

Ergonomics Reference Guide

Ergonomics
Reference
Guide to
Workstation,
Tool, Task
and Process
Design

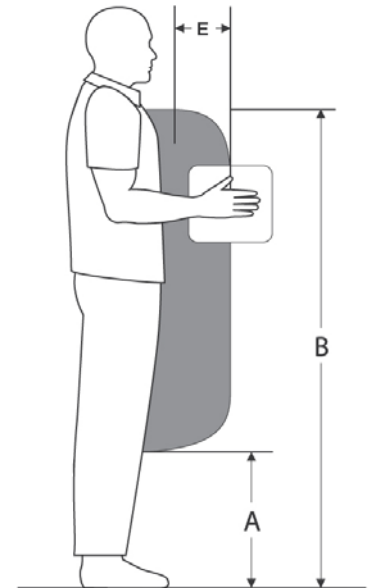
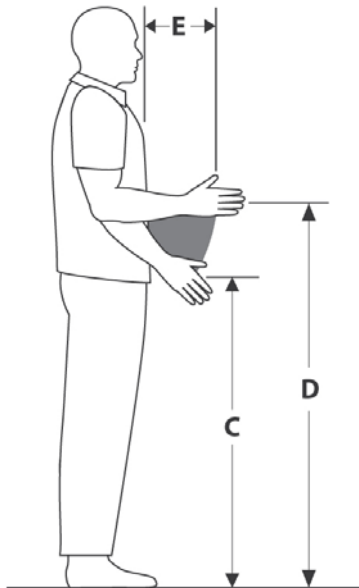


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Introduction

Engineering Ergonomics Reference Guide provides ergonomics checklists, specifications and supporting information to assist in designing tasks, tools, equipment and workstations that enhance productivity and quality of the work product and reduce the risk of injury in the workplace.

This information is provided within the context of professional judgment rendered on the part of reader.

Applying ergonomics principles will help to ensure jobs are performed by workers in a safe, efficient and pain-free manner by:

- “Working smarter not harder.”
- “Fitting the task (i.e. tools, equipment, facilities, etc.) to the worker rather than forcing the worker to fit the task.”



Primary Ergonomics Risk Factors

Primary ergonomics risk factors in the workplace that contribute to decreased productivity and quality and increased work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSDs) include:

- Awkward and sustained postures
- Excessive forces imposed on the body or generated by the body
- Excessive frequency and duration of tasks
- Uncontrolled environmental factors (illumination, noise, thermal, ventilation, vibration)
- Uncontrolled perceptual demand factors (auditory, touch, visual)

Ergonomics is an established scientific discipline based on:

- Occupational Biomechanics
- Work Physiology

- Engineering Psychology
- Epidemiology
- Anthropometry

Primary Ergonomics Principles

- Promote effective work processes
- Promote neutral body/limb position and support
- Promote physical movement
- Control manual material handling
- Promote work in the user's reach zone
- Provide correct tools, equipment and facilities
- Provide competency based training
- Control exposure to work environment
- Promote health and wellness
- Provide on-going feedback and follow-up

Bottom line . . . incorporating ergonomics principles in the design and use of tasks, tools, equipment and workstations will improve productivity and quality and reduce or eliminate work related injuries.

A more comfortable, safe and productive working environment is the end result.



Anthropometry

Defined

Anthropometry is the science that defines physical measures of a person's size, form, and functional capacities. In other words: how tall? . . . how short? . . . how big? . . . how small?

Data Bases

Anthropometric measurements are used to evaluate the interaction of workers with tasks, tools, machines, workstations, vehicles, and personal protective equipment.

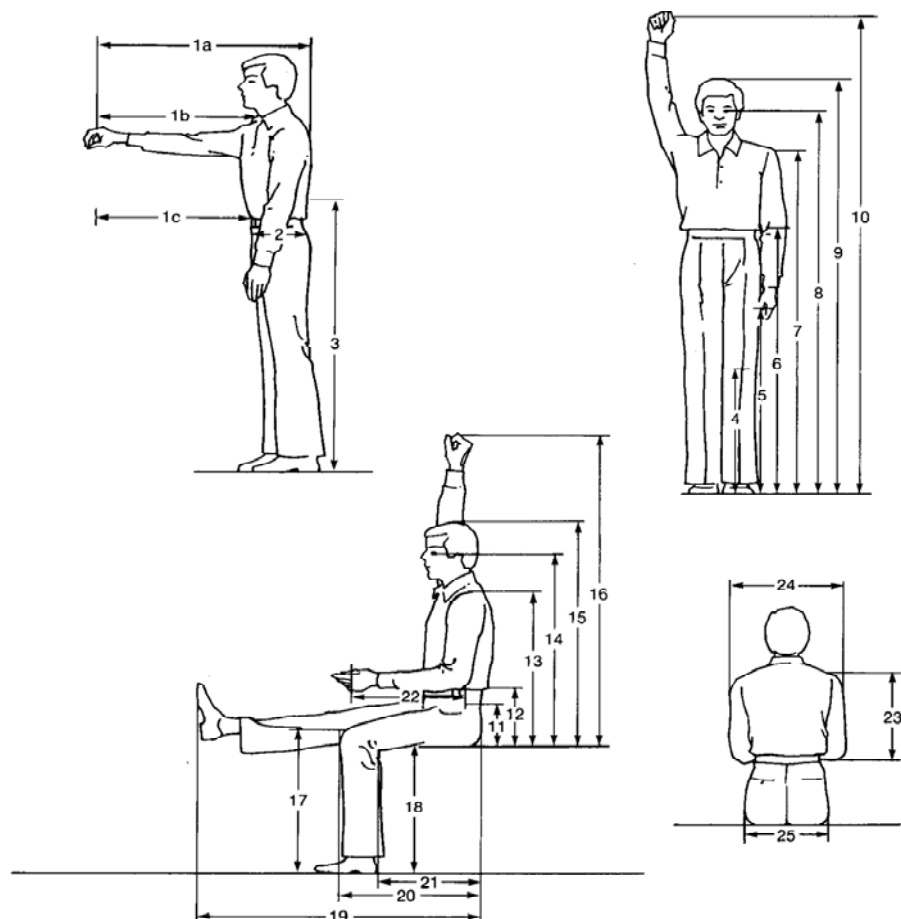
Data bases have been developed that describe various populations typically in terms of percentiles based on statistical measures of mean and standard deviation.

For example, the drawing to the right indicates a number of measures that relate to body segment length. Measurements including stature, reach, height from floor, width, etc. are commonly used.

Design considerations

In overview, two primary anthropometric design considerations come into play:

1. Ensure taller individuals can fit
2. Ensure shorter individuals can reach



Ask any tall person trying to fit into an airplane seat or a short person trying to reach to a higher shelf and they will confirm the design considerations.

To make use of the data tables, the first design criterion is to define the user population. Is it predominately male or female? Northern European or Asian descent? Or, more than likely, a diverse combination?

General anthropometric guidelines promote design that attempts **accommodation from the 5th percentile female to the 95th percentile male**. Going through an example will illustrate how to access the data base and interpret the results.

Anthropometric Case Study

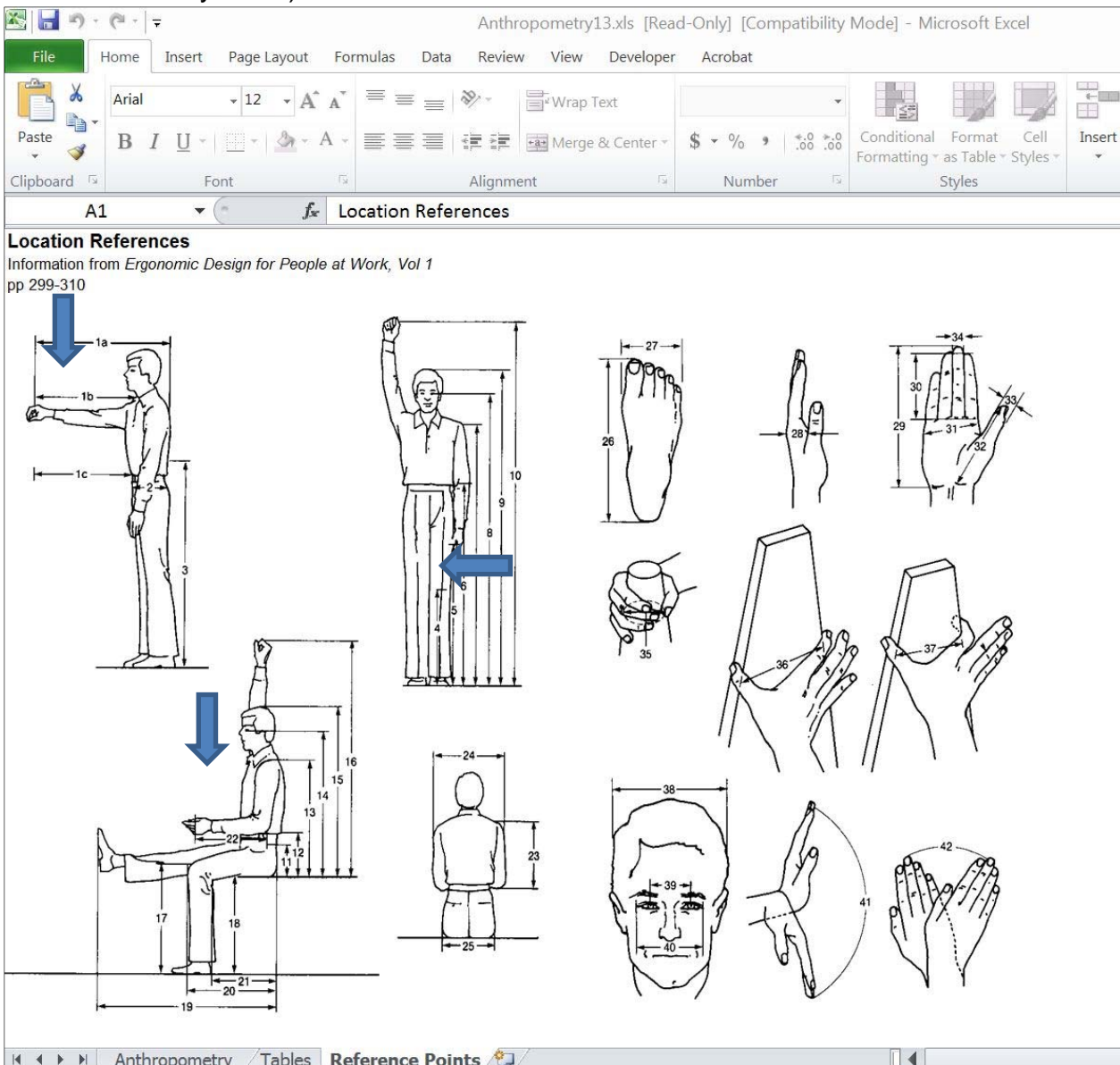
A workbench is being designed for an assembly process. A diverse user population will perform light weight (up to 10#) repetitive assembly job tasks at elbow level from a standing position.

