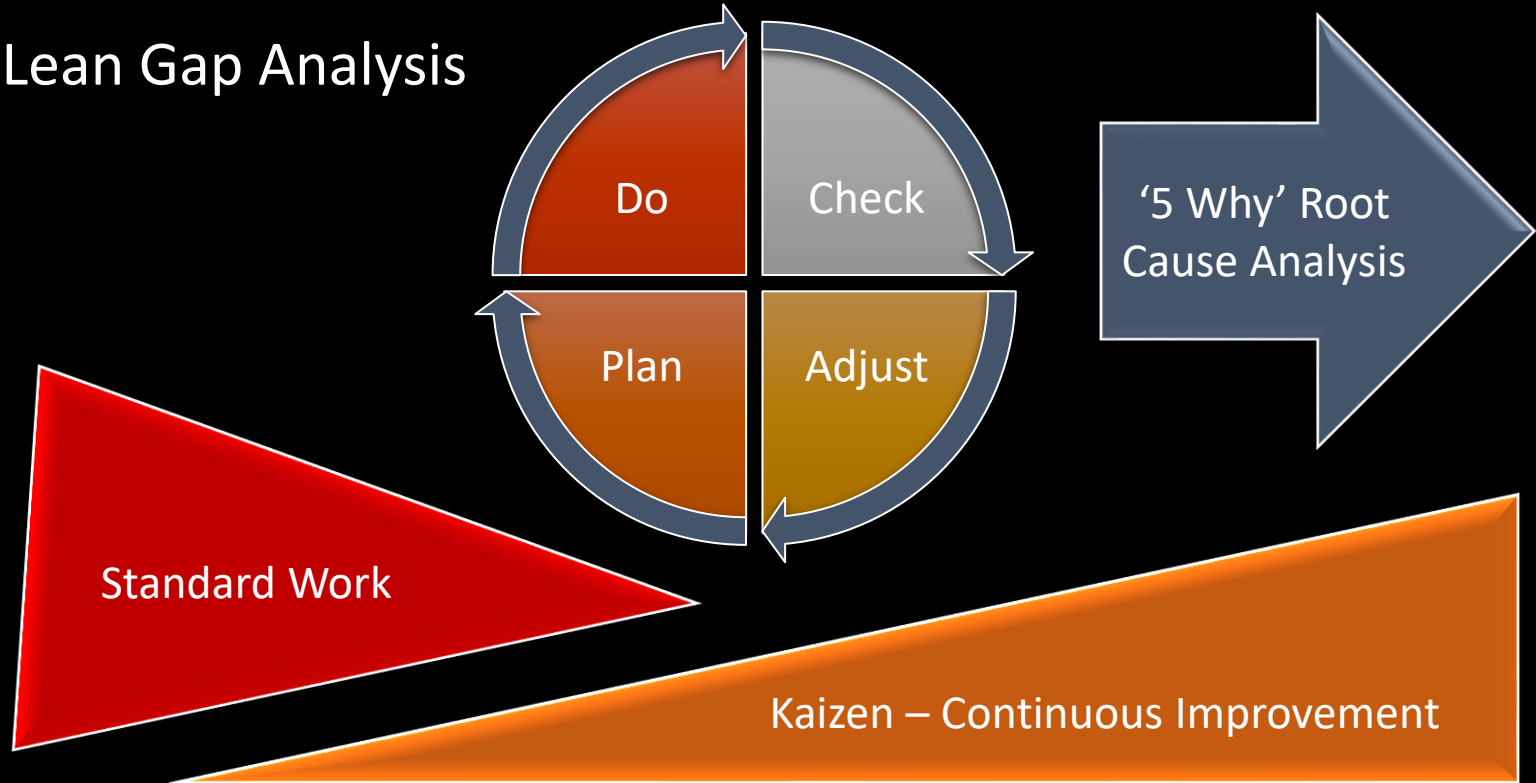
## The Bridge Between High-Performance Workforce and Peak-Safety Workplace

Presented by: Matt Jeffs DPT PSM REAS  
[matt@abilityondemand.com](mailto:matt@abilityondemand.com)  
[matt@thebackschool.net](mailto:matt@thebackschool.net)





# Lean Gap Analysis





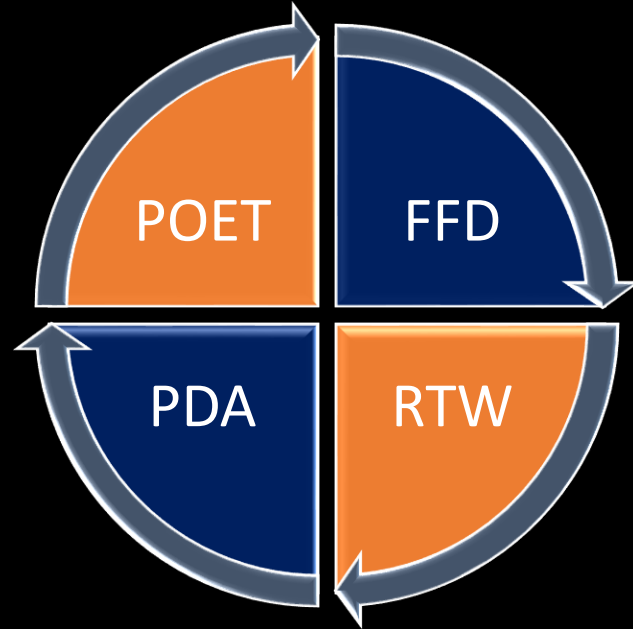
## The PDA Gap Analysis Process

2. What is the most effective and efficient way to compress Lost Time Workdays – and **why** does it deliver the most trackable, data-driven rehab and recovery progress reporting?

