

PACKAGING SUCCESS **TOGETHER™**

Greif Industrial Products Ergonomics Team

Greif – Industrial Products Ergonomics Team/Process

- Greif Industrial Products Group consists of 45 plants that make paper tubes and edge protectors.
- There is a lot of manual material handling. Much of it above the shoulders and below the knees.
- Our group recognized ergonomic factors were our single largest cause of injuries.
- We needed to educate our colleagues about the risk.
- We needed a creative way to engage colleagues, find solutions and reduce risk.



The Ergonomics Team

- Steering Committee drives overall process.
 - Safety Manager is the overall administrator of the process.
 - Regional Administrators/Champions are a combination of salaried and hourly colleagues.
 - Plant Administrators drive the effort at the site level. Site teams include both salaried and hourly colleagues.
 - Solutions are highly dependent on colleague engagement.
- The focus is on incremental improvement but there are some big wins.
- We maintain momentum by reviewing projects on weekly safety calls by Region.



HumanTech Tool and Approach

- Some on our Team had prior experience with HumanTech[®] ergonomic assessment tools.
- We reached out to them and discovered the company was now part of Velocity EHS and was a more high-tech process.
- You can take a video and upload it into software that will analyze the work for ergonomic risk.
- Even more important, there are tools that help the team member identify the causes of the risk and potential corrective actions.





Example #1 Inline Slitter Positioning

Concerns:

- Slitter machine weighs approximately 1,500 lbs.
- Forklift needed to place the machine inline and store machine in alternate location when not in use
- Crewmembers physically line up machine east/west and north/south
- Takes upwards of 100 lbs. of force to maneuver slitter (used Shimpo force gauge)





Task performed weekly



Baseline Analysis





Improvements

- Install concrete pad with embedded rails
- Install new single-flange track wheels
 onto slitter machine





Concrete pad with embedded rails





Example #2 Feeding Strips at Slitter



Baseline Analysis



Processed Video





Improvements

- Installed an inground scissors lift to adjust height of strips between 39-48"
- Reduced stack height to ≈10 pcs to minimize lifting, carrying and stack weight
- Rotate crew members every hour to reduce lifting for long periods





Follow-Up



Processed Video





Measure of Success and Results

- Gained a great amount of involvement at all levels of the organization and interest in ergonomics
- Completed almost 200 projects with over 100 in the pipeline.
- Completed projects have achieved an 50% risk reduction.
- Cut ergonomic related injuries roughly in half since implementing HumanTech.
- Down to 16 recordable ergonomic injuries in the last 12 months across 45 plants.

