

Instrumented laundry bins

Status: Filled

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Project Description

Despite many years of research, best practices and guidelines for workplace safety, and regular WorkSafeBC oversight, hospital laundry continues to be a significant source of injuries for healthcare workers. In particular, while laundry facility workers may receive adequate safety training to reduce injuries it is often a broad range of other hospital workers who must handle heavy laundry bags before they get to the laundry facilities. Shoulder strain and back strains occur from the combination of heavy loads and awkward lifting postures required for removing laundry bags from bins and hoisting full bags of laundry into larger collection trolleys. While regular safety training is an important part of injury prevention we think that easy visible cues to indicate safe lifting weights on laundry hampers and physical stops to limit overloading hampers will help busy healthcare workers avoid overloading laundry bags and potentially causing an injury to their co-workers. This design project is supported by a grant from WorkSafeBC. The project centers on the design, development, and validation of a new instrumented laundry system (by communication system) technology design and practical engineered solutions.