## The Return-To-Work Screen



## The PDA Gap Analysis Process



Luis S. – Electrician  
Rotator Cuff

Carl B. – Carpenter  
Knee Osteoarthritis

Roger K. – Mechanic  
Low Back Injury





Case Study: Roger K. – Low Back Strain / Sprain

Position: **Millwright / Machinist** / RTW from WC

Roger K. is an easygoing, 54-year-old-male industrial machinist and mechanic – now in a supervisory role - who reports recurrent diffuse, lumbosacral discomfort.

He was ‘told he needed to start an exercise program’ by his physician to reduce compression on his lumbar spine. His family history includes two brothers who have undergone lower back surgery.

Roger K. – Mechanic  
Low Back Injury



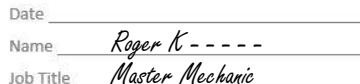
# Machinist Physical Demand Analysis

## Information Gathering

- Stage-1: Screening – Interview
- Stage-2: Observation – Measurement

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/machinists-and-tool-and-die-makers.htm#tab-2>





Never 0% shift	Occasional <33% shift	Frequent <66% shift	Constant >67% shift	Mechanic – Essential Job Functions – Job Specific	Demand Level
			✓	Read technical manuals to understand equipment and controls	L
		✓		Disassemble machinery and equipment when there is a problem	H
		✓		Repair or replace broken or malfunctioning components	H

[illegible]



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# Machinist Physical Demand Analysis

## Information Processing

□ Stage-3: Analysis – Assessment

□ Stage-4: Expertise – Report Prep

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/machinists-and-tool-and-die-makers.htm#tab-2>

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

Search Handbook

Occupational Outlook Handbook » Production »

Machinists and Tool and Die Makers

Summary What They Do Work Environment How to Become One Pay Job Outlook State & Area Data Similar Occupations More Info

About this section

### What Machinists and Tool and Die Makers Do

Machinists and tool and die makers set up and operate a variety of computer-controlled and mechanically controlled machine tools to produce precision metal parts, instruments, and tools.

#### Duties

Machinists typically do the following:

- Read blueprints, sketches, or computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) files
- Set up, operate, and disassemble manual, automatic, and computer numerically controlled (CNC) machine tools
- Align, secure, and adjust cutting tools and workpieces
- Monitor the feed and speed of machines
- Turn, mill, drill, shape, and grind machine parts to specifications
- Measure, examine, and test completed products for defects
- Smooth the surfaces of parts or products
- Present finished workpieces to customers and make modifications if needed

#### Tool and die makers typically do the following:

- Read blueprints, sketches, specifications, or CAD and CAM files for making tools and dies
- Compute and verify dimensions, sizes, shapes, and tolerances of workpieces
- Set up, operate, and disassemble conventional, manual, and CNC machine tools
- File, grind, and adjust parts so that they fit together properly
- Test completed tools and dies to ensure that they meet specifications
- Smooth and polish the surfaces of tools and dies

**Machinists** use machine tools, such as lathes, milling machines, and grinders, to produce precision metal parts. Many machinists must be able to use both manual and CNC machinery. CNC machines control the cutting tool speed and do all necessary cuts to create a part. The machinist determines the cutting path, the speed of the cut, and the feed rate by programming instructions into the CNC machine.

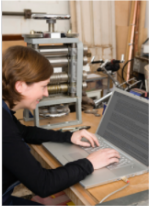
Although workers may produce large quantities of one part, precision machinists often produce small batches or one-of-a-kind items. The parts that machinists make range from simple steel bolts to titanium bone screws for orthopedic implants. Hydraulic parts, antilock brakes, and automobile pistons are other widely known products that machinists make.

Some machinists repair or make new parts for existing machinery. After an [industrial machinery mechanic](#) discovers a broken part in a machine, a machinist remanufactures the part. The machinist refers to blueprints and performs the same machining operations that were used to create the original part in order to create the replacement.

Some manufacturing processes use lasers, water jets, and electrified wires to cut the workpiece. As [engineers](#) design and build new types of machine tools, machinists must learn new machining properties and techniques.

**Tool and die makers** construct precision tools or metal forms, called dies, that are used to cut, shape, and form metal and other materials. They produce jigs and fixtures—devices that hold metal while it is bored, stamped, or drilled—and gauges and other measuring devices.

Dies are used to shape metal in stamping and forging operations. They also make metal molds for die casting and for molding plastics, ceramics, and composite materials.



Machinists typically use blueprints, sketches, or computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) files.

