

Manufacturing Industry – Facilitating Recovery at Work

Duty to cooperate in Early and Safe Return to Work (ESRTW)

All employers and workers are obligated under section 89 of the Act to cooperate in a worker's early and safe return to suitable and available employment with the injury employer.



Challenges within the manufacturing industry:

- Identifying ESRTW duties due to nature of work and worksites.
- Soft tissue and repetitive strain injuries.
- Accommodating injured workers who do not fully recover from their injuries (permanent accommodation).
- Collective agreement provisions impact availability of ESRTW and permanent accommodation options.
- Identify alternate return to work options that restore the pre-injury earnings of higher wage earners.

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ESRTW Tips - Manufacturing Industry Highlights

The Manufacturing Industry includes sectors which involve manufacturing, processing, and packaging of items such as food products, beverages, plastics, clothing, furniture, household products, metal products, machinery, equipment, concrete products and petroleum.

Lost time claims by top 5 occupations, 2016-2020

Occupations	% Total Lost time Claims
Labour food beverage processing	24%
Welders & related machine operators	11%
Construction trades helpers/labourers	8%
Truck drivers	5%
Labourers processing/manufacturing/utilities	4%

Tactics and Possible Solutions - Employers

Program level

- Start talking about recovery at work at orientation.
- Compile a list of modified duties for various positions within your company.
- Cross train employees. This will allow employees who become injured the ability to work in other areas which may be better suited to their abilities.
- Have clear roles and responsibilities for everyone involved in the Return to Work (RTW) process.
- Evaluate the RTW program each year to ensure it is meeting objectives.

Claim specific

- Maintain regular communication with injured workers (once a week for anyone in ESRTW).
- Contact WorkplaceNL even before claim is accepted if you need help with any part of ESRTW process.
- Ensure you are receiving Health Care Provider reporting forms from injured workers within 24 hours after each visit.
- Involve the injured worker in development of ESRTW plan.
- If difficulty in obtaining functional information, contact the case manager to see if a functional assessment can be completed.



If you are having difficulty arranging ESRTW you can:

- Ask the RTW Facilitator. They can:
 - Assist in developing the ESRTW plans before the claim is adjudicated.
 - Assist with clarifying medical information.
 - Provide education sessions to staff.
 - Monitor ESRTW plans and mediate disputes between workplace parties.
 - Help identify potential ESRTW duties (suitable & available work).
- Contact the Case Manager. They will:
 - Assist with early ESRTW intervention.
 - Ensure progression of ESRTW plan.
 - Address issues such as workers being hard to reach or getting required Health Care Provider reporting forms on a timely basis.

Involve all stakeholders in the ESRTW process.
Union, employee reps, etc.



Tactics and Possible Solutions - Workers

- Report the injury to your supervisor immediately.
- Ensure that all Health Care Provider reporting forms are returned to the employer within 24 hours.
- Help identify potential ESRTW duties with your employer.
- Discuss ESRTW options with your health care providers.
- Maintain communication with your employer.

Contact a WorkplaceNL RTW Facilitator

ESRTW - St. John's

Jennifer Payne, RTW Facilitator **778.1334**

Kourtney Sturge, RTW Facilitator **778.1152**

For immediate assistance, call **1.800.563.9000**

ESRTW - Corner Brook

Jennifer Grimes, RTW Facilitator **637.2741**
for immediate assistance, call **1.800.563.2772**

ESRTW - Grand Falls-Windsor

Jasmine Collis, RTW Facilitator **489.1635**
For immediate assistance, call **1.800.563.3448**



connect

Employers can enter and maintain their ESRTW plans, review claims cost information and obtain injury statistics through their **connect** account. Register for **connect** at workplacenl.ca

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