Workbench height and worksurface front-to-back depth are the points of interest. Using anthropometric data we can develop the design specifications for the workbench.

[Standing Workstation Guidelines](#) and [Standing Workstation Specifications](#) are based on the anthropometric data, determined as follow.

The *Reference Points* sheet in the Excel spreadsheet identify the metrics of interest:

- *Elbow height – Stand (6)* (used to determine workbench height)
- *Frwd Func Reach – acromial process to pinch (1b)* (used to determine workbench configuration for placement of parts bins, tools, etc.)
- *Elbow-to-Fist Length (22)* (used to determine workbench configuration for performance of assembly tasks)



Select the *Anthropometry* sheet in the Excel spreadsheet. In the *Select Dimesions of Interest* pull down menu select:

- *Frwd Func Reach – acromial process to pinch (1b)*
- *Elbow-to-Fist Length (22)*
- *Elbow height – Stand (6)*

5th Percentile Female calculation:

- In the *Adult Population Mix (%)* input 0 for Men, Women 100 will be automatically input
- In the *Design Exclusion (%)* input 5, this will calculate 5th and 95th percentiles
- Click *Find Values*

Anthropometric Measures -- Adult Population						
Job / Task Information -- Enter Useful Information in This Box -- See also comments in cells by placing curser over cells marked by red triangle in upper right corner.		Adult Population Mix (%)		Design Exclusion (%)		
in, lb		Men	Women			
Find Values		0	100	5		
Units: in, lb						
Select Dimensions of Interest		Limits (%ile)		Range (%ile)		
		Mean 50%ile	Minimum	Maximum	Low	High
			5.0	95.0	2.5	97.5
Frwd Func Reach - acromial process to pinch {1b}		24.6	22.4	26.8	22.0	27.3
Elbow-to-Fist Length {22}		13.7	12.2	15.2	11.9	15.5
Elbow Height - Stand {6}		40.4	37.3	43.5	36.7	44.1

95th Percentile Male calculation:

- In the *Adult Population Mix (%)* input 100 for Men, Women 0 will be automatically input.
- In the *Design Exclusion (%)* input 5, this will calculate 5th and 95th percentiles
- Click *Find Values*

Anthropometric Measures -- Adult Population						
Job / Task Information -- Enter Useful Information in This Box -- See also comments in cells by placing curser over cells marked by red triangle in upper right corner.		Adult Population Mix (%)		Design Exclusion (%)		
in, lb		Men	Women			
Find Values		100	0	5		
Units: in, lb						
Select Dimensions of Interest		Limits (%ile)		Range (%ile)		
		Mean 50%ile	Minimum	Maximum	Low	High
			5.0	95.0	2.5	97.5
Frwd Func Reach - acromial process to pinch {1b}		25.1	22.4	27.9	21.8	28.5
Elbow-to-Fist Length {22}		15.2	13.8	16.5	13.5	16.8
Elbow Height - Stand {6}		43.5	40.6	46.5	40.1	47.0

Interpretation

For the 5th percentile female and the 95th percentile male, we now have determined standing elbow height (*Elbow height – Stand (6)*), and two ranges of reach ([Comfort](#) (*Elbow-to-Fist Length (22)*) and [Functional](#) (*Frwd Func Reach – acromial process to pinch (1b)*)).

Workbench Height – Adjustable

So with the 5th percentile female standing elbow height at 37.3” and the 95th percentile male at 46.5” we can specify the recommended range of adjustment of the workbench. Ideally the workbench will be **height adjustable and controlled by the user in the range of 36” to 48”** (about 1” buffer added to minimum and maximum height).

See [Caveats](#) below for additional information.

Workbench Height - Fixed

If a height adjustable workbench is not an option, we have to consider what will be the most beneficial fixed height for all operators. We would like the operator to maintain a [neutral upright body position](#) as possible and operate within their [power zone](#) to handle tools, parts and materials. Here are some considerations:

- If the work bench height is set for the shorter individual at 37”, this will force the taller individual to bend at the waist to position their hands at the workbench. This places their hands lower than their recommended power zone and increases biomechanical stress into the spine and shoulders.
- If the work bench height is set for the taller individual at 47”, this will force the shorter individual to reach their hands up to the work bench. This places their hands higher than their recommended power zone and increases biomechanical and physiological stress into the shoulders and arms.

One option is to calculate the values for a mixed population of men and women. We can manipulate the *Adult Population Mix (%)* to consist of 50% men and 50% women.

Anthropometric Measures -- Adult Population		Adult Population Mix (%)		Design Exclusion (%)		
Job / Task Information -- Enter Useful Information in This Box -- See also comments in cells by placing cursor over cells marked by red triangle in upper right corner.		Men	Women			
in, lb		50	50	5		
Find Values		Units: in, lb				
If units are changed, push Find Values again.		Limits (%ile)		Range (%ile)		
Select Dimensions of Interest		Mean 50%ile	Minimum	Maximum	Low	High
Frwd Func Reach - acromial process to pinch {1b}		24.9	22.4	27.5	21.9	28.0
Elbow-to-Fist Length {22}		14.4	12.5	16.2	12.2	16.5
Elbow Height - Stand {6}		42.0	38.0	45.8	37.3	46.5

The *Elbow Height – Stand* 50th percentile for the mixed group would indicate a 42” workbench height:

- Some shorter individuals would be working in the top end of their power zone range
- Some taller individuals would be working in the bottom end of their power zone range

So for a 50/50 Adult Population Mix, a 42” fixed workbench height could be a reasonable compromise.

We can also provide a foot platform for the shorter workers. Maximum recommended height of a single step foot platform is 6”.

For a fixed height workbench at 42”; a 6” foot platform would be comparable to a 5th percentile female working at workbench height of 36”.

Honestly, we try to avoid the use of foot platforms based on issues of inadvertently stepping off the platform, need to move the platform in and out of position, etc.; but it can be a viable option when no alternative to a fixed height workbench exists.

Caveats

Higher Manual Handling Force Levels:

The case study was based on light weight (up to 10#) assembly activities. If higher force levels are required (> 10#) to manually lift parts/materials we have to be concerned about requiring shorter individuals to exert force in the upper part or even outside of their power zone, thereby compromising the arms and shoulders. We may need to **lower the fixed workbench height or reconsider the need for a height adjustable workbench.**

Higher Downward Force Levels:

If a higher downward force is needed (e.g. using a torque wrench, pushing down on a part to get it to seat properly, etc.) **the recommended workbench height would be 3 to 5" lower than elbow height** and we would need to modify our interpretation accordingly; fixed height at 37" and adjustable height range of 32" to 44".

Task	Adjustable Height Workbench	Fixed Height Workbench
Precision	40" to 52"	45"
Light assembly	36" to 48"	42"
Heavy assembly	32" to 44"	37"

Precision Activities:

The case study was based on general assembly activities, not those that require a high level of precise hand and eye coordination. For these situations, we need to position the parts/materials at a high enough level to limit excessive tilting the head down to see the activity. We also may want to consider supporting the weight of the arms to unload the neck and shoulders.

In this case **the recommended workbench height would be 3 to 5" higher than elbow height** and we would need to modify our interpretation accordingly; fixed height at 45" and adjustable height range of 40" to 52".

Task	Adjustable Height Workbench	Fixed Height Workbench
Precision	40" to 52"	45"
Light assembly	36" to 48"	42"
Heavy assembly	32" to 44"	37"

NOTE: in all cases the actual size/placement of the object on the workbench needs to be considered.

We recognize that "hand work height" is the determining factor; this may be different from the actual workbench height. For example, the object may have 6" of height and the hands may actually be placed 6" above the workbench height to accomplish the task.