**Mechanic Task 3 - Rehabilitate, repair, install, adjust, or maintain plant machinery and operational systems**

A. Repair and replace worn structural and operational components of machines, hydraulics, gear boxes, etc.

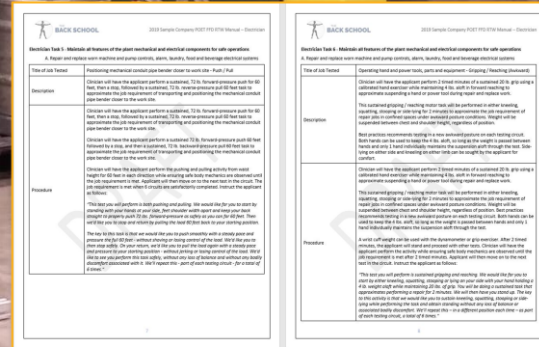
Title of Job Tested	Transport portable welding kit to position near work - Lifting / Carrying (Obstacles)
Description	Clinician will have the applicant perform a 37 lb. unilateral (1 hand) lift task from floor to hip height and 60 foot carrying task to approximate the job requirement of transporting to and setting up the portable welding kit to the work site.
Procedure	<p>Clinician will have the applicant perform a 37 lb. unilateral (1 hand) lift task from floor to hip height and 60 foot carrying task to approximate the job requirement of transporting to and setting up the portable welding kit to the work site.</p> <p>To better approximate working conditions, clinician is encouraged to place obstacles (cones, etc.) in the path that can safely be stepped over or around while the weight is suspended during the carry. Close guarding for safety is recommended in case of unintended loss of balance during this task where obstacles are placed.</p> <p>Clinician will have the applicant perform the lifting and carrying activity from a floor to hip carrying height while ensuring safe body mechanics are observed until the job requirement is met after 60 feet. Applicant will then move on to the next test in the circuit. The job requirement will be met after 6 repetitions through the testing circuit. Instruct the applicant as follows:</p> <p><i>"This test you will perform is lifting and carrying. We would like for you to start by standing with your hands at your side, feet shoulder width apart, and then bend at your knees and your hips - while keeping your back straight - to properly lift, carry 60 feet and lower 37 pounds - with either hand - as safely as you can, then return to your starting position.</i></p> <p><i>The key to this lift is that we would like you to lift from the floor height to the comfortable, straight-arm hip carrying height, carry the kit 60 feet, then return to your starting position safely without any loss of balance and without any bodily discomfort associated with it. We'll repeat this - as part of each testing circuit - a total of 6 times."</i></p>

**Mechanic Task 4 - Rehabilitate, repair, install, adjust, or maintain plant machinery and operational systems**

A. Repair and replace worn structural and operational components of machines, hydraulics, gear boxes, etc.

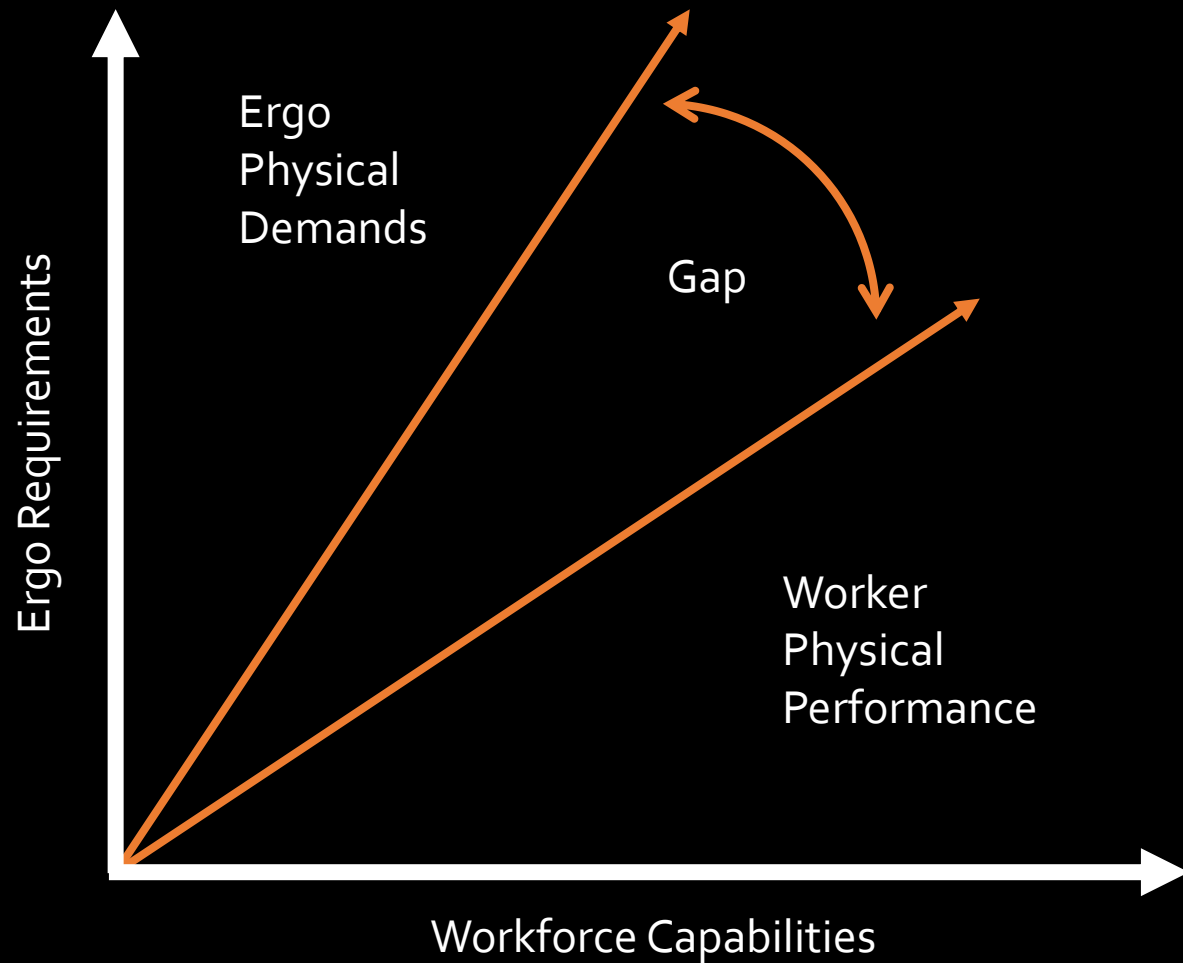
Title of Job Tested	Reach work areas in plant inaccessible at ground level - Stair and Ladder Climbing
Description	<p>Clinician will have the applicant perform twenty-five (25) 7-inch steps up and twenty-five 7-inch steps down on stairs while unilaterally carrying a 37 lb. welding kit. The kit will then be placed down, and the applicant will perform five 12-inch rungs up and five 12-inch rungs down - 5 times, for a total of twenty-five (25) rungs - on a step ladder to approximate approaching elevated work sites.</p> <p>These climbing tasks must be performed with appropriate safety measures in place. The stair climb carrying the welding cabinet must be performed while maintaining 3-point contact (one hand, both feet) throughout its execution, and the ladder climb must be performed maintaining 4-point contact (both hands, both feet) throughout its execution.</p>
Procedure	<p>Clinician will have the applicant perform twenty-five (25) 7-inch steps up and twenty-five 7-inch steps down on stairs while unilaterally carrying a 37 lb. welding kit. The kit will then be placed down, and the applicant will perform five 12-inch rungs up and five 12-inch rungs down - 5 times, for a total of twenty-five (25) rungs - on a step ladder to approximate approaching elevated work sites.</p> <p>These climbing tasks must be performed with appropriate safety measures in place. The stair climb carrying the welding cabinet must be performed while maintaining 3-point contact (one hand, both feet) throughout its execution, and the ladder climb must be performed maintaining 4-point contact (both hands, both feet) throughout its execution.</p> <p>Clinician will maintain close-proximity safety guarding as the applicant performs the activity. Clinician will ensure safe body mechanics are observed until the job requirement is met. Stairs and ladders are climbed for a total 25 steps and 25 rungs, respectively to complete. Applicant will then move on to the next test in the circuit. The job requirement is met when the circuit is safely completed, 6 times. Instruct the applicant as follows:</p> <p><i>"This test you will perform is climbing up and down stairs while carrying a welding kit. The welding kit will then be put down, and the you will then climb a ladder. We would like for you to start by safely lifting the welding kit with either hand, grasping the handle with the other hand, and smoothly climb up, then down 25 steps. After safely placing the welding kit back down on the floor, we'd like you to smoothly climb up, then down 5 ladder rungs - 5 times - while holding on with both hands.</i></p> <p><i>The key to this activity is that we would like you to perform the task, both safely and smoothly without any loss of balance or associated bodily discomfort after 25 steps and 25 rungs are completed. We'll repeat this - as part of each testing circuit - for a total of 6 times."</i></p>







