

Dorsa Vi sensor helps improve manual handling safety for Heathrow baggage handlers

The challenge

Dorsa Vi, leading providers of revolutionary wearable sensor technology was aiming to mitigate health and safety injuries as well as productivity issues when it looked into the advantages of manual handling aids for baggage handlers at Heathrow airport. Due to time pressure and the varying size, weight and shape of the luggage, the incidence of musculoskeletal injuries in baggage handlers is an issue – 54% of self-reported, work-related illnesses are considered to be musculoskeletal disorders according to HSE statistics.¹

The solution

Dorsa Vi introduced the ViSafe to Heathrow in order to accurately understand, assess and quantify, the impact of a manual handling aids on the musculoskeletal health of Heathrow baggage handlers. ViSafe is a wearable sensor technology system that enables many aspects of detailed human movement, position and posture to be accurately and objectively quantified outside a biomechanics lab, both in real-time and real workplace environments. The ViSafe and its data can also be used to demonstrate which manual handling aids are best suited to each role and each worker.

The results

The manual handling aid ultimately gave workers more rest time and better patterns of muscle usage when compared to loading manually. Results showed that the use of a manual handling aid reduced low back muscle exertion while on task by up to 67% and shoulder muscle exertion by up to 88%. Overall muscle exertion required was consistently lower across all workers when using a manual handling device compared to loading manually with the largest reduction being 89%.

¹ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/transportation/index.htm>

Although human nature is usually reluctant to change, the ViSafe provided Heathrow with quantitative data that could then be used to show the benefits of manual handling aids to workers and ultimately improve their working health. The ViSafe's objective data has helped real change occur in the safety culture across Heathrow's stakeholder community which is broad and complex.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

Photo Caption: [to be inserted]

About the British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF)

The British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF) is the lead UK trade association for the safety and health industry. Established in 1994, the BSIF has active links with many government departments and other representative Trade Bodies. It is comprised of manufacturers and distributors of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), specialist service providers to the industry, such as product test houses and notified bodies for PPE certification, and safety professionals.

As the voice of the industry, the Federation is dedicated to serving and supporting the businesses who keep people safe and healthy while they are at work and passionate about health and safety being recognised as a force for good in the UK.

The Federation is a Health and Safety Executive-recognised competent authority and the lead trade body for the PPE Regulations, as designated by the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Today the BSIF is firmly established as the major independent voice of the British safety industry, helping to both influence legislation and provide industry in general with a source of authoritative information on a range of workplace safety issues, while representing the needs of its members.

Membership is accommodated within a number of sector trade associations.

To find out more visit www.bsif.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @BSIF1

For additional information please contact:

Emily Boneham

The McOnie Agency

Tel: 01483 414751

Email: emily@mconieagency.com