Worksurface front-to-back depth

Now that we have determined specifications for the workbench height let's turn our attention to the worksurface front-to-back depth specifications. We determined two ranges of reach:

- *Frwd Func Reach*– acromial process to pinch (1b) [Functional](#) (used to determine workbench configuration for placement of parts bins, tools, etc.)
- *Elbow-to-Fist Length* (22) [Comfort](#) (used to determine workbench configuration for performance of assembly tasks)

Here are the metrics we determined for the 5th percentile female.

Anthropometric Measures -- Adult Population						
Job / Task Information -- Enter Useful Information in This Box -- See also comments in cells by placing cursor over cells marked by red triangle in upper right corner.		Adult Population Mix (%)		Design Exclusion (%)		
		Men	Women			
		0	100	5		
in, lb <input type="button" value="Find Values"/>		Units: in, lb				
If units are changed, push Find Values again.		Limits (%ile)		Range (%ile)		
Select Dimensions of Interest		Mean 50%ile	Minimum	Maximum	Low	High
Frwd Func Reach - acromial process to pinch {1b}		24.6	22.4	26.8	22.0	27.3
Elbow-to-Fist Length {22}		13.7	12.2	15.2	11.9	15.5
Elbow Height - Stand {6}		40.4	37.3	43.5	36.7	44.1

and the 95th percentile male

Anthropometric Measures -- Adult Population						
Job / Task Information -- Enter Useful Information in This Box -- See also comments in cells by placing cursor over cells marked by red triangle in upper right corner.		Adult Population Mix (%)		Design Exclusion (%)		
		Men	Women			
		100	0	5		
in, lb <input type="button" value="Find Values"/>		Units: in, lb				
If units are changed, push Find Values again.		Limits (%ile)		Range (%ile)		
Select Dimensions of Interest		Mean 50%ile	Minimum	Maximum	Low	High
Frwd Func Reach - acromial process to pinch {1b}		25.1	22.4	27.9	21.8	28.5
Elbow-to-Fist Length {22}		15.2	13.8	16.5	13.5	16.8
Elbow Height - Stand {6}		43.5	40.6	46.5	40.1	47.0

Considering the basic anthropometric principle of ensuring shorter individuals can appropriately reach, we can use the 5th percentile female data to develop the [Comfort](#) and [Functional](#) reach criteria.

- For performance of assembly tasks the keep placement of the materials within 14” of the workbench front edge.
- For placement of parts bins, tools, etc.) keep the materials within 22” of the front edge of the workbench front edge.

Caveats

“Jammed in”

Some taller individuals may feel “jammed in” attempting to work within the parameters for the shorter individuals; consideration of moveable parts bins, tool storage, etc. that can be positioned per the use may be helpful. Also provide enough space on the worksurface that the

taller individual can reposition materials manipulated on the workbench to increase the comfort reach zone range based on their particular reach.

Reach Zone Leeway

When comparing the guidelines for reach for standing vs. seated workstation configurations, there typically is greater leeway in establishing reach zones for standing configurations. It is easier to reach a greater distance when standing than when seated.

One Handed Reach

If the reach can be safely and effectively accomplished with one hand, the effective reach zone can be increased by 20 to 25%.

Task Frequency

For reaches that need to be accomplished only on an occasional basis (for example, only a few times an hour) the reach zone range may be able to be extended. With increasing task frequency, greater adherence to the recommended guidelines is needed.

Carts

Cart Checklist

“NO” answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Dimensions: Cart width and depth appropriate to safely contain and transport materials.			
Cart load capacity: Cart capacity matched to loaded cart weight.			
Height – Fixed: Fixed height cart matches height of fixed height workstation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If used to transport between fixed height workstations and/or stage materials at workstations. 			
Height – Adjustable: Able to match cart height to varying height workstations; required cart height adjustment range has been determined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use manual height adjustment cart for lighter weight materials (20 lbs. or less) and when minimal height adjustment (less than 6”) is needed. Use powered height adjustable carts for heavier materials (greater than 20#) that require greater than 6” height adjustment. 			
Height – Adjustable Spring Loaded: Automatically positions materials (of a consistent unit weight) at a predetermined unload height. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring tension of cart height adjustment mechanism calibrated based on product unit weight. 			
Platform: Ensure cart platform allows for easy sliding of materials onto/off of the cart platform.			
Casters/wheels: Cart has the appropriate casters/wheels for floor type and use of the cart. Additional information			
Handles: Cart handle placement allows for upright body position when pushing/pulling cart. Additional information			
Lip: Cart has a lip or other method to contain the materials during transport.			
Cart loading: Cart is loaded in a safe manner (promote a stable cart center of gravity).			
Technique: User adequately trained in handling of cart. Additional information			
Shelves: If the cart has shelves, they are properly configured. Additional information			
Powered vs. manual cart transport: Determination made if cart needs to be a powered transport cart or if manual transport is adequate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider powered cart when force to push/pull cart is greater than 40 lbs., distance is greater than 100 feet, cart is handled on a ramp, etc. 			
Floor surface: Floor surface provides for easy moving of the cart on the surface. This is in conjunction with proper casters/wheels.			
Ramps: Determine if cart use will take place on ramps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure safe handling of carts of ramps. 			

Casters – Additional Information

[Return to Cart Checklist](#)

Required load capacity

- In general, each caster should have the capacity to support one-third of the total load weight; overloading, uneven floors and load distribution may place a heavier burden on one or more casters.

Mobility needs

- The larger the wheel size (and swivel radius), the greater the mobility.
- The type of bearing selected will also improve mobility and reduce rolling resistance.

Environmental conditions

- Check for dust, humidity and temperature extremes.
- Casters with sealed swivels are ideal in areas with sprays or wash-down requirements where there is lint or dust and where extreme quiet is essential.

Other application considerations

- Most casters are rated for "walking speed".
- Higher speed applications require specialized casters to maintain load capacity and dissipate heat buildup.

Determine if caster brakes are needed

- If the cart can roll away when being loaded or stored the caster should have brakes.
- Ensure the brakes are easy to engage and release.

Swivel or fixed position

- Determine if swivel or fixed position swivel casters are needed.
- All four casters with swivel feature will be needed for improved maneuverability in a confined area.
- Two swivel and two fixed casters will be needed for cart transport over longer distances – this allows the cart to be moved in a straight line while still allowing for maneuverability around corners. Position the swivel casters on the handle end of the cart.
- Some casters are able to be locked in a fixed position and then released to swivel.

Handles – Additional Information[Return to Cart Checklist](#)

Cart handle placement allows for upright body position when pushing/pulling cart.

- Recommended fixed handle height is 36" to 38" – ideally needs to be suited to cart use and user population stature.
- Recommended adjustable handle height range is 36 to 46".
- Ensure cart handle placement allows for normal stride when pushing/pulling cart (not in the way of the feet) – as possible, position the handle 6 to 8" away from the body of the cart.

Technique – Additional Information[Return to Cart Checklist](#)**Line of sight**

- Ensure the cart and materials loaded will not restrict the line of sight of the user.
- If line of sight will be restricted, ensure a "spotter" is used.

One person vs. two person

Determine if the cart can be safely handled with one person or if two are needed.

- Based on force required to initiate and sustain cart movement.
- ✓ e.g. force to push/pull cart is greater than 50 lbs., cart is handled on a ramp, etc.
- Also consider if the cart should be powered.

Push vs. pull

Typically pushing carts enables improved body mechanics technique than pulling

- Able to make use of “power position” when pushing
- Pulling technique generally places body (spine) in an out-of-neutral position

Exceptions to the rule do exist

- May pull cart over a rough surface or threshold rather than push
- May pull pallet jack rather than push it when traveling for longer distances

Shelves – Additional Information

[Return to Cart Checklist](#)

If the cart has shelves, they are properly configured.

- For typical three shelf level cart: (assuming shelf levels at approximately 6”, 30” and 54” from the floor):
- ✓ Place the heaviest items on middle shelf
- ✓ Place lighter items on bottom and top shelves
- ✓ As possible refrain from using bottom shelf on a regular basis – difficult to manually handle materials at this low level
- ✓ Ensure carts are appropriately rated for expected load.
- ✓ Loading of shelves must not make carts/shelves unstable.

Chairs/Stools

Chair/Stool Checklist													
“NO” answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA										
<p>Required: Determination made if a chair/stool is needed at the workstation. Refer to Workstation Types and Characteristics for guidelines.</p>													
<p>Height adjustment range: Seatpan height adjustment range matches the worksurface height.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #1a3d54; color: white;">Worksurface height</th> <th style="background-color: #1a3d54; color: white;">Seat pan height (approximate adjustment range from floor to top surface of seat pan)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">28” to 30”</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16” to 22”</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">31” to 33”</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19” to 25”</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">34” to 36”</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22” to 28”</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">37” to 42”</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25” to 35”</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Worksurface height	Seat pan height (approximate adjustment range from floor to top surface of seat pan)	28” to 30”	16” to 22”	31” to 33”	19” to 25”	34” to 36”	22” to 28”	37” to 42”	25” to 35”			
Worksurface height	Seat pan height (approximate adjustment range from floor to top surface of seat pan)												
28” to 30”	16” to 22”												
31” to 33”	19” to 25”												
34” to 36”	22” to 28”												
37” to 42”	25” to 35”												
<p>Adjustment features: Needed adjustment features have been determined. Features typically include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seatpan height, tilt (including rocking tension) and depth. • Back support height and angle. • Armrest height, side-to-side and rotation (if armrests are included). • Foot ring height adjustment for stools. 													
<p>Casters: Appropriate casters for floor surface and use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard shell casters for carpeted floors. • Softer, rubberized castes for hard surface floors (concrete, tile, etc.) • Braking casters – if needed to limit chair from “scooting” away from user as they sit down. (Note: casters engage when the chair is NOT in use; in other words when the user is in the chair it WILL roll. 													
<p>Base: Five leg base to minimize possibility of chair tipping.</p>													
<p>Foot rest: Foot rest (separate from foot ring on the chair) available for foot support if feet are not on the floor once the seat pan height has been adjusted based on worksurface height.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically the Lyon Industrial Foot Rest is used (source: Staples). 													
<p>Chair size: Overall chair size suitable for user body stature and size.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require petite or large/tall chairs for some users. 													
<p>ESD and/or Clean room: Determination made if chair/stools needs to be ESD and/or clean room certified.</p>													
<p>Training: User has been adequately trained in adjustment and use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical point – the best chair in the world has limited value with inadequate training. 													