## RTW Data Gap Analysis





## Physical Demand Data-Driven SMART Goals

Specific – To the physical demands of the job

Measurable – Sequential to physical job demands

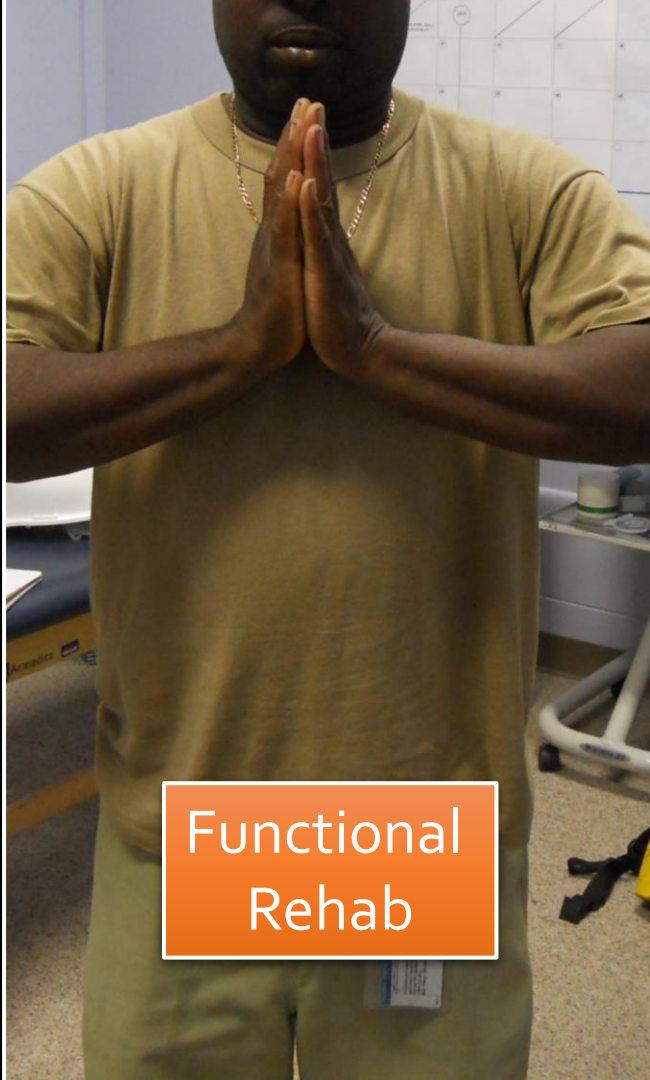
Attainable – Right-sized to manage and matter

