OSHA Ergonomics Chronology

Fiscal Year 2001 Appropriations Bill pending

November 14, 2000
  OSHA issues Ergonomics Program Standard.

August 10, 2000
  Ergonomics record closes.

July 7, 2000
  Informal public hearing on the proposal held in Atlanta, Ga. regarding economic impact on state and local governments, the U.S. Postal Service and railroads.

May 22, 2000
  OSHA seeks comments on the economic impact of ergonomics proposal on the state and local governments, USPS and railroads.

May 8-12
  Informal public hearings on the proposed rule extended in Washington, D.C.

April 11, 2000
  Informal public hearings on the proposed rule begin in Chicago, Ill.

March 21, 2000
  Informal public hearings on the proposed rule begin in Portland, Ore.

February 22, 2000
  Informal public hearings on the proposed rule begin in Washington, D.C.

January 24, 2000
  Notice of Intention to Appear at hearings must be postmarked.

November 23, 1999
  OSHA publishes proposed ergonomics standard for comment in the Federal Register.
September 9, 1999
11th regional ergonomics best practices conference held in Silver Spring, Md.

April 30, 1999
SBREFA panel report submitted to OSHA Assistant Secretary.

February 19, 1999
OSHA begins small business review of its draft ergonomics rule, makes draft regulatory text available to stakeholders.

September 24-25, 1998
OSHA holds stakeholder meetings on ergonomics rulemaking in Washington, D.C.

July 23, 1998
OSHA holds stakeholder meeting on ergonomics rulemaking in Atlanta, Ga.

July 21, 1998
OSHA holds stakeholder meeting on ergonomics rulemaking in Kansas City, Mo.

March 16, 1998
OSHA releases video entitled "Ergonomic Programs That Work."

February 4-6, 1998
OSHA holds stakeholder meetings on ergonomics rulemaking in Washington, D.C.

October, 1997
Congress allows OSHA to work on ergonomics in Fiscal Year 1998 but prohibits issuance of any proposed or final standard or guidelines; House Conference Report says this will be last time OSHA's work on an ergonomics standard is restricted.

April 28, 1997
OSHA launches ergonomics page on the Internet.

January 8-9, 1997
OSHA/NIOSH conference on successful ergonomics programs held in Chicago, Ill.

October, 1995
Congress prohibits use of OSHA Fiscal Year 1996 funds to issue proposed or final ergonomics standard or guidelines.

July, 1995
Congress prohibits use of OSHA Fiscal Year 1995 funds to issue proposed or final ergonomics standard or guidelines.
March, 1995
OSHA begins series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss outline of draft
ergonomics standard.

August 3, 1992
Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on ergonomics published requesting
comments by February 1, 1993.

January 15, 1992
OSHA begins a special emphasis inspection program on ergonomics in meatpacking.

Three-day course for red meat industry covering ergonomics guidelines and
medical management of cumulative trauma disorders offered by OSHA to the
public in Washington, D.C.

July 29, 1991
OSHA publishes a 24-page booklet, "Ergonomics: The Study of Work," as part
of a nationwide educational and outreach program to raise awareness and
reduce cumulative trauma disorders.

1990s
Through the 90s OSHA signed 11 more corporate-wide settlement agreements
to bring ergonomic programs to nearly half a million workers.

November 20, 1990
OSHA/UAW/GM sign agreement bringing ergonomics programs to 138 GM
plants employing more than 300,000 workers.

Fall 1990
Then Secretary of Labor, Elizabeth Dole, emphasizes need to eliminate hazards of
 ergonomic-related disorders. OSHA creates Office of Ergonomics Support.

August 30, 1990
The agency publishes ergonomics guidelines for the red meat industry,
"Ergonomics Program Management Guidelines for Meatpacking Plants."

July 23, 1990
OSHA/UAW/Ford corporate-wide settlement agreement commits Ford to
reduce ergonomic hazards in 96 percent of its plants through model
ergonomics program.

July 2, 1990
Directive CPL 2.88 "Information Dissemination System for Ergonomic
Inspections and Consultative Visits Resulting in Significant Benefits" issued.
November 2, 1989
OSHA/UAW/Chrysler sign corporate-wide settlement agreement for comprehensive ergonomics program to control cumulative trauma disorders at five auto assembly plants.

July 7, 1989
OSHA cites Ford's Lansdale, Pa., assembly plant for ergonomic hazards.

May 1, 1987
OSHA cites Chrysler plants in Belvedere, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo. (two); Newark, Del.; and Toledo, Ohio for recognized ergonomic hazards.

April 21, 1987
Comments on manual lifting extended to June 30, 1987, scope of concern extended from general industry only to all industries.

February 9, 1987
OSHA issues directive CPL 2.78 establishing regional ergonomics coordinators to provide technical assistance to OSHA area offices, consultation programs and state programs and mandating training for compliance staff.

October 2, 1986

May 16, 1986

August 16, 1983
The OSHA Training Institute offers its first course on ergonomics.

Early 1980s
OSHA begins discussing ergonomic issues with labor, trade associations and professional organizations.

1979
First ergonomist joins OSHA.