

# RISKS

IN THE  
MANUFACTURING  
INDUSTRY

THE STEPS TO SAFETY

“Require the use and maintenance of lift-aid equipment whenever possible.”

“Most slips, trips and falls can be traced to poor housekeeping practices.”

**MEMIC**  
Partners for Workplace Safety

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This publication will reveal some facts about your industry which will help you understand and reduce the costs of workplace injuries. We hope that this information will help you to **assess your workplace and to make it as safe and productive as it can be**. But if you need help, call us.

MEMIC data analysis indicates the following are areas of concern in manufacturing. The following list of problems with recommended solutions that — if put into practice — can help make your place of business safer.

## 1. Material Handling

Workers in manufacturing must continually move raw, in-process, or finished goods in the routine course of producing marketable commodities. Equipment, too, must often be moved and maintained. Improper handling of these materials and tasks can cause overexertion, repetitive motions, strains/sprains, all of which can cause injuries. These risks can be controlled by:

- **Require the use and maintenance of lift-aid equipment** such as hoists, cranes, forklifts and come-alongs (rather than manually lifting) whenever possible.
- **When materials must be lifted by hand, require workers to employ proper lifting techniques.** For example, workers should avoid lifting from the floor level, and avoid extended reaching. Workers should get help to avoid heavy lifting by themselves.
- **Implement** a stretching program.

## 2. Personal Protective Equipment:

A leading reason for injuries in manufacturing environments is the lack or improper use of personal protective equipment. Employers should provide the appropriate personal protective equipment along with training on its proper use. Manufacturing environments should require:

- **Eye/Face Protection** including goggles, shields, welding lenses and curtains;
- **Other Safety Apparel** including safety shoes, gloves, and clothing.

## 3. Housekeeping:

Falls are another leading cause of injury to workers in manufacturing. Most slips, trips and falls can be traced to poor housekeeping practices.

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Here are some simple ways to prevent these injuries:

- **Keep floors and work areas clear** of debris, electrical cords, tools and other extraneous equipment. Make sure floors are not slippery.
- **Remove ice and snow** as often as practical, and use sand and/or salt on slippery walking surfaces.

## 4. Safeguarding and Lockout/Tagout:

Injuries that are caused by workers who come in contact with machines are closely correlated with the lack of appropriate safeguards on the machines. Without proper guards, workers can suffer serious injuries to their extremities or, can be pulled by their hair or by loose-fitting clothing into a machine. In addition, injuries occur when maintenance is performed without disabling power to machines. To protect against these types of injuries:

- **Prevent worker contact with all rotating or moving machinery** by using guards, enclosures, or guarding devices between the worker and the machine.
- **Implement a Lockout/Tagout procedure.** This will ensure that power to equipment is completely disconnected and cannot be reconnected while someone is working on the equipment.

## 5. Effective Supervision

Well-trained supervisors will manage well-planned jobs and will ultimately produce safe and productive working environments. Research shows that many supervisors are promoted because of their technical ability or their productivity. This does not mean that he or she is ready for the human relations challenges of creating safe and productive environments. Employers should:

- **Provide supervisor training.** Train your supervisors in human relations skills, behavior-based management and their responsibility toward safe production. MEMIC can help through our supervisory management training programs.
- **Make accountability to work safely a part of the job.** Just as productivity is a valued when supervisors are reviewed, so should safe work environments. Make safety a part of every supervisor's job appraisal.
- **Establish a written commitment** from management to workplace safety.
- **Select a medical provider** to assist in getting injured employees back to work.
- **Develop employee involvement** through safety committees or regular safety meetings.
- **Require a new employee orientation** to job safety requirements.
- **Employee selection process** should include a job application, a reference check, and an in-depth interview, as well as a pre-placement interview.



### The Fact File

#### Top 10 Manufacturing Industry Injury Sources

1. Container
2. Metal/woodworking machinery
3. Process machinery
4. Building material
5. Machine tool
6. Another person
7. Floors/ground surfaces
8. Hand tool
9. Motor vehicle
10. Waste/debris

#### Body Part Injured

Head	5%
Chest	38%
Shoulder-hand	27%
Back	6%
Lower body	5%
Multiple	9%

#### Top 5 Occupations with Injuries

1. Machine Operator
2. Laborer
3. Shoe mach. operator
4. Welders/cutter
5. Assembler