

February Members' Corner

"Safety Risk Training in Japan"

George Allcock, BHSEA Management Committee



George Allcock

Today, George told us that he had seen a simple technique in Japan that neatly encapsulated the most admirable aspects of good health and safety management technique.

It embodied, he said, the following basic elements: -

- **A clear philosophy** giving priority to health and safety.
 - **Strong, visible and active leadership** from the top, with direct involvement from the MD in health and safety activities.
 - **Leadership from managers and other employees** directly involved in safety activities
- **Visual information/communication** better than words
 - **Emphasis on training skills of people**
 - **Showing on the shop floor** better than explaining in the classroom

The clarity of direction, and clear involvement of all levels, coupled with choice and quality of delivery, is at the very root of this approach. This detailed care is continued through to the organisation of the Training Area where the key features are: -

- **Well organised** and thought out
- **Practical & Innovative** (using vegetables and sticks instead of fingers!)
- Related to **actual risks** in the plant
- Learning by **listening, looking and doing**
- Receiving **feedback and coaching**

The next element of the programme to be identified was the specific risks experienced in the plant, i.e.: -

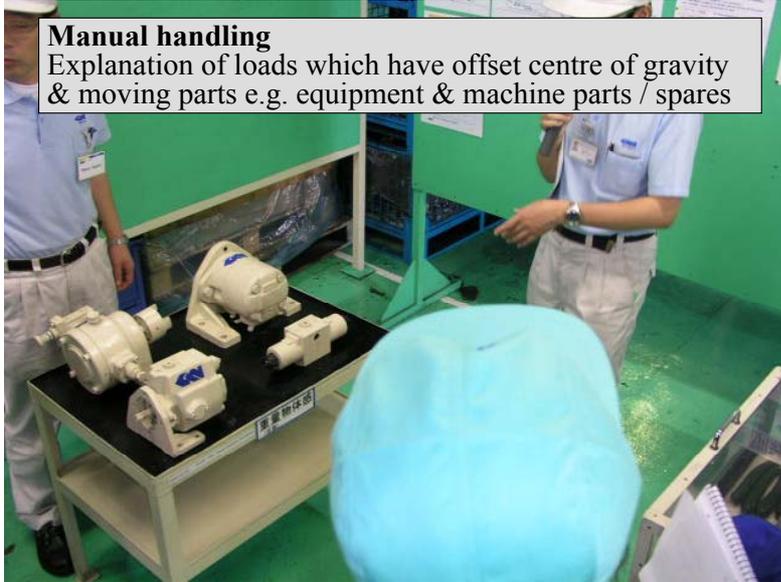
- Floors – slipping
- Manual handling
 - Straight lift
 - Offset centre of gravity and shifting loads
- Mechanical/machinery risks
 - Chain drives
 - Belt drives
- Pneumatic systems –stored energy risks
- Cutting risks
 - Knives & sharp edges
 - Metal swarf from machining
- Fire risk

The following photographs highlight some of the important features: -



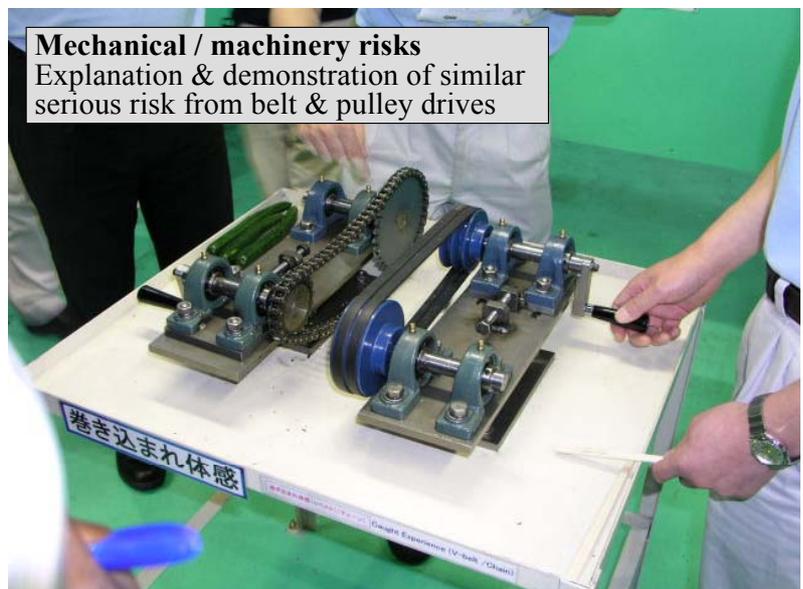
Manual handling

Explanation of loads which have offset centre of gravity & moving parts e.g. equipment & machine parts / spares



Mechanical / machinery risks

Explanation & demonstration of similar serious risk from belt & pulley drives



Pneumatic / compressed air systems

The wood is smashed into pieces by the air cylinder reaching the end of its stroke close to a fixed part of the equipment - typical of many machinery situations