Relevant – To physical job demands vs. clinical unfit

Time-Based – Return to work in a timely manner

Roger K. – Mechanic  
Low Back Injury

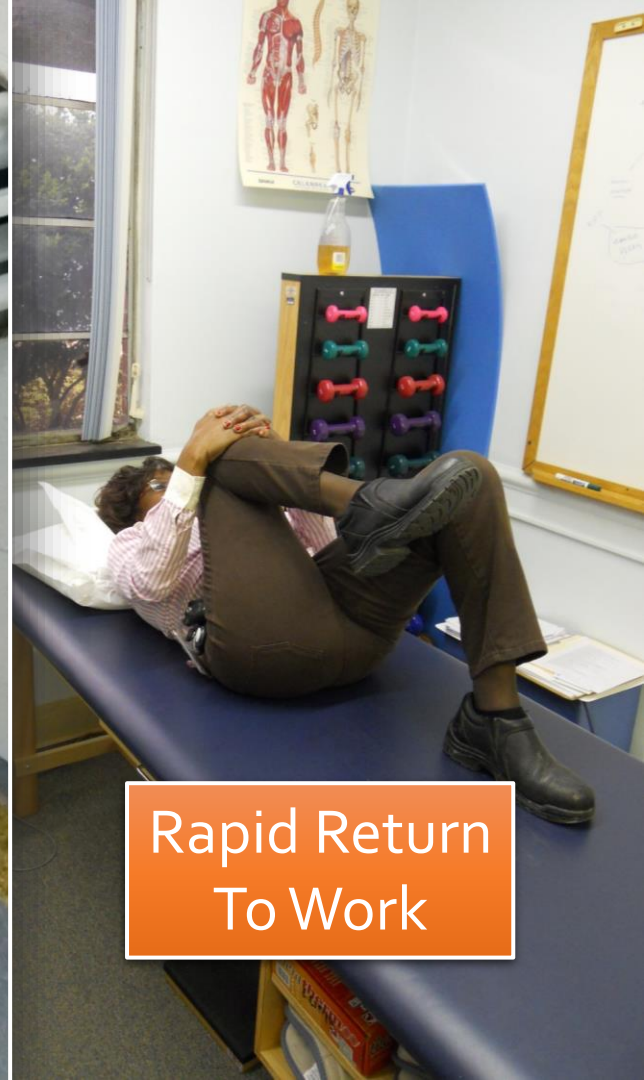




Functional  
Rehab



Functional  
Capacity



Rapid Return  
To Work

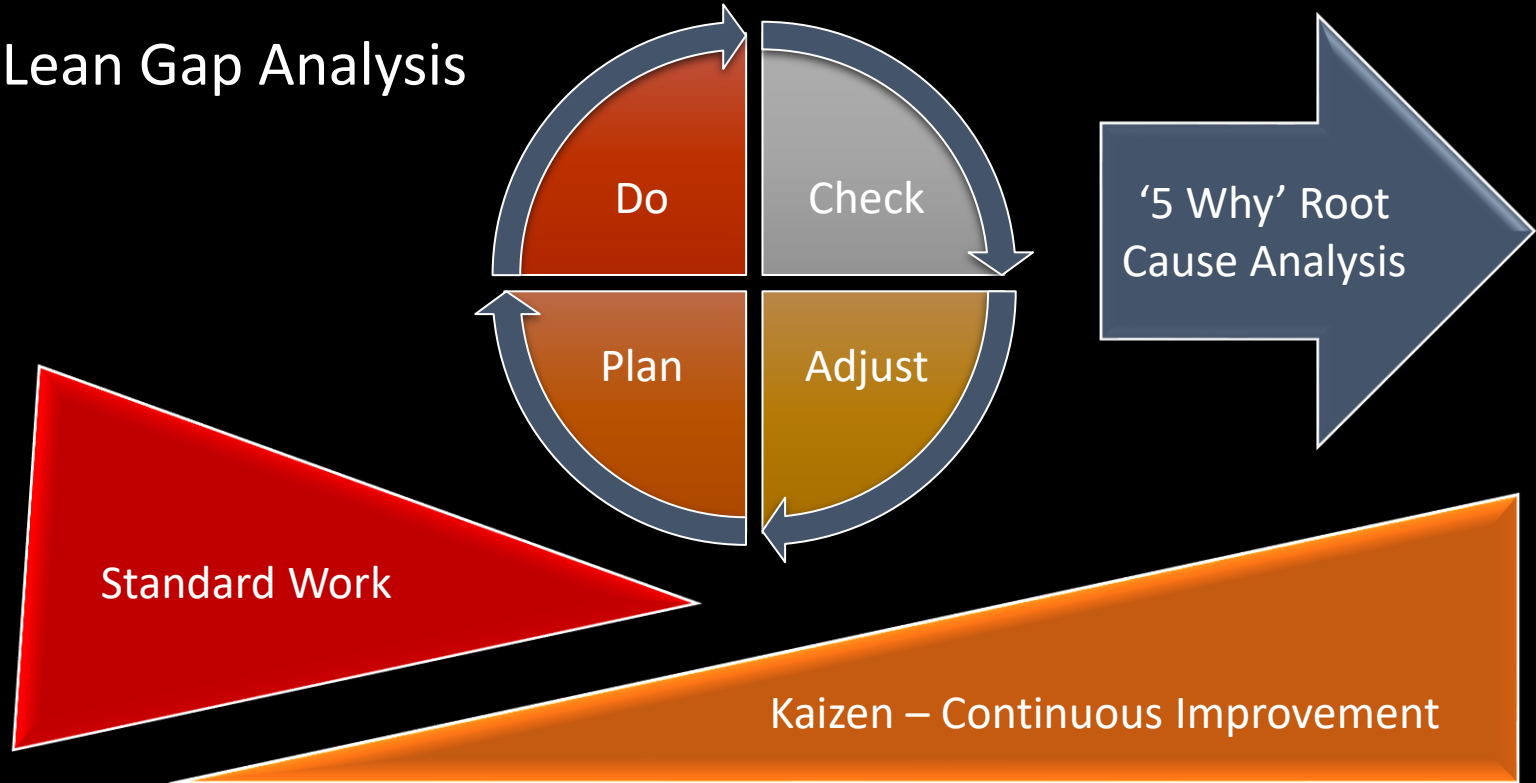
# Physical Demand Gap Analysis:

