

The application of ergonomics principles in managing air cargo and baggage in Tanzania
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This study was conducted at Mwalimu J. K. Nyerere International Airport (the former Dar es Salaam International Airport - DIA) to evaluate application of ergonomics principles at workplace; to examine ergonomics mismatches at workstations; and to investigate occupational health problems to workers in the Swissport Company. The methodological direction of this study was guided by literature review; research questions; objectives of the study; work analysis by the use of ILO standards; and OSHA standards for ergonomics principles. Data for this study were collected through questionnaires, interviews, general observations and documentary reviews. Findings revealed that ergonomics is still a new discipline to workers in the Swissport Company. The study results indicated that there was an increasing occupational health problem. It was also found that high rates of back pain, pain on leg joints resulted from frequent lifting/handling of baggage in very awkward postures. Other hazards included eye problems, violence from aggressive passengers, poor welfare facilities, and uneven workload distribution. Further to that, it was revealed that occupational health problems were common among Swissport workers and might lead to temporary or permanent disability. This study recommends for training programmes on ergonomics principles and occupational health and safety matters. It also recommends regular risk assessments at workplaces, introduction of health check-up routines and mechanical lifts in sorting area and improve labelling that indicate cargo and baggage weight to be visible.