

Self Inspections (Unsafe Acts)

Most self inspection checklists focus on unsafe physical conditions such as housekeeping, equipment guarding and material storage. But studies have shown that at least 90% of all accidents are caused by the unsafe acts/behaviors of workers.

Employee observation is the basis for several behavioral based safety improvement programs such as the DuPont Stop Program. These programs have shown remarkable success in reducing accidents. In the first year, companies have seen up to a 72% reduction in OSHA recordable injuries and Worker's Compensation costs reduced by 25-40%. So, it makes sense for your inspection process to focus on the key activities/behaviors that lead to injury.

To improve your inspection process:

You should start by identifying activities that lead to potential Unsafe Acts such as:

- Activities that have resulted in near misses or injury accidents
- Manual material handling by individuals and teams (lifting, lowering, pushing, pulling, bending, stooping, and reaching, etc. involving heavy and/or awkward objects.)
- Repetitive Motion (Computer keying/mousing, forceful pinching, wrist/hand/finger manipulation, arm/shoulder movement, etc.)
- Use of manual hand tools (knives, wrenches, screw drivers, etc.)
- Use of powered hand tools (saws, screw guns, nail/staple guns, etc.)
- Use of ladders or climbing on equipment
- Procedures involving lock-out/tag-out
- Movement between equipment and departments
- Employees that come in close contact with moving machinery

You will need to add the selected specific worker activity observation items to your self inspection checklists.

Supervisors should perform daily observations and provide on-the-spot proper job instruction. In addition the supervisor should review required program documentation, such as daily forklift inspection logs or power press set-up forms. (CompWest forms available)

Unsafe Acts/Behavior noted during an inspection should be immediately addressed by the responsible supervisor as a coaching opportunity. By reviewing several inspections back to back you can identify trends and develop specific topics for a department or companywide training.

**If You Have Any Questions or Need Assistance
Contact Your CompWest Loss Control Consultant
Or Request Assistance on the CompWest Web Page.**