

Wholesale Stores

Ergonomics Priority for Prevention | May 2024

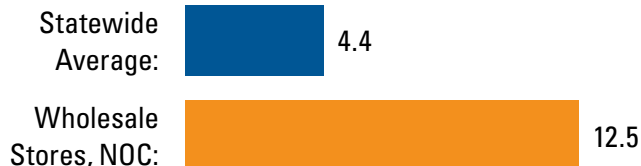


Businesses in risk class 6407 sell wholesale merchandise or a combination of wholesale and retail goods not covered by another risk classification (Not Otherwise Classified). Common tasks include receiving, warehousing, order selecting, packing and shipping of goods to other businesses or direct to customers.

Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WMSDs)

Wholesale stores have a compensable* WMSD rate that is almost three times the Washington statewide average for all industries.

WMSD Claim Rate per 1,000 FTEs



Common causes of WMSDs	Injury description examples
Repetitive placing, grasping or moving objects	"Continuous packing for long hours"
Lifting boxes, crates, or cartons	"Lifting boxes unloading a truck"
Pushing or pulling carts, dollies or hand trucks	"Pulling a pallet jack into a trailer"
Bending, climbing, crawling, reaching or twisting	"Wrapping a pallet low to the ground"

* 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. Retail salespersons
2. Manual movers of freight, stock, and materials
3. Cashiers

Workers with more serious WMSDs received time loss benefits. Most of these workers needed 17+ days to recover before returning to work.

Ideas for preventing WMSDs

- Arrange for incoming shipments on pallets or slip sheets instead of floor-loaded loose freight.
- Use height-adjustable packing tables.
- Use powered pallet jacks to move heavier goods.
- Wrap pallets with a long-handled tool to avoid awkward postures.

For more information and to learn about requesting an ergonomics consultation, visit 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-6407.

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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