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**A REVIEW ON INITIAL ERGONOMIC RISK ASSESSMENT (INERA) REPORT
FOR RUBBER-BASED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN KLANG VALLEY,
SELANGOR**



By

RAJA NUR 'AQILAH BINTI RAJA ANUAR

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**Pusat Pengajian Pengurusan
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ABSTRACT

Malaysia is ranked in the 8th position among the world's top ten producers of natural rubber. The process of mixing, moulding, finishing and office is chosen as workunit for this research. Based on the process and work unit to manufacture rubber products, it may expose production operators to ergonomic risks and hazards. Hence, this study aimed to investigate the trend of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and the prominent ergonomic risk factor that affects MSDs. Apart from that is to recommend as well as conclude the best practices to reduce the MSDs in the rubber manufacturing sector in Klang Valley, Selangor. This study utilized qualitative content analysis based on reliable secondary data: Initial Ergonomic Risk Assessment (INERA) Report produced by a DOSH-approved and recognized ergonomic trained person. Three INERA reports from the rubber manufacturing industry located in Klang Valley were chosen as the samples for the study. Thematic analysis was employed to identify the elements required for this study. The findings revealed two big themes: musculoskeletal discomfort area and ergonomic risk factors. It then contributed to a sub-theme which are four work units – mixing, moulding, finishing, and office. The study outcomes will contribute to the trend of musculoskeletal disorder, the most prominent ergonomic risk, and the recommended control measure for this issue. Future studies may require investigating the ergonomic assessment in the rubber manufacturing industry of other states in Malaysia and other industries.

Keywords: Ergonomic risk assessment, Musculoskeletal disorder, Rubber manufacturing industry



ABSTRAK

Malaysia berada di kedudukan ke-8 antara sepuluh pengeluar getah asli terbaik dunia. Proses pembuatan produk getah seperti proses pencampuran, proses pengacuan, proses kemasan dan unit kerja pejabat merupakan unit kerja yang terlibat dalam kajian ini. Berdasarkan unit kerja dan proses pembuatan produk getah tersebut, ia mempunyai potensi untuk mendedahkan pekerja di bahagian perkilangan kepada risiko dan bahaya ergonomik. Oleh yang demikian, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menyiasat trend gangguan muskuloskeletal, faktor risiko ergonomik yang ketara dan mempengaruhi gangguan muskuloskeletal. Selain itu, untuk mengesyorkan serta merumuskan amalan terbaik untuk mengurangkan gangguan muskuloskeletal dalam sektor pembuatan getah di Lembah Klang, Selangor. Kajian ini menggunakan analisis kualitatif berdasarkan data sekunder yang boleh dipercayai : Laporan Penilaian Risiko Ergonomik Permulaan yang dihasilkan oleh orang ergonomik yang terlatih yang diluluskan dan diiktiraf oleh Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (JKKP). Tiga laporan yang dipilih sebagai sampel kajian tersebut adalah terdiri daripada industri pembuatan getah yang terletak di Lembah Klang. Analisis tematik digunakan untuk mengenal pasti elemen yang diperlukan dalam kajian ini. Penemuan mendedahkan dua tema besar: Kawasan ketidakselesaan muskuloskeletal dan faktor risiko ergonomik. Ia kemudiannya menyumbang kepada sub-tema iaitu empat unit kerja – pencampuran, pengacuan, kemasan dan pejabat. Hasil kajian akan menyumbang kepada trend gangguan muskuloskeletal, risiko ergonomik yang paling kritikal dan langkah kawalan yang disyorkan untuk isu ini. Kajian masa hadapan mungkin memerlukan penyiasatan penilaian ergonomik dalam industri pembuatan getah di negeri lain dalam Malaysia serta industri perkilangan yang lain.

Kata Kunci: Penilaian risiko ergonomik, Penyakit muskuloskeletal, Industri pembuatan getah

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADERA	Advanced Ergonomic Risk Assessment
CMDQ	Cornell Musculoskeletal Discomfort Questionnaire
DALY	Disability Adjusted Life Years
DOSH	Department of Occupational Safety and Health
ERF	Ergonomic Risk Factor
INERA	Initial Ergonomic Risk Assessment
MSD	Musculoskeletal Disorder
NMQ	Nordic Musculoskeletal Questionnaire
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
OWAS	Ovako Working Posture Analyzing System
REBA	Rapid Entire Body Assessment
RULA	Rapid Upper Limb Assessment
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SCT	Social Cognitive Theory
SOCISO	Social Security Organisations
WRMSD	Work Related Musculoskeletal Disorder



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter will address the following topics: the study background, problem statement, research questions, objectives of study, the study significance, scope of study, operational variables, and the organizational of study.

