



**MEMORANDUM**

Via E-Mail

DATE: August 30, 2002

TO: Firm Clients and Friends

FROM: Bergeson & Campbell, P.C.

RE: OSHA Issues Proposed Ergonomics Guidelines

In today's *Federal Register*, OSHA announced the availability of its draft ergonomics guidelines for nursing homes, *Ergonomics for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders: Guidelines for Nursing Homes* (Guidelines). We appreciate that these Guidelines are not directly relevant to industrial settings, but wish to bring to your attention that the approach OSHA is taking in the draft Guidelines provides useful insights into the way OSHA intends to proceed in developing other industry-specific ergonomic guidelines. The draft Guidelines are available on the Internet at <http://www.osha.gov/ergonomics/guidelines/nursinghome/index.html>, and comments on the draft Guidelines are due **September 30, 2002**. OSHA will hold a one-day stakeholder meeting in Washington, D.C., to discuss the draft Guidelines. OSHA will announce the exact location and date of the meeting in a future *Federal Register* notice.

OSHA is in the process of developing other industry-specific guidelines. Such guidelines represent one of the prongs in OSHA's four-pronged comprehensive approach for addressing musculoskeletal disorders. OSHA's draft Guidelines include three main sections that OSHA believes set out the major components of an effective ergonomics process:

- "Management Practices" discusses the importance of management commitment and employee participation in ergonomics training, occupational health management of musculoskeletal disorders, and ergonomics program evaluation;
- "Worksite Analysis" discusses assessment of resident handling tasks and activities other than resident handling; and
- "Control Methods" contains illustrations that demonstrate various methods to control common ergonomic stressors.



BERGESON & CAMPBELL, P.C.

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We hope this information is helpful. As always, please call if you have any questions.