Computer Workstation Guidelines

Computer Equipment (keyboard, mouse, monitor, touch screen) Checklist

"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
<p>Keyboard: Positioned to allow for neutral body and extremity position within reach zone of user.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seated (height adjustable keyboard support surface): range of 23" to 32" from floor. Seated (keyboard height not adjustable): fixed height between 28 and 30" from floor. Standing (height adjustable keyboard support surface): range of 35" to 47" from floor. Standing (keyboard height not adjustable): fixed height between 40 and 42" from floor. 			
<p>Mouse: Positioned to allow for neutral body and extremity position within reach zone of user.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keyboards available with integrated mouse (roller ball or touch pad). Range of 23" to 32" for height adjustable mouse support surface (if seated with feet on floor.) If mouse height is not adjustable, locate it between 28 and 30" high (if seated with feet on floor.) 			
<p>Tray – Keyboard/Mouse: Support for keyboard/mouse positioned to allow for neutral body and extremity position within reach zone of user.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See recommendations above for keyboard and mouse placement. 			
<p>Monitor: Able to be positioned by user to allow for neutral head and neck position when the monitor is viewed. Refer to Displays for details.</p>			
<p>Eyeglasses: Impact of eyeglasses (bifocals, progressive lenses, etc.) has been taken into account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g., use of bifocals where bottom part of lens is used to view the monitor can result in significant head tip up position with significant stress into neck. Solutions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lowering monitor. ✓ Progressive lenses, bottom part of lens is for reading hard copy material, middle for monitor viewing and top for distance viewing. ✓ Computer glasses where prescription of entire lens is set for monitor viewing ✓ Bifocals where bottom is set for reading and top is set for monitor viewing. 			
<p>Touch Screen: Positioned to allow for neutral head/neck position when viewed and within reach zone (height and distance) of the user:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If accessed when the user is standing, position fixed height touch screens so the middle of the screen is about 60" from the floor. If accessed when seated, position fixed height touch screens so the middle of the screen is 44" from the floor. 			

Contact Stress:

Contact Stress Checklist			
“NO” answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
<p>Sharp edge contact stress: Identified and eliminated, solutions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure correct position relationship between user and workbench: ✓ Workbench that is too high or low in relation to user can result in sharp edge contact stress. ✓ Adjust position of user or workbench to alleviate the issue. • Radius edge of workbench: ✓ Minimum 1/8th inch is typical recommendation for edge radius to eliminate sharp edge contact stress. 			
<p>Hard surface contact stress: Identified and eliminated, solutions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use anti-fatigue mats to reduce impact of hard surface contact stress. • Use of proper foot wear is needed to reduce hard surface contact stress. • Monitor condition of chair seatpan and back support cushions for wear and tear that reduces ability of cushion to provide relief from hard surface contact stress. • Limit exposure to hard surface contact stress through job rotation strategies. 			

Contact stress – sharp edge

When the edge of a workstation, tool guard, etc. is in contact with the body in a concentrated manner contact stress – sharp edge is evident. Result can be damage to soft tissue at the area of contact stress due to decrease in blood flow to the area and to increase in mechanical pressure on soft tissue – muscle, tendon, nerve, blood vessel, etc.

Contact stress – hard surface

Sustained contact of a body part with a hard surface such as sustained standing sitting on a hard surface is defined as contact stress – hard surface. Result can be damage to the compressed tissue due to decreased blood flow to the area.

Controls – Hand and Foot

Refer to Checklist below and [Recommended Specifications for Controls](#) for additional details.

Hand and Foot Controls Checklist			
"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Foot Controls			
Seated: Foot controls operated from a seated position. Avoid repetitive foot control use from a standing position.			
On floor: Foot controls positioned on floor (rather than foot rest or other platform). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If footrest is used, footrest large enough to allow for foot control and foot on footrest. Avoid having one foot higher than other. 			
Operator controlled: Operator controls positioning of footrest to provide optimal positioning and alternating use between right and left feet.			
Hand Controls			
Precision: Controls requiring precision or high-speed operation assigned to hands, rather than feet.			
One major control: When only one major control operated by either hand or both hands, place in front of operator, midway between hands.			
Handedness: Handedness is important only if the task requires skill or dexterity. If control requires fine adjustment, place control on right, most people (about 90% of population) are right-handed.			
Valves: Locate manually operated hand control valves from 20 to 50 "(range of 30 to 40" is preferred) above floor whenever possible so valve is accessible from a standing position and optimize the force that can be applied to operate the valve.			
Levers: Levers requiring significant force (greater than 5 lbs. force) located at chest level for standing work (range of 46" to 56" from floor) and elbow level for seated work (seated with feet on floor, range of 26" to 32" from floor).			
Levers: Levers installed so they move toward axis of body (rather than away from body) to reduce amount of tension on body.			
Fine adjustment: When controls require fine adjustment, provide support for hand being used.			
Finger operated: For finger-operated controls, provide an armrest, either as part of the seat or on the panel itself.			
Emergency Controls (E-Stops)			
Separate location: Emergency controls and displays physically separate from those used during normal operations.			
Accessibility: Emergency controls placed in locations that are easily accessible.			
Line of Sight: Emergency controls and displays placed within 30° of the operator's optimal line of sight.			
Special measures: Special measures (guards, color coding, etc.) provided for emergency controls to aid in identification and to prevent inadvertent operation.			

Recommended Specifications for Control Location[Return to Controls – Hand and Foot](#)

Hand Control Location (<i>seated workstation</i>)	Specification		Description
	Max	Min	
Vertical location of infrequently used controls.	55"	21"	Measurement is from floor to centerline of control.
Vertical location of infrequently used but critical controls (e.g. emergency stop).	39"	21"	Measurement is from floor to centerline of control.
Vertical location of frequently used controls.	42"	30"	Measurement is from floor to centerline of control.
Horizontal reach to infrequently used controls.	22"	9"	Horizontal reaches measured from shoulder joint to center of the hand.
Horizontal reach to frequently used controls.	14"	9"	Horizontal reaches measured from shoulder joint to the center of the hand.
Hand Control Location (<i>standing workstation</i>)	Specification		Description
	Max	Min	
Vertical location of infrequently used and/or critical controls (e.g. emergency stop).	65"	33"	Measurement is from standing surface to centerline of control.
Vertical location of frequently used controls.	50"	37"	Measurement is from standing surface to centerline of control.
Horizontal reach to infrequently used controls.	22"	9"	Horizontal reach measured from shoulder joint.
Horizontal reach to frequently used controls.	14"	9"	Horizontal reach measured from shoulder joint.

Conveyors

Conveyor Checklist

"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Configuration: Conveyor configuration (dimensions) based on amount and size of materials transported on conveyor to adequately convey and contain materials.			
Height and reach: Conveyor height and reach allows operator to work from neutral position while standing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed height: 30" (need to consider influence of height and shape of material conveyed on the final actual conveyor height). • Adjustable height: range from floor 30" to 40", accommodates 5th percentile female to 95th percentile male (need to consider influence of height and shape of material conveyed on the final actual conveyor height). • Reach zones for repetitive reaching to the conveyor within 18" of the front of the operator's body. 			
Foot clearance: Adequate clearance for feet at floor level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly known as a "toe kick", allow for 6" of vertical and horizontal clearance at floor level. 			

Displays/Monitors

[Return to Computer Workstation Guidelines](#)

Displays/Monitors Checklist

"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Displays (monitors, touch screens, etc.) positioned to allow for neutral head, neck and arm position.			

Recommendations for Display Location – Seated and Standing

[Return to Computer Workstation Guidelines](#)

Display Location (seated station)	Specification	Description
Height of monitors (single monitor)	Maximum: 50" Minimum: 37"	Measured from floor to top of screen.
Height of video display terminal (stacked monitors)	Maximum: 55" If 55", tilt downward 15° Minimum: 37" Primary monitor in vertically stacked configuration is bottom monitor	Measured from floor to top of screen.
Height of touch screen monitor	Maximum: 44" If < 40", tilt upward 30°	Measured from floor to middle of screen.

Display Location (standing station)	Specification	Description
Height of video display terminal (single monitor)	Maximum: 66" Minimum: 52"	Measured from floor to top of screen.
Height of video display terminal (stacked monitors)	Maximum: 72" The primary monitor in a vertically stacked configuration is the bottom monitor.	Measured from floor to top line of screen
Height of touch screen monitor	Maximum: 60" If > 55" allow for 20° of downward tilt If < 52" allow for upward tilt of 30° If < 45" allow for upward tilt of 45°	Measured from floor to middle of the screen.