1.2 Background of Study

Rubber can be broadly classified into two main categories which are natural rubber that is obtained from the latex of *Hevea brasiliensis*, sharinga tree, seringueira, or most commonly named rubber tree species and typically used in the production of various types of rubber products such as tires, automotive parts and gloves, while the other one is synthetic rubber that is derived from petroleum by-products and mainly utilized in the production of rubber products either as an alternative to or complementing natural rubber. The rubber-based products industry in Malaysia is divided into five sub-sectors: rubber footwear, general rubber products, industrial rubber products, tires and tire-related products and latex products. (MITI, 2023).

According to Kawano (2018), Malaya started its first rubber plantation in 1896, and due to the increasing need for automobile tires worldwide, rubber planting spread through Southeast Asia, particularly in Malaysia and Indonesia. After World War II, petroleum-based synthetic rubber started to replace natural rubber, which resulted in a temporary decline in the use of natural rubber. However, during the 1980s, the adoption of radical tires, “oil shocks” high crude oil prices, and re-evaluations of the benefits of

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Appendix A : Cornell Musculoskeletal Disorder

The diagram below shows the approximate position of the body parts referred to in the questionnaire. Please answer by marking the appropriate box.



	During the last work week how often did you experience ache, pain, discomfort in:					If you experienced ache, pain, discomfort, how uncomfortable was this?			If you experienced ache, pain, discomfort, did this interfere with your ability to work?		
	Never	1-2 times last week	3-4 times last week	Once every day	Several times every day	Slightly uncomfortable	Moderately uncomfortable	Very uncomfortable	Not at all	Slightly interfered	Substantially interfered
Neck	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shoulder (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shoulder (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Upper Back	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Upper Arm (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Upper Arm (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lower Back	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Forearm (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Forearm (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wrist (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wrist (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hip/Buttocks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Thigh (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Thigh (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Knee (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Knee (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lower Leg (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lower Leg (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Foot (Right)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Foot (Left)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Appendix B : Checklist For Awkward Posture

Body Part	Physical Risk Factor	Maximum Exposure Duration (continuously or cumulatively)	Illustration	Please tick (/)	
				Yes	No
Shoulders	Working with hand above the head <u>OR</u> the elbow above the shoulder	More than 2 hours per day			
	Working with shoulder raised	More than 2 hours per day			
	Work repetitively by raising the hand above the head <u>OR</u> the elbow above the shoulder more than once per minute	More than 2 hours per day			
Head	Working with head bent downwards more than 45 degrees	More than 2 hours per day			

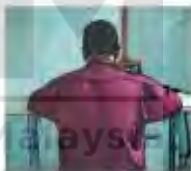
Source: Guidelines on Ergonomic Risk Assessment at Workplace, 2017

Appendix B: Continued

Body Part	Physical Risk Factor	Maximum Exposure Duration (continuously or cumulatively)	Illustration	Please tick (/)	
				Yes	No
	Working with head bent backwards	More than 2 hours per day			
	Working with head bent sideways	More than 2 hours per day	 		
Back	Working with back bent forward more than 30 degrees <u>OR</u> bent sideways	More than 2 hours per day			
	Working with body twisted	More than 2 hours per day			

Source: Guidelines on Ergonomic Risk Assessment at Workplace, 2017

Appendix B: Continued

Body Part	Physical Risk Factor	Maximum Exposure Duration (continuously or cumulatively)	Illustration	Please tick (/)	
				Yes	No
Hand/ Elbow/ Wrist	Working with wrist flexion <u>OR</u> extension <u>OR</u> radial deviation more than 15 degrees	More than 2 hours per day	 flexion  extension  deviation		
	Working with arm abducted sideways	More than 4 hours per day			
	Working with arm extended forward more than 45 degrees <u>OR</u> arm extended backward more than 20 degrees.	More than 2 hours per day	 		

Source: Guidelines on Ergonomic Risk Assessment at Workplace, 2017

Appendix B: Continued

Body Part	Physical Risk Factor	Maximum Exposure Duration (continuously or cumulatively)	Illustration	Please tick (/)	
				Yes	No
Leg/ Knees	Work in a squat position.	More than 2 hours per day			
	Work in a kneeling position	More than 2 hours per day			
Sub Total (Number of tick(s))					



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Appendix C : Checklist for Static and Sustained Work Posture

Body Part	Physical Risk Factor	Maximum Exposure Duration	Illustration	Please tick (/)	
				Yes	No
Trunk/Head/Neck/Arm/Wrist	Work in a static awkward position as in Table 3.1	Duration as per Table 3.1			
Leg/Knees	Work in a standing position with minimal leg movement.	More than 2 hours continuously			
	Work in seated position with minimal movement.	More than 30 minutes continuously			
Sub Total (Number of tick(s))					

