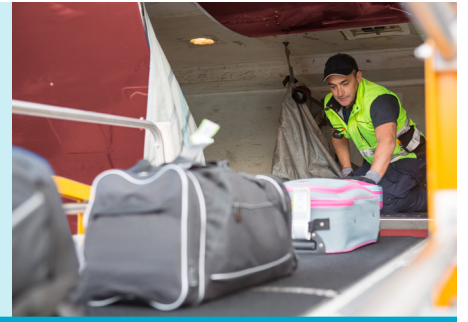


Scheduled Airline Ground Crew

Ergonomics Priority for Prevention | May 2024



Employers in risk class 6802* operate the ground crews for scheduled airlines. Ground crews include baggage handlers and airplane maintenance workers. Common tasks include checking passenger baggage, loading it into containers and carts, and transferring it onto conveyors for stacking in the cargo hold of an airplane.

Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WMSDs)

Airline ground crews have a compensable** WMSD rate that is more than 10 times the Washington statewide average for all industries.

WMSD Claim Rate per 1,000 FTEs



Common causes of WMSDs	Injury description examples
Lifting and throwing luggage and cargo	"Lifting heavy bags in the bin of an airplane"
Repetitive placing, grasping, or moving objects	"Loading and unloading bags and freight"
Bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, or twisting	"On my knees throwing heavy objects"
Pushing or pulling carts or wheelchairs	"Pulling a cart and pushing a tug at the same time"

* Excludes risk classification sub class 6802-01.

** Compensable claims involve wage replacement for lost work time (four or more days), total permanent disability, fatality, or a worker kept on salary by the employer during disability.

Top three occupations reporting WMSDs

1. Transportation workers, all other
2. Customer service representatives
3. Manual movers of freight, stock, and materials

Workers with more serious WMSDs received time loss benefits. Most of these workers needed 24+ days to recover before returning to work.

Ideas for preventing WMSDs

- Install conveyors inside the terminal where passengers can place their own checked bags.
- Use lifting devices to transfer bags between conveyors and carts.
- Use extendable conveyors inside the cargo hold of narrow body airplanes.

For more information and to learn about requesting an ergonomics consultation, visit [Lni.wa.gov/Ergonomics](https://lni.wa.gov/Ergonomics). For questions, email Ergonomics@Lni.wa.gov. For more information about the risk classification descriptions, visit apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-17A-6802.

Upon request, language support and formats for persons with disabilities are available. Call 1-800-547-8367. TDD users, call 711. L&I is an equal opportunity employer.

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