

## Ergonomics Hazards

Good ergonomic design allows for adjustability between individual employees that use equipment. Much of the equipment used in dry cleaning shops, however, is not adjustable. The following steps can be taken to reduce ergonomic hazards.

- The use of dry-to-dry dry cleaning machines eliminates garment transfer. In shops with transfer machines, workers should handle no more than 15 to 20 pounds of clothing during the transfer operation.
- Modifications to the workplace to reduce the amount of bending and reaching, such as raising the bottom of clothing carts and utilizing spring-loaded bottoms to raise the clothes to 16 inches as the cart is unloaded, are helpful.
- Pressing stations that are designed to be adjusted to each employee can significantly reduce ergonomic exposures.
- Using counter-balances on irons and other equipment that must be lifted is also helpful. Providing beveled floor mats will also reduce leg fatigue and minimize tripping hazards. (NIOSH Publication 97-160)

Zenith provides workplace safety resources at: **TheZenith.com**<sup>®</sup>