

# Selecting an Online Ergonomics Management Tool

(excerpted from CTD News, May 2001)

Deciding which ergonomic software meets all of the needs of your company can be a daunting task.

Non-customized ergonomic software can be quick and easy to implement. In addition, off-the-shelf options can cost less than a uniquely tailored program.

In a global marketplace, however, it is a challenge to communicate to all employees messages that are consistent with the company's ergonomic or injury prevention philosophy. Remedy Interactive, developer of WorkWell – an ergonomic assessment program, believes that online training enables a company to deliver a consistent message to all employees independent of geographic location and time zone.

Customized programs provide customized solutions. A number of companies have found it worthwhile working with Remedy Interactive. Such a vendor has allowed them to build customized software is worthwhile. For instance, "**Hewlett-Packard** had its ergonomics program translated into Spanish. **National Semiconductor** modified the workstation setup content of its program to be consistent with its face-to-face training classes."

How can you assess what needs your ergonomics program must address? Companies have come to Remedy Interactive with varied safety and business goals. For example, a primary goal of **Chevron's** was to identify the relative risk levels "all of the employees who work at a computer within a year." Another client aimed at reducing rates of injury via increased employee awareness.

To choose the online ergonomics program that most meets your needs begin by defining your goals:

- Should your online training evaluate your employees' ergonomic risks?
- Regarding risks: how many exist, where are they, what are they?
- Is it important that your online solution be able to train employees (be interactive)?
- What will be your measurements of success? (A decrease in incidence of risk? Number of trained employees?)

In addition to assessing the needs of your individual program, when choosing an on-line ergonomic program it is helpful to address a number of business-oriented questions:

- To what degree will an online solution reduce our liability?
- How will the customized program be integrated into existing and effective programming?
- Who plays key roles in the implementation of the program? Will they support the implementation process?
- In regards to the utilization of online learning or other online solutions, will the program fulfill the company's goals?

*For more information, contact Remedy Interactive at (415) 332-6433 or visit the company's Web site at [www.remedyiinteractive.com](http://www.remedyiinteractive.com).*

## References

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