

September 12, 2013

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RENÉ BOSKOFF Monterey Marriott Hotel Monterey Amalia Neidhardt, MPH, CIH, CSP Senior Safety Engineer DOSH Research & Standard Health Unit 2424 Arden Way, Suite 485 Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Amalia:

Enclosed with this letter, please find the report entitled "Evaluation of Musculoskeletal Disorder Risk in Hotel Housekeeping Jobs" authored by Steven F. Wiker, Ph.D, CPE.

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2013

This study was initiated to determine if housekeeper job tasks presented the risk for development of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Work sampling, biomechanical and metabolic burden analyses were conducted with housekeepers performing their jobs using a variety of individually preferred methods.

The results showed a wide range of forces and postures were employed to complete hotel house-keeping tasks, all of which fell into acceptable zones of ergonomic design. The housekeeper's job was found to be strongly compliant with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommended administrative controls for mitigation or elimination of MSD hazards (e.g., task variety, job rotation, adequate exposure to micro-breaks, decision latitude in execution of work, etc.). Furthermore, the measured MSD risk factor exposures were deemed safe by NIOSH assessment protocol.

Additionally, please see the attached press release detailing the award of an educational grant to the California Hotel & Lodging Association from the American Hotel & Lodging Education Foundation. The grant provides for safety and training guidance for hotel housekeepers in a 'best practices' configuration. This effort is a year-long undertaking that is scheduled to be completed in fall of next year.







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Please accept this study for your consideration and review, and if you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly – the author is available for further discussion and/or explanation if desired.

Finally, please know that the lodging industry is committed to the health and safety of our employees and will continue to endeavor to ensure this commitment.

Sincerely,

Lylon S. Mohrfeld, CAE

President & CEO

cc: Deputy Chief for Health and Engineering Services, DOSH, Deborah Gold CIH

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 13, 2013

California Hotel & Lodging Association Announces Safety & Training Program

Grant Awarded to Fund Hotel Housekeeping Research and Outreach Efforts

Sacramento, CA – Coinciding with International Housekeepers Week, the California Hotel & Lodging Association (CH&LA) today announced the commencement of a project to improve safety and training of hotel housekeepers. This effort is a pro-active approach to introduce both management and employees to practiced safety and training processes and techniques.

"We firmly believe education is the path to reduce injuries among hotel housekeepers," said Lynn Mohrfeld, CAE, President & CEO of CH&LA. "Our goal is for this year-long effort to provide a platform that can be utilized beyond the hotel & lodging industry in California and implemented on a national basis."

As part of the project, CH&LA is analyzing current programs, researching existing injury rate information, and conducting personal interviews with hotel housekeepers, safety professionals, and government regulatory agencies. Outreach efforts are to include webinars/seminars, industry conference presentations, and a series of articles detailing best practices that could be implemented to protect against the risk of injuries to hotel housekeepers.

This project was made possible by an educational grant from the American Hotel & Lodging Education Foundation, with CH&LA providing additional funding and resources. CH&LA will be managing and implementing the project in conjunction with its own education foundation.

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About CH&LA

The California Hotel & Lodging Association (CH&LA) is the largest state lodging industry association in the nation and a Partner State Association of the American Hotel & Lodging Association. Its members include all segments of the lodging industry including the California Association of Boutique & Breakfast Inns - California's largest association of professional innkeepers and certified boutique hotels and bed and breakfast inns. CH&LA is the leading resource for communicating and protecting the rights and interests of the California lodging industry. CH&LA was established in 1893. CH&LA is on the web at www.calodging.com.