## The Bridge Between High-Performance Workforce and Peak-Safety Workplace

Presented by: Matt Jeffs DPT PSM REAS  
[matt@abilityondemand.com](mailto:matt@abilityondemand.com)  
[matt@thebackschool.net](mailto:matt@thebackschool.net)



# Lean Gap Analysis







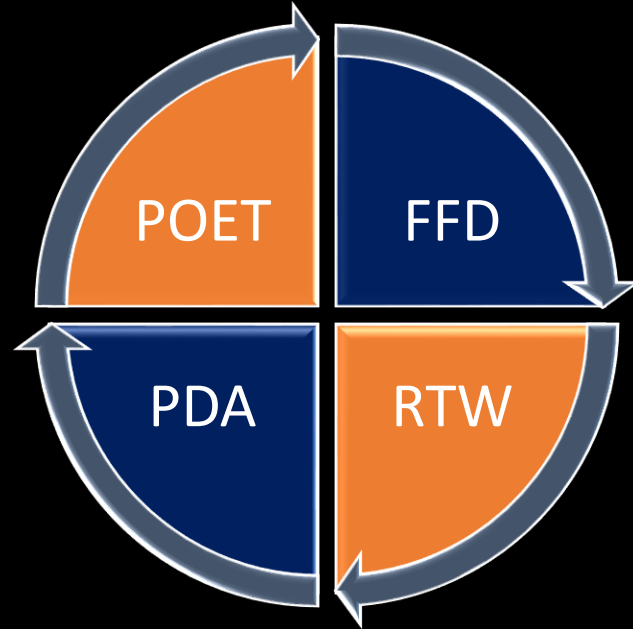
## The PDA Gap Analysis Process

1. What is the most effective and efficient way to demonstrate a workplace that puts well-being first – and **why** does it drive Lean Ergonomics and Safety Process Improvement?