Environment

Auditory, Temperature and Visual Checklist

"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Hearing protection: Need for hearing protection has been determined.			
Noise level: Noise level has been measured and is in the recommended range for a productive work environment (54-59 dBA).			
Temperature: Ambient temperature is acceptable for work being performed. Refer to <i>Type of Work</i> table below.			
Illuminance: Illuminance level is suitable for type of work performed. Refer to <i>Guidelines for Illuminance</i> table below.			
Glare: Glare has been identified and controlled.			

Auditory

Noise levels above 70 dB make verbal communication difficult. Noise levels between 54-59 dBA is the recommended range for a productive work environment. This range will, to some extent mask conversations of others, while speech communication between two employees remains undisturbed.

Noise Exposure Limits

Refer to EHS DP for noise exposure limits.

Temperature

Recommendations for Temperature

Refer to EHS DP for temperature exposure limits.

Fixtures

Fixtures Checklist			
"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Appropriate use of fixtures has been identified.			
Method of how the fixtures will be stored has been determined.			
Method of conveying the fixtures to and from the workstation has been determined.			
Method of mounting fixtures at the workstation been determined.			
Fixtures position units with user reach and height zones.			
Fixture allows free and clear access to insert/remove parts physically and visually (if needed).			

A fixture is a work-holding or support device used in the manufacturing industry. What makes a fixture unique is that each one is built to fit a particular part or shape. The main purpose of a fixture is to locate and in some cases hold a work piece during either a machining operation or some other industrial process. A jig differs from a fixture in that it guides the tool to its correct position in addition to locating and supporting the work piece.

The primary purposes of jigs and fixtures are to:

- Reduce the cost of production
- Maintain consistent quality
- Maximize efficiency
- Enable a variety of parts to be made to correct specifications
- Reduce operator errors

Types of Fixtures:

- General Purpose - They are usually relatively inexpensive and can be used to hold a variety and range of sizes of work pieces (examples: vices, chucks, split collets).
- Special Purpose - They are designed and built to hold a particular work piece for a specific operation on a specific machine or process.

Floor: Anti-Fatigue Mats/Shoe Insoles

[Return to Contact Stress Checklist](#)

Anti-Fatigue Mats/Insoles Checklist			
“NO” answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Need for anti-fatigue mats has been identified and incorporated into the workstation.			
Appropriate anti-fatigue mats have been identified and obtained. Criteria for anti-fatigue mats includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sized to provide full coverage for area of standing and walking • Do not have one foot on and one foot off mat – both feet need to be positioned on mat • Thickness and density that provides for cushioning of the feet • Stays in position – does not slide around on floor • Beveled edge – need to limit trip hazard • Suitable for environment of the area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ESD (electro static discharge) ✓ Chemical resistance (surface) ✓ Water drainage ✓ Slip resistance (coefficient of friction) 			
Need for anti-fatigue shoe insoles has been identified and incorporated into the shoe program. Criteria for insoles includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper cushioning for the foot • Shoe size allows enough space for the insoles • Insoles are removable and replaced as they wear out 			
A combination of anti-fatigue mats and shoe insoles has been determined to provide the best combination of controlling compression and improving foot comfort when standing/walking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoe insoles used in traffic areas where carts are employed • Anti-fatigue mats used at workstations that involve primarily stationary standing 			

What are anti-fatigue mats?

- Anti-fatigue mats are compression absorbing mats placed on the floor surface designed to minimize the impact on the body of sustained standing.

What is the impact on the body of long-term standing?

- Long term standing (greater than 15 minutes of sustained standing with cumulative 2 hours or more over 8 hour period) may result in:
 - Potential for increased joint wear and tear due to compression of the weight bearing joints—feet, ankles, knees, hips and spine
 - Decreased blood flow to the lower extremities, which in turn increases muscle fatigue
 - Blood/lymph fluid tendency to pool in the lower legs, potentially leading to varicose veins
 - Subjective reports of discomfort in the feet, legs, back and shoulders

When should anti-fatigue mats be used?

Sustained standing:

- Area: sustained standing confined to 2 to 3 steps within the area
- Time: 15 minutes and longer
- Cumulative: 2 hours or more over an 8 hour period

Hard floor surface:

- Concrete
- Linoleum tile
- Ceramic tile
- Etc.

Can an anti-fatigue mat be too soft?

- Standing and walking foot stability can be negatively influenced by mats that are too soft.
- Mats that are too soft don't provide enough support and stability for the foot and subsequent joint stability for the ankles, knees, hips and back.

How long do anti-fatigue mats last?

- Depends on usage
- With heavy use may need to be replaced every 1 to 2 years
- Eventually the mat will compress and lose its cushioning capability
- A simple way to assess the need to replace mats is to compare the cushioning effect of the old mat to a new mat; If a significant difference is evident, it is time to replace the mat

Can carts be rolled on anti-fatigue mats?

- Generally carts do not roll well on anti-fatigue mats
- Some mats are designed to be compatible with carts
- These mats tend to be more firm and provide less cushioning benefit
- Refer to mat vendors for additional information

Grip and Hand Strength

Grip and Hand Strength Checklist					
"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.			YES	NO	NA
Level of grip and hand strength required to perform the tasks has been identified and is within acceptable limits.					

Grip and hand strength criteria

The following guidelines provide criteria for various grasps and hand motions. The values assume neutral postures and easy to grip surfaces. Note: Repetitive – 2 or more times per minute, Infrequent – less than 2 times per minute.

Grip and Hand Strength Illustrations

Criteria	Freq	Force (Max)	Description	
A. Power Grip	Rep	4 lbs.	Grasp with full hand, typically with thumb overlapping the first finger.	<p style="text-align: center;">Grip and Hand Strength Measures (Gripping)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grip and Hand Strength Measures (Finger and Thumb Pushing)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grip and Hand Strength Measures (Pinch-Pull)</p>
	Inf	20 lbs.		
B. Pinch Grip	Rep	2 lbs.	Grasp with finger tips only, typically with fingers and thumb not touching.	
	Inf	9 lbs.		
C. Key Grip	Rep	2 lbs.	Grasp with thumb and side of the first finger.	
	Inf	10 lbs.		
D. Push forward with Index Finger	Rep	3 lbs.	Push forward with pad of index finger.	
	Inf	15 lbs.		
E. Push down with Index Finger	Rep	3 lbs.	Push down with pad of index finger.	
	Inf	15 lbs.		
F. Push Forward with Thumb	Rep	4 lbs.	Push forward with pad of thumb	
	Inf	21 lbs.		
G. Push Down with Thumb	Rep	2 lbs.	Push down with pad of thumb.	
	Inf	10 lbs.		
H. Pull with Pinch Grip 0.1"	Rep	2 lbs.	Pull toward body with pinch grip using thumb and index finger.	
	Inf	10 lbs.		
I. Pull with Pinch Grip 1.6"	Rep	2.5 lbs.	Pull toward body with pinch grip using thumb and index finger.	
	Inf	13 lbs.		

Hand Tool Design and Selection

Tools: Checklist			
“NO” answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Tools selected to limit or minimize:			
• Exposure to excessive vibration.			
• Use of excessive force.			
• Bending or twisting wrist.			
• Finger pinch grip.			
• Problems associated with trigger finger (prolonged flexion with forceful exertion).			
Tools powered where necessary and feasible.			
Tools evenly balanced in the hand during use.			
Heavy tools suspended or counterbalanced to facilitate use.			
Tool allows adequate visibility of work.			
Tool handle			
Tool grip/handle prevents slipping during use.			
Equipped with handles of textured, non-conductive material.			
Different handle sizes available to fit a wide range of hand sizes.			
Handle designed to NOT dig into palm of hand.			
Tool used safely with gloves.			
Tool used by either hand.			
Preventive maintenance program to keep tools operating as designed.			
Employees trained:			
Proper use of tools.			
When and how to report problems with tools.			
Proper tool maintenance.			

Machine Clearance and Maintenance Accessibility Guidelines

Machine Clearance and Maintenance Accessibility Checklist

"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Accessibility			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide openings to components that need maintenance. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide visual access to permit a view of the maintenance activity. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize the number of parts that must be removed to perform maintenance. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the physical clearance required for the operator, tool, and equipment components based on anthropometric constraints 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate access on the front, rather than the back, of equipment. 			
Machine Guards			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guards must provide protection from moving parts and other machine hazards. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guards must require use of a tool for removal. 			
Access Doors/Ports			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access ports that are easy to remove - if possible hinge the covers. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure doors/ports do not expose maintenance operators to hot surfaces, electrical currents or sharp edges. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place where the operator can monitor necessary display(s) while making adjustments. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port doors mounted so that the user's hand will not be injured if he or she opens the door too far. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate the handles of adjacent doors so that they cannot coincide during an opening procedure. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide stops on sliding doors so that people will not pinch their fingers as they slide a door against another part of the port. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design hinged covers to swing completely out of the way when open. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide props or locks to secure hinged covers in the open position. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round the corners of covers if they present a hazard. 			
Fasteners			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use quick-opening fasteners that open with (in order of preference): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hand (wing nuts, cam latches) ✓ Standard tools (nuts, screws) ✓ Specialized tools Note: Any machine guards used to provide protection from moving parts or other machine hazards must use a tool for removal. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use captive fasteners; avoid loose nuts and washers whenever possible. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fasteners that release in fewer than 10 turns. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design fasteners for covers so that they are easily visible and accessible. 			

