

#9 Most wood products Paperwrap operator

Problem

The paperwrap operator works at floor level and bends to staple the paper on the unit of lumber. The operator also holds the staple gun and repetitively squeezes the trigger.

Solution

At the Georgia Pacific Philomath planing mill, the paperwrap area was to be redesigned as part of a mill improvement plan. Plant management reviewed the plans with the paperwrap operators and millwrights and got their input. The operators now do the Wrapping at waist level which Eliminates the severe bending.

The paperwrap controls have been relocated from the bander station to right next to the wrapping station. Lights have been added to increase visibility. The sides are stapled automatically. Now, the operators only have to staple the ends, which has reduced hand injuries and repetitive motions during stapling. A video camera has also been added to see the product upstream.

The changes have produced a smoother flow to the overall process, because paper wrapping had been the bottleneck. Before the changes, two full-time and one half-time operators were needed to keep up with production. After the changes, two operators keep up even though production volume increased by 25% and piece count per unit also increased. Plus, their risk of injury is now less.

At Douglas County Forest Products-Winchester, a scissors lift is used to adjust the units to waist level, reducing the awkward bending. Also, the stapler is suspended from above with a swivel hose, which eliminates the trip hazards from the air hose and reduce the forces to hold the stapler.

Contacts

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Before



After