Appendix D : Recommended weight limit for lifting and/or lowering

Working Height (where force is applied)	Recommended weight limit (male or female)	Current weight handled	Exceed limit?	
			Yes	No
Between floor to mid-lower leg				
Between mid-lower leg to knuckle				
Between knuckle height and elbow				
Between elbow and shoulder				
Above the shoulder				

Source: Guidelines on Ergonomic Risk Assessment at Workplace, 2017



Appendix E : Recommended weight limit for lifting and/or lowering, with repetitive operation

If employee repeats operations	Weight limit * should be reduced by
Once or twice per minutes	30%
Five to eight times per minute	50%
More than 12 times per minute	80%

Source: Guidelines on Ergonomic Risk Assessment at Workplace, 2017



Appendix F : Summary table for single manual handling (forceful exertion)

Activity (where applicable)	Recommended weight limit	Exceed limit?	
		Yes	No
Lifting and lowering only; or	based on Figure 3.1 and Table 3.3		
Repetitive lifting and lowering; or	based on Figure 3.1 and Table 3.4		
Twisted body posture while lifting and lowering; or	based on Figure 3.1 and Table 3.5		
Repetitive lifting and lowering with twisted body posture; or	based on Figure 3.1, Table 3.4 and Table 3.5		
Pushing and pulling; or	based on Table 3.6		
Handling in seated position; or	based on Figure 3.2		
Carrying	based on Table 3.7		

Source: Guidelines on Ergonomic Risk Assessment at Workplace, 2017



Appendix G : Repetitive motion checklist

Body Part	Physical Risk Factor	Max. Exposure Duration	Please tick (/)	
			Yes	No
Neck, shoulders, elbows, wrists, hands, knee	Work involving repetitive sequence of movement more than twice per minute	More than 3 hours on a "normal" workday OR More than 1 hour continuously without a break		
	Work involving intensive use of the fingers, hands or wrist or work involving intensive data entry (key-in)			
	Work involving repetitive shoulder/arm movement with some pauses OR continuous shoulder/arm movement			
	Work using the heel/base of palm as a "hammer" more than once per minute	More than 2 hours per day		
	Work using the knee as a "hammer" more than once per minute.	More than 2 hours per day		
Sub Total (Number of tick(s))				

Source: Guidelines on Ergonomic Risk Assessment at Workplace, 2017

**Appendix H : Review on Initial Ergonomic Risk Assessment (INERA) Report
for Rubber Based Manufacturing Industry – Data Reliability Purposes.**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN *

You have been selected to participate in this research survey. The aim of this survey is to validate for the Initial Ergonomic Risk Assessment (INERA) Report that had been conducted by DOSH Registered and Recognized Ergonomic Trained Person. We kindly request a sincere and reliable responses. Rest assured that your responses will be kept confidential and used solely for this research purposes only.

Thank you and best regards,

RAJA NUR AQILAH BINTI RAJA ANUAR
Student of Master in Science (Occupational Safety and Health Management)
UUM Sintok, Kedah.

Contact No : 016-228 5421
Email : raqilahh97@gmail.com

☒ Continues

Next

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Clear form

Appendix H : Continues

Informed Consent for Subject

A review on Initial Ergonomic Risk Assessment (INERA) Report for Rubber Based Manufacturing Industry in Klang Valley, Selangor

I understand that I am giving this consent based on my professional judgement as an DOSH Recognized Ergonomic Trained Person (ETP) *

☒ Agree

I understand that this participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without given any reason *

☒ Agree

[Back](#) [Next](#) [Clear form](#)

Details of Ergonomic Trained Person

Full Name *

Your answer

ETP ID

Your answer

Years of experience in being ETP *

Your answer

[Back](#) [Next](#) [Clear form](#)

Appendix H : Continues

Initial Ergonomic Risk Assessment (INERA) Report

Kindly please give scores based on the INERA Report conducted

The checklist for awkward posture is done accurately *

1 2 3 4 5

Not Accurate ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Accurate

Any feedback from the awkward posture checklist?

Your answer

The checklist for static posture is done accurately *

1 2 3 4 5

Not Accurate ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Accurate

Any feedback from the checklist of static posture score ?

Your answer

The recommended weight limit for lifting/lowering is calculated correctly *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Appendix H : Continues

Any feedback from the recommended weight limit calculation?

Your answer

The summary table for single manual handling is tick accurately *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not accurate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Accurate

Any feedback from the table for manual handling score?

Your answer

The checklist for repetitive motion is done accurately *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not accurate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Accurate

Any feedback from the repetitive motion score?

Your answer

The recommendation from the result are sufficient *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not sufficient	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Sufficient

Appendix H : Continues

Any feedback from the recommendation of the result?

Your answer

[Back](#)[Next](#)[Clear form](#)

Thank you

I would like to thank you and appreciate your time to answer the survey questions.

[Back](#)[Submit](#)[Clear form](#)



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