

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY PROCEDURES

Whether you're a beginning employee or a seasoned executive, everyone has pondered the importance of safety procedures at one point in their life or another. My pivotal pondering moment was in my first job, a cashier at a supermarket. I wondered why the bookkeepers considered three hour cash pickups a safety management procedure. I discovered the reason for cash pickups was to discourage robberies; if a cashier had little money in the till, the potential robbers would find little allure in robbing a cashier. That moment defined for me that there is always a reason behind safety management procedures. The following are the top four reasons that safety procedures are important to maintain for the business, the employees, and the customers.



### Decrease Injuries

Safety procedures are often important because a job presents an opportunity for injury. Proper safety training, supervision, and safety protocols can all offer safety benefits. The following are examples of jobs which present safety concerns and the safety procedures in place to decrease the opportunity for injury:

- Butchers' meat grinders present many safety hazards. To prevent injury or amputation, safety procedures such as unplugging the grinder before reaching in the chute to clear debris are in place.
- A job which requires repetitive heavy lifting may require employees to wear lift belts at all times.
- Welding jobs also present many potential hazards. Safety procedures such as mandatory eye protection while in a welding bay may exist for welders and non-welders alike.



### Become Certified or Maintain Certification

Certifications can prove a business cares for employee safety and watches out for customers' safety, and a proven safety record can translate into savings on liability insurance. To become certified or maintain certifications, businesses are often required to implement safety procedures and/or have a proven safety record.

### Protect the Business from Legal Liability Claims

Having proven safety procedures in place can protect businesses from liability claims. Customers who are injured on the business premises can sue the business; however, safety procedures may make the claim difficult for the customer to support. For example, if a customer slips on a freshly mopped floor, if a safety sign is in place, the customer will have trouble proving the business's negligence. The suit could be dropped or settled for less just by following safety procedures.

Example:



### Increase Worker Efficiency and Speed

Finally, employees who follow safety procedures may be able to function better in their jobs, identify other safety procedures, and increase production. This can lead to better overall business operations, lower costs, and higher revenues. Also, employees who are allowed a voice in introducing and implementing safety procedures may be more motivated and committed to the company, since the company encourages employee involvement and recognises employees.



***Overall, safety procedures can provide many benefits to a business. Besides the obvious benefit of keeping employees and customers safe, safety procedures can assist in certifications, protect the business from legal liability claims, and encourage employee efficiency and motivation.***

***Not following safety procedures!!***

