

NSW Work Health & Safety Regulations



**Information for small business owners in the
Textile Clothing and Footwear industries.**

Assistance and funding for this material has been provided by WorkCover NSW
through the WorkCover Assist Program

Small Business Owners must Manage Risks to Safety:



- **Small Business owners must:**
- **identify** and **eliminate or control** risks
- **eliminate** risks and if not reasonably practicable **minimise risks**
- Risks unable to be eliminated must be controlled through a **hierarchy of control**

What are common hazards?

Some **common hazards likely to be found in the TCF industry** include:

- **Hazardous manual tasks**
- **Electrical work**
- **Noise**
- **Fire Risk**



Managing Risks



- Must **maintain** and **review** risk control measures
- **HSRs** can request a review of a control measure in certain circumstances
- Where **specific controls** are outlined in the WHS Regulations they must be followed (e.g. controls for hazardous chemicals or noise)

Hazardous Manual Tasks



A PCBU must **manage** the risk of a **musculoskeletal disorder**.

This means an injury to, or a disease of, the musculoskeletal system whether occurring suddenly or over a prolonged period of time.

Hazardous manual tasks are tasks involving any of the following:

- repetitive or sustained force
- high or sudden force
- repetitive movement
- sustained and/or awkward posture
- exposure to vibration.



Hazardous Manual Tasks



Take into account **risk factors** including:

- **Postures, force, duration and frequency**
- Workplace **environmental** conditions, **design** and **layout** of workplace
- **Systems of work** used
- **Nature, size, weight and number** of persons, animals or things involved in the hazardous manual task

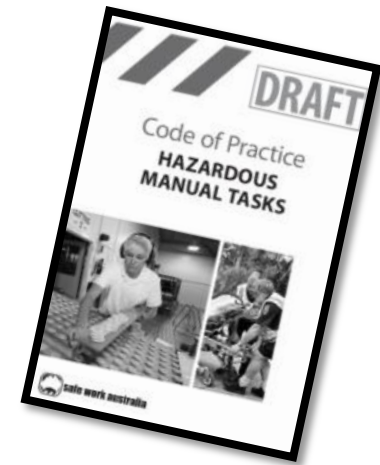


Hazardous Manual Tasks: Case Study: Sewing Machinist



Risk factors include:

- Repetitive Strain Injury (eg neck/back/wrist injuries)
- Fatigue Injuries (eg needle strike)
- Possible remedies:
 - Scheduled exercise breaks
 - Rotating duties
 - Ergonomic work stations



Electrical Safety: Equipment and Installations



PCBU must

- **Ensure unsafe** electrical equipment disconnected and repaired or replaced
- **Inspect and test** equipment (eg tagging of electrical equipment, including pressers, sewing machines, boilers and embroidery machines)
- Keep **records of testing** until next tested or permanently removed

Create a Safe Working Environment



- **Workplace layout** allows persons to move around and access and exit without risk

- **Work space** is adequate for the task

- **Floors** and other surfaces are suitable

- **Lighting and ventilation** is suitable

- Work in **temperature extremes** is without risk

- Work near **essential services** does not create risks



Temperatures

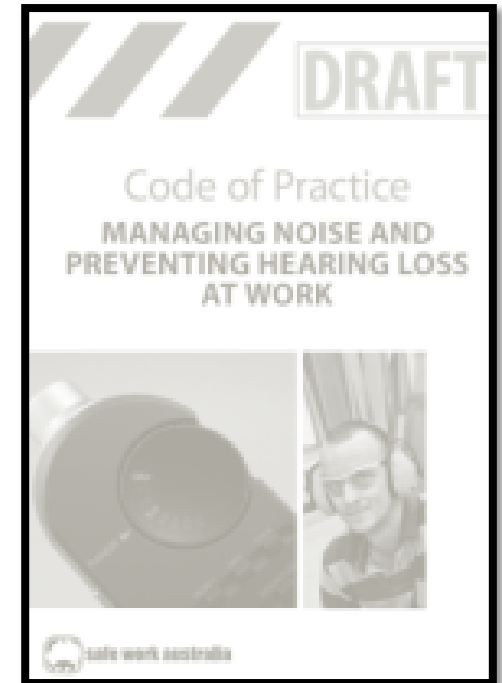
Minimising the risk of work in hot environments could involve the following controls:

- increasing air movement using fans
- installing **air-conditioners** or evaporative coolers to lower air temperatures
- **removing heated air** or steam from hot processes using local exhaust ventilation eg pressing stations
- **altering work schedules** so that work is done at cooler times
- providing a supply of **cool drinking water**
- providing a cool, well-ventilated area where workers can take **rest breaks**
- providing opportunities for workers who are not used to working in hot conditions to **acclimatise**



Noise

- Ensure that a worker is not exposed to noise levels above the **exposure standard**
- Audiometric testing is required if a worker frequently needs to wear hearing protection because noise exceeds the exposure standard (**currently [85dB(A) or 140dB(C)]**) and in combination with other factors



Personal Protective Equipment



- Must be appropriate to the **activity** and **hazard**
- Must be a **suitable size and fit** and **maintained** and **replaced** as required
- Workers must be **informed and trained** on PPE use



Emergency Plan

- Must include **procedures** for rapid response, evacuation, notification, medical assistance and communication
- Must inform **workers** of procedures
- Must be **tested** in line with plan schedules

Emergency planning has to consider different situations including:

- fire or explosion
- dangerous chemical release
- medical emergency
- natural disaster
- bomb threats
- violence or robbery



First Aid



- Must provide **accessible** First Aid **equipment and facilities**
- Ensure adequate numbers of workers are **trained** or have **access to others** who are trained
- **First Aid arrangements** must be suitable for your workplace
- More information can be found in the “FIRST AID FOR THE WORKPLACE” Guide by WorkCover NSW



Workplace Facilities



You must provide facilities for all your workers including:

toilets,

drinking water,

washing facilities and

eating facilities,

that are clean and hygienic.



Where to get more information:

If you would like more information on the Codes of practice please contact the union on 02 9704 6000 or download them from:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/lawpolicy/codesofPractice/Pages/default.aspx>

Workcover NSW call 13 10 50 www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

TTY users phone 13 36 77 then ask for 13 10 50.

Or call the Union on 02 9704 6000 for assistance.

Assistance and funding for this material has been provided by WorkCover NSW through the WorkCover Assist Program

