

ERGONOMICS AND PROCESS CONTROL DESIGN

FOREST INDUSTRY HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM

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The purpose of this Forest Industry Health Research Program (FIHRP) bulletin is to summarize the results of a report entitled "***Ergonomic Guidelines for Pulp and Paper Process Control Room Design***". This report is a quick reference guide. Areas addressed include design of the control room itself, work station design, and the design of effective computer interfaces. To request a copy, phone **Agi Lee** at the Pulp and Paper Forum at (604) 777-1533, send a fax to (604) 777-1567 or E-mail alee@paperforum.com. Non-members of the Forum may be charged for the reports.

Systems being used for process control in modern industry are changing rapidly. As production capacities increase and as facilities make extensive use of computers and automation, the role of operators is changing. Operators are now becoming increasingly involved in process monitoring and decision making in complex systems.

Ergonomics deals with both the physical and behavioural aspects of the human operator in relation to the work environment. The ergonomic guidelines presented in this report are intended for individuals involved in the design of process control rooms. It is recommended, however, that extensive use of this information should be in conjunction with a qualified ergonomist and with reference to an earlier FIHRP report, entitled ***Ergonomics and Process Control in the Pulp and Paper Industry***. **Bulletin No. 24 07/96**

The guidelines are presented in seven sections. Section 1 provides a brief introduction. Section 2 presents background information for interpreting and implementing the guidelines presented in subsequent sections. An overview of the guidelines is presented in Section 3. Physical issues in control room design are addressed in Section 4. Guidelines for operations and procedural issues are contained in Section 5. Recommendations for optimizing interactions between operators and computer systems are presented in Section 6. Following the guidelines, Section 7 provides an extensive list of additional reference material.