## The PDA Gap Analysis Process

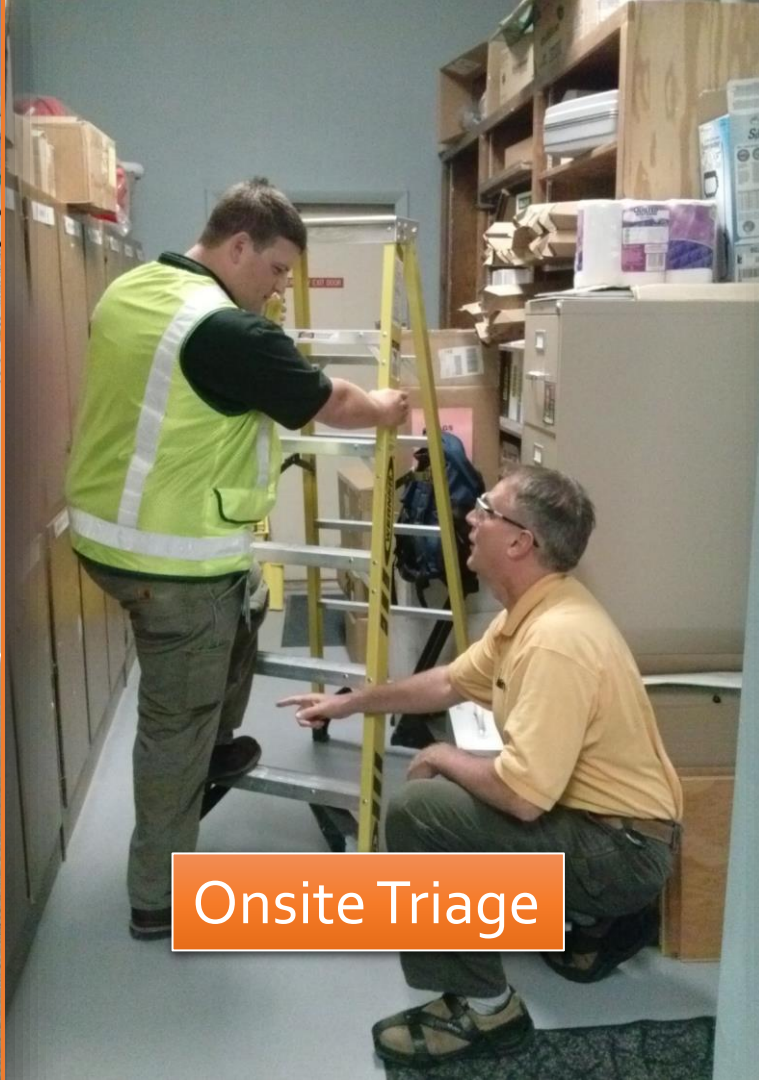


## The PDA Gap Analysis Process





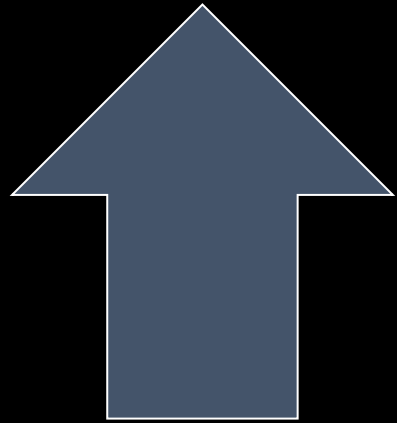
Fit-For-Duty



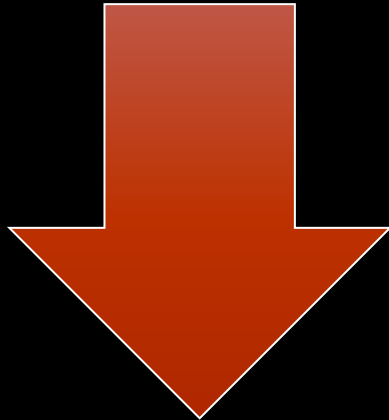
Onsite Triage



Stretch-&-Flex



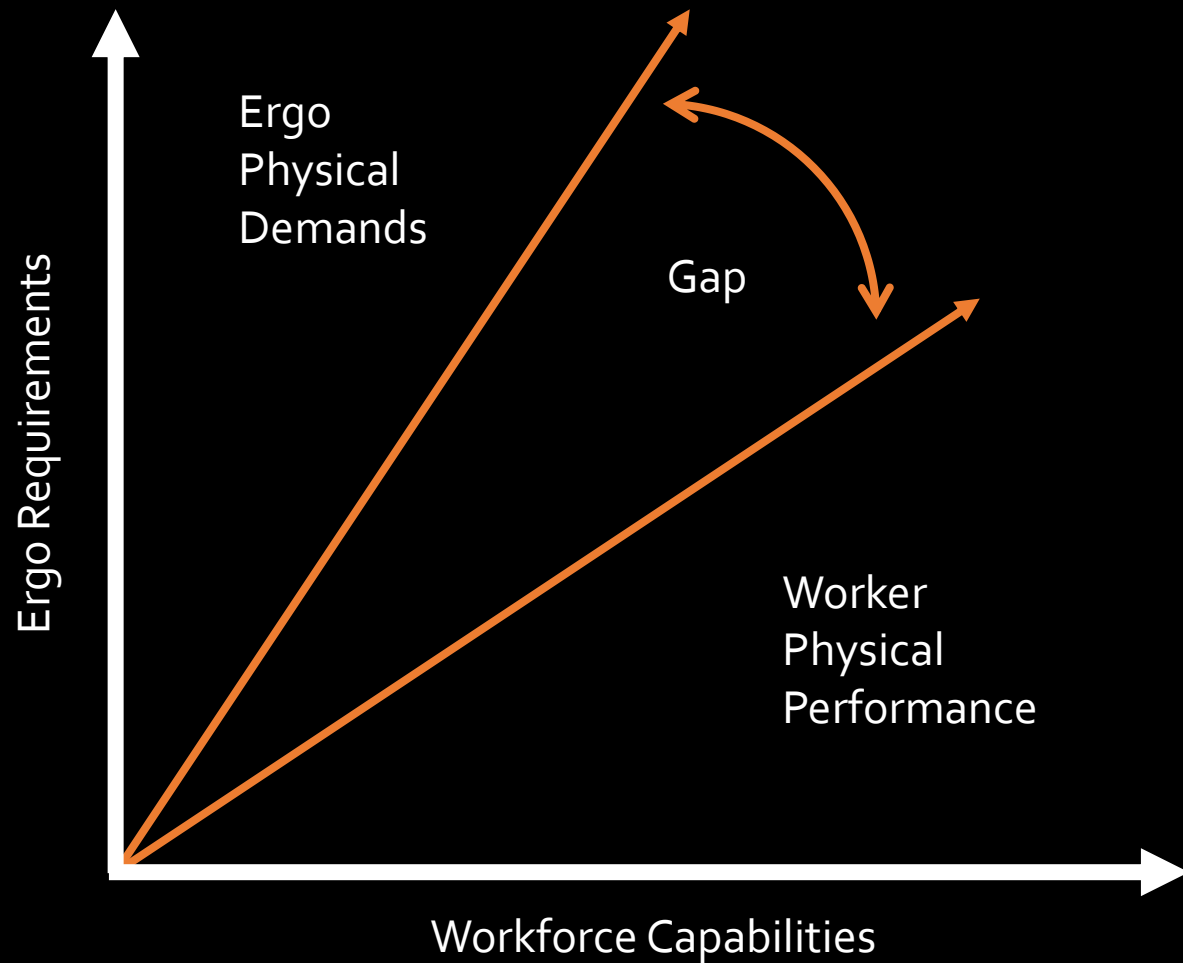
Human  
Resource  
Performance



Environmental  
Health & Safety  
Remediation



## PDA Data Gap Analysis





International Organization for Standardization

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SDGs



[Home](#) > [Standards](#) > [Popular standards](#) > [ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety](#)

## ISO 45001 - Occupational health and safety

Over 7 600 people die each day from work-related accidents or diseases - that's over 2.78 million every year\*.