• Fasteners on access covers easy to operate with gloved hands.			
• Keyhole slots to release screw-type fasteners without completely removing the screw.			
• Mounting bolts and screws that can be turned with either a screwdriver or a wrench.			
• Design cases to be lifted off equipment, rather than equipment to be lifted out of cases.			
• Minimum number of fasteners used.			
• Minimum number of standard fastener sizes used to reduce tool needs and search times.			

Accessibility for Maintenance

- Openings are large enough to permit access of both hands and offer visibility of components.
- Access ports are located so that operators are not exposed to hot surfaces, sharp edges, or electrical currents.
- Access ports are easy to remove, with visible and accessible cover fasteners while still providing adequate machine safe-guarding.
- Circular Hatch, Horizontal Clearance: Min. 30" diameter.
- Horizontal Hatch Clearance: Min. 20" high x 24" wide.

Manual Material Handling Guidelines

Manual Material Handling Checklist

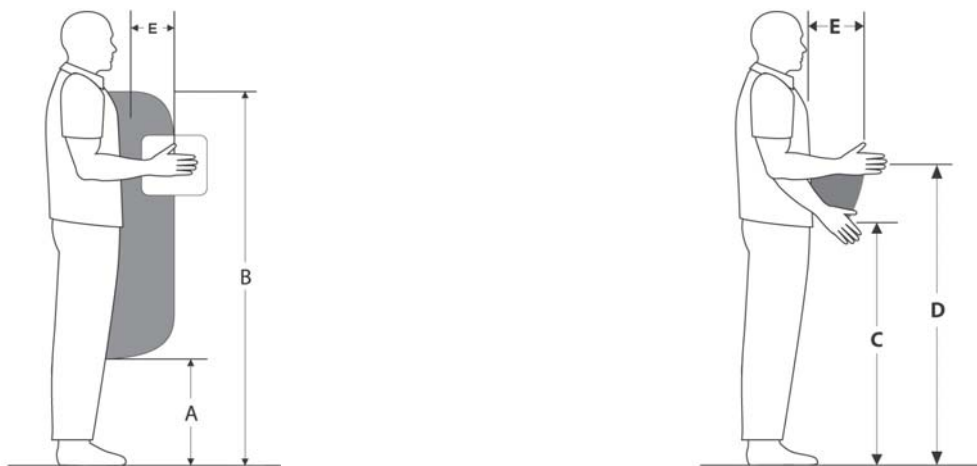
“NO” answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Weights of loads to be lifted judged acceptable by the workforce.			
Materials moved over minimum distances.			
Distance between the object load and the body minimized.			
Walking surfaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level • Wide enough • Clean and dry 			
Objects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to grasp • Stable • Able to be held without slipping 			
Handholds on these objects.			
When required, gloves fit properly.			
Proper footwear worn.			
Enough room to maneuver.			
Mechanical aids used whenever possible.			
Working surfaces adjustable to the best handling heights.			
Material handling avoids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movements below knuckle height and above shoulder height • Static muscle loading • Sudden movements during handling • Twisting at the waist • Extended reaching 			
Help available for heavy or awkward lifts.			
High rates of repetition avoided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job rotation • Self-pacing • Sufficient pauses 			
Pushing or pulling forces reduced or eliminated.			
Employee has an unobstructed view of handling the task.			
Preventive maintenance program for equipment.			
Workers trained in correct handling and lifting procedures.			

General Manual Material Handling Guidelines

- Load weight should be less than 51 pounds for a single person lift.
- Handle load within the maximum comfort zone.
- Handle load at a horizontal distance less than 12 inches from the body.
- Ideally, the frequency of lifting is once every five minutes or less, and a maximum frequency of 15 lifts per minute.
- Perform lifts without twisting.
- Provide a stable load to reduce balance shifting while lifting or carrying.
- Standing surfaces should be stable and high-friction.
- The load dimensions should allow a comfortable grasp, adequate handles are preferred.
- An optimal handle design has a 0.75 inch diameter, 4.5 inches or more in length, a 2 inch clearance, and has a cylindrical shape with a smooth, non-slip surface.
- An optimal handhold cutout should have a height of 3 inches or more, 4.5 inches in length, and have a semi-oval shape.
- Containers should be 16 inches or less in width and less than 12 inches in height for manual material handling purposes.

Illustration of the lifting zone

(Left=Maximum Lifting Zone, Right=Optimal Lifting Zone)



Recommended dimensions for lifting comfort zone

Criteria	Dimension	Description
A. Maximum Zone bottom	Min. 20"	Minimum height
B. Maximum Zone top	Max. 60"	Maximum height
C. Optimal Zone bottom	Min. 30"	Minimum height in optimal zone
D. Optimal Zone top	Max. 50"	Maximum height in optimal zone
E. Distance from body to hand placement	Max. 10"	Optimal distance in front of the body.

Microscopes/Magnifiers

Microscopes/Magnifiers Checklist

"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
User training in microscope/magnifier set-up has been accomplished and user can demonstrate proper set-up.			
Chair has the features needed to allow for neutral body position and support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seatpan height and tilt • Back support height and angle • Armrest height and side-to-side • Foot ring to provide for easy access to get onto the chair (if working at bench height worksurface, greater than 30"). 			
Foot rest available and adjusted to provide for foot support (if working at bench height worksurface, greater than 30")			
Microscope/magnifier eyepiece adjusted to allow for neutral head and neck position.			
Foot pedal (if in use) positioned to allow for comfortable foot and leg position.			

Neutral Posture

[Return to Computer Workstation Guidelines](#)

Question:

What is the foundation of the body?

Answer:

Is it your feet? If you sprain an ankle can you still get around? Pair of crutches and away you go! How about if you "sprain" your back? Now it's a whole different story - a back problem really limits your function.

The foundation or core of the body is the pelvis and spine. How we position ourselves - in other words, our posture - is critically important.

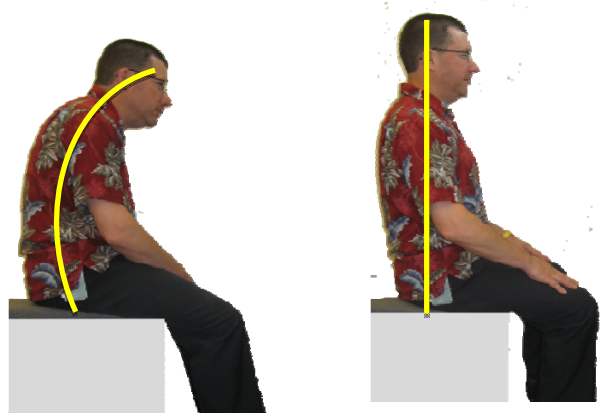
Slouched vs. neutral posture

Consider a person who stands or sits in a slouched posture - putting undue stress and strain into the ligaments, joints, nerves, muscles and tendons. The body is out alignment.

On the other hand, neutral posture provides position and support for the body and limbs in a well-balanced, well aligned position.

True, you can't spend all of your time in neutral but the goal is to spend as much time as you can in this beneficial position.

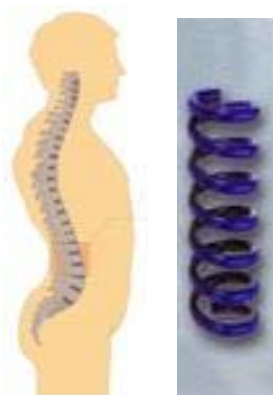
In fact if you can spend 15% more time in an improved neutral posture for many individuals this can make all the difference in the world!



Spine neutral position

A neutral spine is in an S-shape: inward curves in the low back and neck; outward curve in the mid-back.

The advantage is that this spring like shape is able to better deal with compression and shear stresses in the spine.



Arm/hand neutral position

Neutral is the midrange of joint position. What is neutral for the arms and hands?

For the arms/hands this is with the shoulders relaxed, elbows at the sides flexed to about 90 degrees and the hands positioned with the thumbs pointing up.



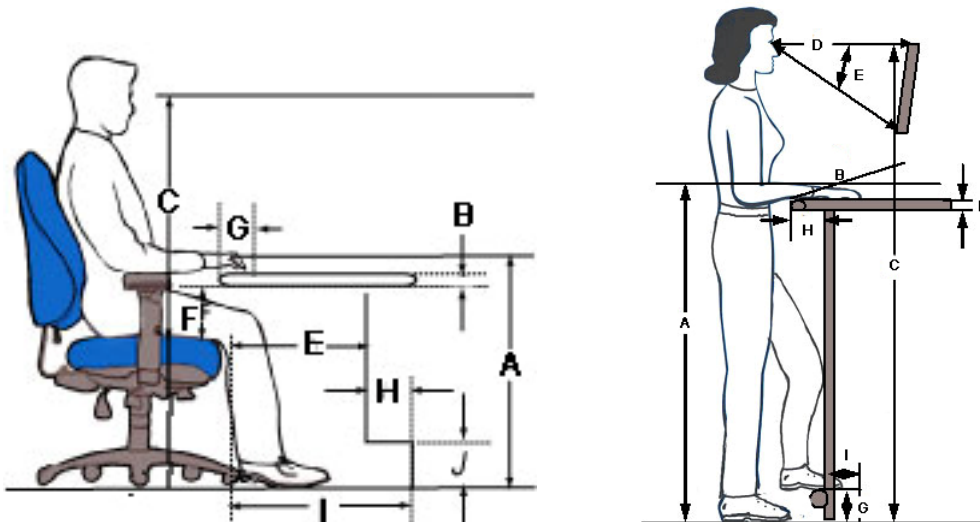
Again, it isn't possible to spend all your time in this arm/hand neutral position; but 15% more can help.

