Occupational Risk Management (ORM) Applied to Ergonomics

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Abstract (12 font)

The goal of ORM is to manage risk, not to eliminate risk, so work can be accomplished with minimal impact. Each person has a role to play in managing risk and each of these roles is vital to the success of the organization. Risk cannot always be avoided; it is better to manage risk and use ORM to prevent loss. ORM involves five steps: (1) Identify hazards; (2) assess the hazards; (3) make risk decisions; (4) implement controls; and (5) supervise and watch for change. This is Deliberate ORM and requires time to plan the process. Time Critical ORM (TCORM) involves quick process and a set of skills to ensure proper execution of a plan or event; exactly what is required in the field and involves 4 steps: (1) Determine what can go wrong or is changing; (2) determine what can be done; (3) acting to correct the situation(s); and (4) telling the right people. The application of TCORM will be presented through short case studies where ergonomic opportunities’ were identified (what could go wrong); immediately implementable approaches were identified (what can be done); implementing the approaches (act to correct the situation); and evaluate their overall effectiveness (telling the right people).

Keywords
Best practices; Risk evaluation; Risk prevention; Work practices; Ergonomic opportunities.

Biography

Lawrence Schulze is an Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Houston, Houston, Texas, USA. He earned B.A. in Experimental Psychology from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill; his Masters of Science in Industrial Engineering from Virginia Tech, and his PhD in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University. He has published journal and conference papers. Dr. Schulze’s research focuses on the development and implementation of feasible ergonomic solutions to identified opportunities. He is member of IIE, ASSE, IEA, ISOES. He is on the editorial review board of multiple journals including Applied Ergonomics. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas (USA) and a Certified Professional Ergonomist.