

CASE - STUDY 1



One of BACK-TRACK's main clients is a leading supplier to many of Europe's largest retailers.

The company is a multi-national, €1 billion turnover organisation and as part of its commitment to sustainable development, it has established a fully-sustainable production ethos at each one of its manufacturing plants. In practice this means that every site concentrates on maintaining a clean, safe working environment, with a focus on accident reduction and waste minimisation.

Health & Safety is a key priority for the business and each site has a Health & Safety Manager, responsible for embedding H&S management systems and for producing a set of agreed action plans relating to risk assessment, equipment and procedures. To ensure

Boxes coming off the production line are manually transferred to pallets prior to dispatch.

Health & Safety compliance, each site is internally audited on a regular basis, supplemented by external, independent audits performed by RoSPA, the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents.

It is against this background of an overarching commitment to Health & Safety that BACK-TRACK was evaluated. BACK-TRACK enables the company to monitor employee behaviour in relation to lifting and bending throughout the working day. At each production site, operators manually handle raw materials and transfer boxed-up goods from the end of the production lines to pallets, prior to wrapping and dispatch. With thousands of warehouse employees involved in manual handling activities,

back injury is a major health & safety concern. Discomfort or permanent injury can be substantially reduced thanks to BACK-TRACK.

Each operator clips a BACK-TRACK device to his belt as he comes on shift and throughout the day the device records all back movement in relation to extended periods of leaning and incidence of stooping. In correct usage, the device is silent, but when the operator bends in a way which places strain on the back, the device records the activation and vibrates, alerting them.

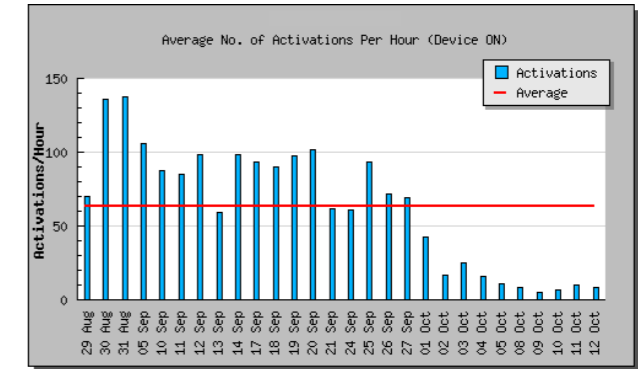
At the end of each working day, the device is unclipped from the operative's belt and slotted into a recharging cradle. The stored data is uploaded via the internet to BACK-TRACK's online database. This data can then be accessed by the customer, or a summary report will be emailed to the customer.

The BACK-TRACK software enables individual operative bending behaviour to be measured, monitored and compared in a multitude of ways. In the case of this trial, considerable changes in operator behaviour did take place, after managers had made operators aware of their unnecessary stooping following the data reporting and reviewing process.

To reinforce this requirement to change operative bending and eliminate all unnecessary stooping permanently, the BACK-TRACK system will be integrated into the company's Behavioural Safety Programme.

Commenting on the trial, the Health &

Safety Manager stated, "BACK-TRACK has not only enabled us to find out exactly what's happening on the factory floor in terms of exposure to potential back issues, but also helped us come up with the right solution to resolve the problem. This is good for the business and good for our people too."



During the cycle of behavioural change, the risk factor due to stooping is identified, monitored, reviewed with the individual and ultimately modified. Through individual improvement, comes organisational change.

John Pelling, Managing Director of BACK-TRACK added, "As well as changing an individual's behaviour, BACK-TRACK makes the operatives feel involved and reinforces the fact that the organisation really does take the welfare of its employees very seriously."

Thanks to the success of this UK trial, it is planned that BACK-TACK will be rolled out across the company's European facilities during 2008.

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