

Industry lauds OSHA ergonomic guidelines

Insurance Times: October 1, 2002, Vol. XXI No. 20

Washington – Six major insurance industry trade groups expressed unified support for the ergonomics guidelines issued in April by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

In a joint resolution, organizations representing large segments of the employer, insurer and insurance agent and broker communities commended the OSHA ergonomic guidelines, calling them the best approach to reducing workplace injuries and illnesses. The groups believe that ergonomic injuries cannot be adequately addressed by a single, mandatory remedy that imposes rigid standards across industries with widely varying ergonomic exposures. They also expressed concern that efforts to address ergonomic injuries be confined to those occurring in the workplace, not those resulting from, or worsened by, activities outside the workplace.

The groups signing the resolution were the Alliance of American Insurers, American Insurance Association, Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers, National Association of Independent Insurers, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies and UWC -- Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers Compensation. p

Grocery stores next on OSHA guidelines list

WASHINGTON — Grocery stores and poultry processing will be the focus of the next two sets of industry-specific guidelines to reduce ergonomic-related injuries, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA John Henshaw announced. Representatives from both industries will work with OSHA to develop the guidelines.

"The number of ergonomic-related injuries suffered by workers in the retail grocery store industry continues to rank near the top of the list," Henshaw explained.

"While the rates in poultry processing aren't as high, workers still suffer from too many upper extremity disorders, such as tendinitis and carpal tunnel syndrome. p