The burden of occupational injuries and diseases is significant, both for employers and the wider economy, resulting in losses from early retirements, staff absence and rising insurance premiums.

To combat the problem, ISO has developed a new standard, ISO 45001, *Occupational*

### Management system standards

Providing a model to follow when setting up and operating a management system, find out more about how MSS work and where they can be applied.

"Thanks, friend."

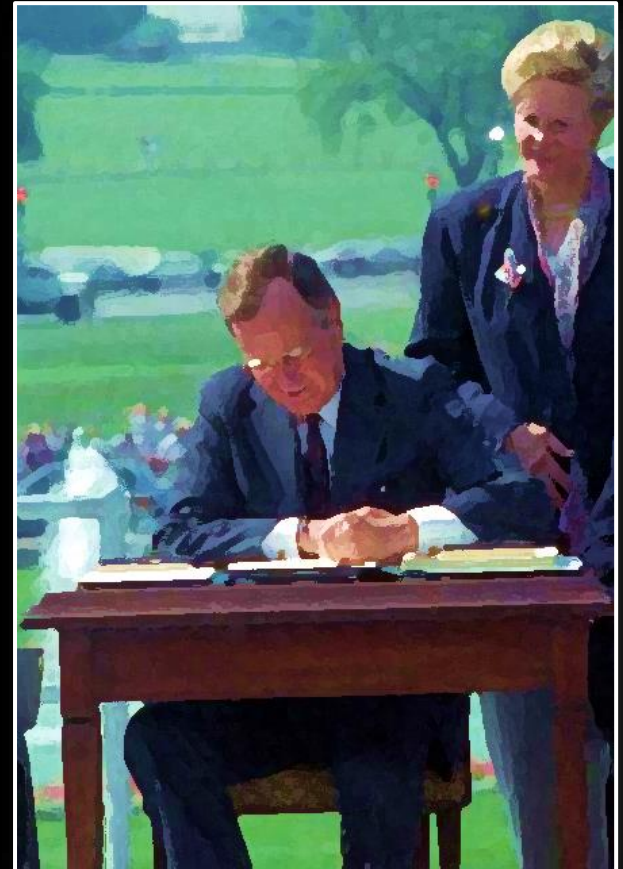
"We're good."

"Much obliged."



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANUAL:

- Title I of the ADA - The ADA is intended to enable persons to compete in the workplace based on the same performance standards and requirements that employers expect of all persons holding that job title.





# Onsite Health & Safety Specialist

by Margot Miller, PT

## Facilitating Stay at Work/Return to Work

The therapist plays a key role in decreasing unnecessary work absence and keeping patients at work and productive.

Millions of American workers develop health problems that either temporarily or permanently keep them out of work each year. In most cases, this involves a relatively brief recovery period. However, approximately 10% of these workers are affected by conditions that result in significant work absences, and some can leave an individual out of work permanently. The estimated total annual cost of disability benefits paid under sick leave, workers' compensation, short-term and/or long-term disability, SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance), FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act), and ADA (Americans with Disability Act) exceeds \$100 billion. This article will focus on the therapist's role in facilitating Stay at Work or Return to Work (SAW/RTW) to decrease long duration absences from work.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's "Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed" reported that the fundamental reason for most medically related lost work days and lost jobs is not medical necessity. Rather it is nonmedical decisions made during the SAW/RTW process, including administrative delays for treatment or specialty referral, lack of transitional or modified work, ineffective communication, and logistic problems.

The steps involved in determining SAW/RTW include the following:

1. A medical condition or precipitating event occurs—determine whether the worker can perform the job.
2. Assess worker's current ability.
  - a. Functional capacity—determine what the worker is able to do today.
  - b. Functional limitations—determine what the worker cannot do today that they can normally do.
  - c. Medical restrictions—determine what the worker cannot do due to the potential of doing medical harm.
3. Understand/Identify the job requirements.
4. Compare worker's job requirements to that person's current abilities.
5. Take necessary actions to return the worker to work. This may include modifying current job duties or identifying an alternate duty job to enable return to work.

When the medical condition will not worsen with work, when the worker wants to work, and when the employer will allow temporary modification of the job demands if needed, the above process steps can be accomplished quickly. It is at this point that therapists can be involved to facilitate SAW/RTW.

### ASSESSING THE WORKER'S CURRENT CAPACITY

Functional capacity testing is appropriate to identify the impaired worker's current abilities as well as to identify limitations that could affect SAW/RTW. The testing should be job specific, testing the worker's functional abilities specific to the job



Matt Jeffs, DPT, CEAS II, performing job coaching with a worker to facilitate safe job performance.

requirements to establish a baseline of functional abilities. This functional capacity test serves as a work status test. A job-specific conditioning or job-specific functional restoration program can then be developed, in conjunction with appropriate treatment, to restore movement, maximize strength, decrease pain/symptoms, and improve functional abilities. Repeat functional tests are performed to assess functional gains. Education targeted to the medical condition and relative to the specific job functions increases the worker's knowledge and problem solving using injury prevention and rehabilitation principles. Job coaching performed at the worker's workstation assists integration of education principles, ie, appropriate movement patterns, posture changes, and strategies to reduce reported discomfort and improve safe job performance. As function improves, the worker should be able to perform more original job duties, until able to perform 100% of the job duties.

# Physical Demand Gap Analysis:

## The Bridge Between High-Performance Workforce and Peak-Safety Workplace

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[matt@thebackschool.net](mailto:matt@thebackschool.net)