Maintaining and supporting reasonable neutral posture for your arms, legs and spine is one of the most important goals of ergonomics!

Neutral posture is when the body is in a balanced position or posture with the least amount of effort to function. Each body part has an ideal neutral position:

- Head balanced over shoulders in line with the shoulders and hips.
- Back straight (supported when sitting) with normal curves maintained. When viewed from the side inward curves in the low back and neck and an outward curve in the mid-back where the ribs attach to the spine.
- Hips and knees at a 95° to 105° angle when seated.
- Hips and knees straight when standing.
- Arms at sides, elbows close to the sides and bent at a 95° to 105° angle.
- Hands, wrists, and forearms in a straight line; bent no more than 10° up or down.
- Feet on floor or supported by a foot rest.

Illustration of Neutral Position at Sitting and Standing Workstations



Reach Zones (Comfort and Functional)

[Return to Computer Workstation Guidelines](#)

We define two Reach Zones: Comfort and Functional.

Comfort Reach Zone

The Comfort Reach Zone is the area that can be easily be reached within the length of the forearm, with the elbow at the side.

The vertical aspect of the Comfort Reach Zone is from waist to mid-chest height with elbows at the sides within reach of the forearms.

Hand activities like keyboard use, assembly and forceful exertions are accomplished in the Comfort Reach Zone.

- Keyboard/hand writing, etc.: at elbow height.
- Precise assembly requiring good visual access: 4 to 6" above elbow height.
- Forceful downward exertion: 4 to 6" below elbow height.

Functional Reach Zone

The Functional Reach Zone is the area that can be reached by extending the arm from the shoulder to the center of the hand allowing for functional grasp.

- Reach arms forward, from middle of hands to chest is **forward functional reach**.
- Hold arms out in front about shoulder level; this is the **upper limit**
- Hands at sides are the **bottom limit** of reach zone.
- Hold arms out to sides to form about a 90 degree angle from the mid line; this is the **side-to-side** reach zone.

All materials, tools, controls, and containers, should be arranged within the Functional Reach Zone whenever possible:

- Place frequently used items near the place of use.
- Store infrequently used items away from the place of use.
- Store items together if they are used together and store them in the sequence in which they are used.

NOTE: refer to the Anthropometry Section for specific information regarding reach zones.

Shelves and Racks

Shelves Checklist

"NO" answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Shelf and rack configuration (height and depth) has been determined based on shelf access and shelf content size/weight. Typical guidelines include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest shelf: no lower than 20" from the floor • Highest shelf: no higher than 60" from the floor • Most frequently accessed shelves: between 30" and 50" from floor • Least frequently accessed shelves: between 20" to 30" and/or 50" to 60" from the floor • Heaviest materials: shelves between 30" and 40" if materials handled manually; NOTE: This places the item in the power range of the operator (about waist level) OR heaviest materials stored on lowest shelf if items can be slid off the shelf onto a cart at that height • Content size: shelf size (width and height) allows free movement of materials on/off shelf 			
Weight of materials stored on shelving determined and is within recommended weight capacity of the shelving system.			
Shelves secured to eliminate any possibility of tipping over.			
Gravity flow shelving/rack systems used appropriately to position materials at front of the shelf for easy access. Pay particular attention to loading height of the shelf as it will be higher than the unload height.			
Based on changing circumstances, shelf systems designed to be easily re-configured to minimize excessive lifting, carrying, and awkward postures.			
Labels on shelves used to readily identify items stored on the shelves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sans Serif fonts recommended (does not have the small projecting features called "serifs" at the end of strokes) • At a recommended reading distance of 14" to 18" and visual acuity of 20/30, font size of at least 14 points. • High contrast between label letters and background (e.g. black letters on white background) • Use of colored labels considered to improve visual discrimination between different materials stored on the shelves 			
Any lip on the edge of the shelf safely contains material on the shelf but does not significantly limit movement of materials on/off the shelf			
The material of the shelf itself allows for easy, friction free movement on/off the shelf. For example, shelves covered with high density polypropylene sheets.			
Wheeled shelving allows for easy movement and maneuverability. See Carts for additional information.			

Workstation Types and Characteristics



Workstation Checklist			
“NO” answer indicates need for additional investigation.	YES	NO	NA
Configuration			
Workstation configuration has been determined (sit, stand or sit/stand). <u>Workstation Selection Characteristics</u>			
Seated workstation guidelines have been identified and incorporated into workstation design. Includes seated worksurface heights and seated workstation dimensions.			
Standing workstation guidelines have been identified and incorporated into workstation design. Includes standing worksurface heights and standing workstation dimensions.			
The work space allows for full range of movement.			
Mechanical aids and equipment are available.			
Height of the work surface adjustable.			
Work surface can be tilted or angled to provide improved access.			
Is the workstation designed to reduce or eliminate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bending or twisting at the wrist? • Reaching above the shoulder? • Static muscle loading? • Full extension of the arms? • Raised elbows? 			
Workers able to vary posture.			
Hands and arms free from sharp edges on work surfaces.			
Armrest provided where needed.			
Footrest provided where needed.			
Floor surface free of obstacles and flat.			
Cushioned floor mats provided for employees required to stand for long periods.			
Chairs or stools easily adjustable and suited to the task.			
Task elements visible from comfortable positions.			
Preventive maintenance program for mechanical aids, tools, and other equipment.			

Workstation Selection Characteristics for Sitting and Standing Workstations

In terms of worker position, the type of work performed generally determines workstation design: *seated or standing*.

Apply the specific workstation characteristics noted in the table to help select the appropriate working posture for various tasks. When both seated and standing conditions apply, design according to the standing workstation criteria.

[Return to Chair/Stools Checklist](#)

Workstation Characteristic	Configuration	
	Sitting	Standing
		
Side-to-Side Movement	Within seated workspace	Frequent movement outside of comfort zone
Task Duration	Sustained, > 5 minutes at one time	Intermittent, < than 5 minutes at one time
Hand Heights	< 6" above surface	> 6" above surface
Weight Handled	< 5 lbs	> 5 lbs
Reaches	Within Comfort Zone (within 12")	Forward reaches of ≥ 12 "
Forces Exerted	< 5 lbs	Downward forces of > 5lbs
Clearance	Seated clearances for legs and feet are met	Knee clearance < 18" or foot clearance < 22"
Manipulation	Fine manipulation	Fine manipulation not required
Use of Feet	Foot pedals are used	No foot pedals are used

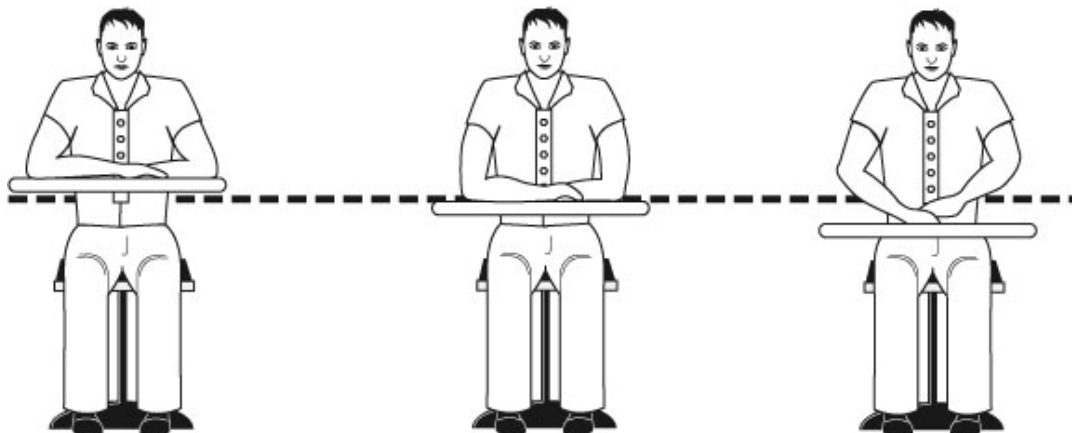
Seated workstations	Standing workstations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A high degree of precision is required (fine manipulation and visual attention).• Feet are used for control operations.• All tools and materials can be easily supplied and handled within the reach envelope.• The job consists of long work periods (over 5 minutes).• Hands are not required to work more than 6 inches above the work surface.• Low forces are exerted (weights are less than 10 lbs.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The work requires frequent high, low, or extended reaches outside of the comfortable arm reach envelope (more than 12 inches).• Frequent walking is required.• Large forces are exerted or heavy weights are handled (objects weighing >10 lbs).• It is impossible to provide leg room for a seated operator (less than 18 inches of knee clearance and less than 19-24 inches of foot clearance).• Frequent movement between various workstations (every 5 minutes or less).• Intermittent task duration.• Items are handled more than 6 inches above the work surface.• Downward forces of more than 10 lbs are required.

