

FAQ - PERFORM AND ERGOANALYST

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERFORM AND ERGOANALYST?

Prof Burgess-Limerick led the team which developed ManTRA and then PERforM in 2000 as part of research conducted in collaboration with WHSQ¹. Dr Dennis developed the implementation process for PERforM in underground coal mines and civil construction workplaces in subsequent research^{2,3}. The outcomes of these projects resulted in the PERforM training currently delivered by WHSQ.

PERforM was explicitly designed to help facilitate the development of controls for manual task injury risks in small, single-site organisations. It remains entirely appropriate for this situation. However, evaluations of the program in various larger organisations^{2,4} revealed a number of short-comings. Subsequent work by Prof Burgess-Limerick and Dr Dennis across a wide range of industries resulted in the development of ErgoAnalyst, the most effective and comprehensive system for managing manual tasks risks available.

WHY SHOULD I USE ERGOANALYST?

PERforM works for the small single-site companies it was designed for, to help them identify risk factors associated with individual tasks. However, PERforM is not a risk assessment tool because it does not combine those factors to evaluate either acute or cumulative injury risk. Organisations with sophisticated safety management systems require a tool that assesses risk to enable effective risk evaluation, prioritisation and actioning. Larger organisations with many hazardous manual tasks, and particularly those organisations performing similar work across multiple locations, also need the benefits of a cloud-based application to enable easily accessible record keeping and sharing of information. ErgoAnalyst meets these needs, as well as providing more sensitive risk analysis and evaluations that incorporate a wider range of task characteristics than PERforM, and offers greater support for the development and evaluation of design control measures than is possible with a paper-based system.

ErgoAnalyst has benefited from the developers' experiences over 20 years of researching, developing, implementing and evaluating manual tasks risk management tools in a wide range of industries. It is the most highly developed manual tasks risk management system available internationally.

REFERENCES

- 1 - Straker, L., Burgess-Limerick, R., Egeskov, R., & Pollock, C. (2004). A randomised and controlled trial of a participative ergonomics program (PERforM). *Ergonomics*, 47, 166-188.
- 2 - Burgess-Limerick, R., Straker, L., Pollock, C., Dennis, G., Leveritt, S., & Johnson, S. (2007). Participative ergonomics for manual tasks in coal mining. *International Journal of Industrial Ergonomics*, 37, 145-155.
- 3 - Dennis, G., & Burgess-Limerick, R. (2007). *Participative ergonomics in civil construction handbook*. Workplace Health and Safety Queensland.
- 4 - Torma-Krajewski J, Steiner LJ, Burgess-Limerick R. (2009). *Ergonomics Processes: Implementation Guide and Tools for the Mining Industry*. Pittsburgh, PA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, DHHS (NIOSH). Publication No. 2009- 107, Information Circular 9509.

COMPARISON OF PERFORM & ERGOANALYST

Feature	PERforM	ErgoAnalyst
Format	Paper Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cloud-based, assessable on-line via any internet browser with no software to download
Training	Limited face-to-face training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrated free on-line courses ✓ Advanced 1 and 3 day courses
Hazard Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ None : separate process required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On-line risk register with progress tracking ✓ Prioritised, sortable and searchable database ✓ Ability to attach any type of document, image or video
Risk Assessment Analysis & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Analysis only: PERforM describes physical risk factors, it does not combine them to evaluate risk as required to constitute a risk assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unique and simple 1-click 'traffic light' system ✓ Built in help menus ✓ Includes all environmental and physical risk factors ✓ Uses correct exponential risk analysis measure ✓ Combines all risk factors to calculate both acute and cumulative injury risks and displayed via simple colour coded body maps and graphs
Risk Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Displays risk factors (only a linear scale ✗) to help workers identify risk factors to control ✗ No assessment of control effectiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All risk factors and risk outcomes visually displayed on individual body maps to engage workers and focus controls during Participative Ergonomic facilitation ✓ Each potential control pre-assessed to evaluate acute and cumulative risk reduction prior to implementation ✓ Actual risk reductions calculated for implemented controls ✓ All control ideas saved for tracking and future reference
Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comprehensive PDF reports generated including all information (dates, descriptions, assessments, calculated risk reduction percentages, attached documents, images and videos), which can then be uploaded into an internal safety management system if required ✓ Various sortable and date-stamped risk register reports
Integrates with existing Safety Management Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Not easily, because there is no risk evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The risk evaluation can be translated into risk levels (low, medium, high, extreme) suitable for entering into existing safety management systems to drive actions
Record keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Manual paper-based filing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cloud-based database accessible via any internet browser facilitates sharing across multi-site organisations and allows management overview and tracking ✓ Allows upload of multiple documents, images and videos ✓ Keyword searching of tasks and 1000s of existing solutions
Sharing controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Not easily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Controls easily shared across the organisation and with other organisations where appropriate