Seated Workstation Guidelines

- All items required for the work should be located within the reach zones (not on the floor).
- Handling of items should be limited to no more than 6 inches above the work surface.
- Large forces (> 10#) should not be required.
- A good chair with a high degree of adjustability should be provided.
- Proper clearance beneath the work surface for legs and toes is necessary.
- Sufficient thigh clearance between the seat pan and the underside of the work surface is required.
- Reaches above shoulder level should be kept to a minimum.
- Padded forearm rests should be provided along the edge of the table.
- Foot rests, preferably adjustable, should be provided.
- Workplace layout should minimize twisting at the waist.
- Seated work height should be based on resting elbow height with relation to the work surface.

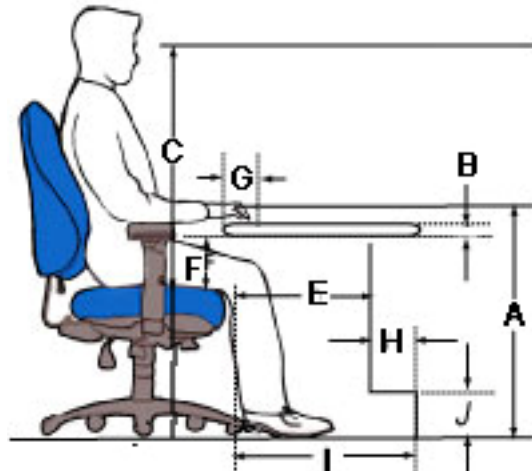
Illustration of seated work surface heights

(Left to right: precision work, light assembly, manual work)



Seated Workstation Specifications

Illustration of seated workstation dimensions



Seated workstation dimensions

Criteria	Dimension		Description
A. Worksurface height	Adjustable Worksurface	Fixed Height Worksurface (with chair/footrest)	Distance from the floor to placement of hands on the work surface. NOTE: This may not be the actual worksurface height - it reflects the hand work height based on size of the object.
• Precision work	26" to 36"	34"	
• Light assembly	22" to 32"	29"	
• Manual work	20" to 28"	26"	
B. Work surface thickness	Fixed: 46"		Allows for thigh clearance.
C. Screen height	Maximum of 2"Adjustable: 44" to 50"		Distance from floor to top of screen.
D. Knee space - width	Minimum of 20"		Side-to-side clearance for legs.
E. Knee space - front to back	Minimum of 16"		Allows for knee clearance.
F. Thigh clearance	Minimum of 8"		Seatpan top to undersurface of the worksurface.
G. Distance to work	up to 4"		Front of worksurface to hand work position.
H. Foot space depth	Minimum of 4"		Allows for foot clearance.
I. Distance for toe clearance	Minimum of 20"		Allows for foot clearance with legs extended.
J. Foot space	Minimum of 4"		Allows for foot clearance.

Standing Workstation Guidelines

Illustration of standing workstation features

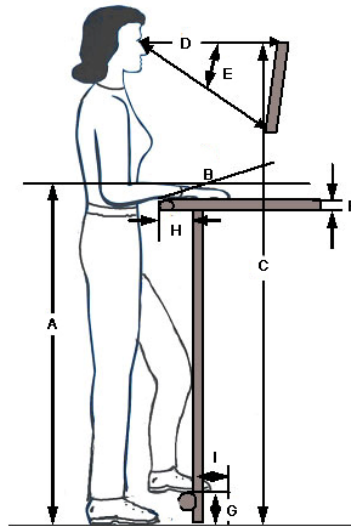


If the same workbench will be used by a variety of workers, then apply one of these approaches:

- Provide a height adjustable workbench.
- Design the height of the work surface to accommodate the taller worker and provide platforms for the others to stand on.
- Adjust the height of the work on the workbench with a lift or platform.
- Work height should be based on resting elbow height and the type of work being performed.
- Provide footrests, preferably adjustable, to reduce low back fatigue.
- Locate the foot rail 6 inches off the floor.
- Minimum foot rail length of 24 inches.
- Provide anti-fatigue mats if standing on hard surfaces for long periods of time is required.
 - At least ½ inch thick.
 - Interlocking edges for securely joining adjacent edges.
 - Beveled edges to eliminate trip hazards, prevent curling, and easy cart access.
 - Cleanable.
- Avoid the use of foot pedals. If necessary, then provide a support stool to avoid over use of one leg for support.
- If large forces must be exerted, then design to allow pushing rather than pulling. The standing worker's arms have more power when pushing.
- Even though the standing operator is free to move about, design the workplace to eliminate:
 - Strained head positions because of visual requirements.
 - Stooping and bending.
 - Twisting of the body.
 - Excessive reaches.
- Provide at least 5 inches for knee clearance, with an additional 6 inches for toe clearance.

Standing Workstation Specifications

Illustration of standing workstation dimensions



Criteria	Dimension		Description
A. Height	Adjustable Height Workbench	Fixed Height Workbench	Distance from floor to height on the workbench at which the hands will accomplish the task.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precision 	38" to 48"	44"	NOTE: This may NOT be the actual height of the worksurface. Dependent on size and placement of the object, etc. on the worksurface. Defined as the 'hand work height'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light assembly 	36" to 46"	40"	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy assembly 	26" to 40"	36"	
B. Inclination	Adjustable from -5° to 35° (-) = away from operator (+) = towards operator		Inclination of work surface. Inclined work surface will present the materials closer in the user's reach zone.
C. Screen height	Adjustable screen: 56"-72" Fixed: 54"		Floor to top of the screen.
D. Viewing Distance	18-30"		Distance from eyes to screen.
E. Viewing Angle	0° - 35°		Adjusted by user as indicated
F. Worksurface edges	At least 1/8" radius on the worksurface edge		Eliminate any issue of contact stress.
G. Foot rest height	Min 4" off the floor		Floor to foot position.
H. Knee clearance	Minimum of 5"		Allows for knee clearance.
I. Foot clearance	Minimum of 4"		Allows for foot clearance.

Sit/Stand Workstation Guidelines

Guidelines for sit/stand workstations are similar to those for standing workstations with a few modifications listed below.

Sit/Stand Workstation Adjustability:

- Minimum height range from floor to top of work surface or keyboard is 36 to 48 inches.
- The recommended height for tasks involving large-size products or drawings is 44 inches above the floor.
- For tasks that can be done while sitting or standing, the recommended work surface height is 42 inches above the floor.
- Work surface should be height adjustable in 1 inch increments or less.
- Height should be easily adjusted by multiple users (crank, pneumatic, etc.).
- Adjacent work surfaces should have the same range of height adjustability.
- Furniture legs, supports, or posts should not impair movement between these surfaces.
- Computer and work surfaces should be free standing and easily height adjustable by each user.
- Enough clearance should be allowed between adjoining surfaces to avoid pinching fingers during adjustment.
- If computer work surface is not easily height adjustable:
 - Computer monitors should be on articulated monitor arms for easy adjustability.
 - Keyboards should be on adjustable keyboard trays or articulating arms.
- Use a height adjustable chair at high workstations when adequate leg room is provided and when the task can be performed while either sitting or standing.
- The support stool is designed for use at high workstations with inadequate leg room to support standing or where regular changes in work position are required.

Appendix A: Glossary

Anthropometry: The measurement of the dimensions, and certain other physical characteristics such as weight and centers of gravity, of the human body as a whole or of its segments.

Clearance dimensions: The dimensions of a workspace required to provide appropriate space for body members to maneuver without interference from surrounding structures or equipment.

Contact point or Pressure point: A body site at which an item of workplace equipment or a tool exerts pressure on the tissues. Soft tissue sites are of most concern to ergonomics since the compression of the tissue can occlude blood vessels, irritate nerves and tendons, or damage the muscle tissue itself.

Dynamic work: Work activities involving movement and thus requiring the muscles to both contract and relax during the activity.

Elbow height: The anthropometric dimension referring to the height of the elbow above the floor when the arm is hanging relaxed at the side of the standing individual.

Elbow rest height: The anthropometric dimension referring to the elbow above the seat surface when the upper arm is hanging relaxed and the elbow is bent so that the forearm is parallel with the floor.

Ergonomics: The scientific study of the relationship between humans and their working environment.

Extended reach radius: The area that can be reached by extending the arm from the shoulder.

Fixed work posture: A work posture that does not permit the operator to freely change position so as to relieve postural stress. Fixed postures tend to statically load muscle groups since movement of the body segments and/or trunk is inhibited.

Foot-candle: A unit measure of illumination striking a surface. One foot-candle is equivalent to one lumen per square foot.

Functional reach or “dynamic” reach: An anthropometric dimension representing the arm reach capability when the body is allowed to bend and/or rotate at the shoulder and hips so as to extend the reach beyond that obtainable when the body is in a static or fixed posture.

Normal reach radius: The area that can be conveniently reached with a sweep of the forearm, with the upper arm hanging in a natural position vertically at the side. All materials, tools, controls, and containers should be arranged within the normal reach radius whenever possible.

Normal work area: The area in front of the worker which can be used for work with a normal expenditure of effort.

Power grasp/grip: A grasp in which the hand wraps around the handle being grasped. In the power grasp the thumb aligns the hand with the long axis of the forearm and the wrist assumes a slight ulnar deviation. The power grip provides more than five times the gripping strength of a precision grip.

Precision grasp/grip: A grasp in which the object is held by the force of the thumb vs. the first (or first and second) finger(s). It provides precise aim but has limited strength.

Reach envelope: The surface in space centered on the left/right midline plane of the body representing the reach capability of the population percentile of interest. The envelope may be described as a functional reach envelope.

Viewing angle: The angle, either vertical or horizontal, at which the worker views the task measured from the center line of the horizontal line of sight when the operator is looking straight ahead.