

CAE receives innovation award for improving health and safety at work

CAE received a *Grand Prix santé et sécurité du travail* award, in the Innovation category, at the *Commission de la santé et de la sécurité au travail* (CSST) regional awards gala.

The CSST is the organization which the Quebec government has entrusted the administration of occupational health and safety at work. The *Grand Prix santé et sécurité du travail* awards is a competition in which companies submit their health and safety prevention initiatives. The CSST awards prizes to companies in two categories: Innovation and Leadership.

CAE employees mined their talent to develop a lifting tool for the automated handling of heavy cables and a rotating table to unwind the cables, significantly decreasing the risk of back injuries.

Thanks to this new tool, employees no longer need to manually retrieve cables—which can weigh up to 100 lbs (45 kg)—from the bottom of barrels, exerting considerable effort in the process. The claw-type tool is able to grasp the cables and lift them out of the barrel.

An ingenious solution that is easy to apply and contributes to eliminate the risk of accidents in their workplace!

In addition to being recognized within the Montreal region, CAE is in the running for the provincial gala, to be held in Québec City in the spring of 2014.

CAE INC.

Electrical products manufacturing

Montreal – Saint-Laurent Borough, 3659 workers

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP), Local 522

LIFTING TOOL AND ROTATING TABLE FOR HEAVY CABLES

ISSUE

The company specializes in modelling and simulation for aviation. The cables to be used for installing aviation simulators are received in deep barrels and workers had to retrieve them by bending down to reach into the bottom of the barrel. They then had to unwind them by hand. The uncomfortable postures and the weight of the cables (from 27 to 54 kg/60 to 120 lbs) posed a risk of serious musculoskeletal disorders (MSD), particularly in the neck, back and shoulders. In addition, though these tasks were assigned to physically strong workers, the workers still sometimes needed help from a colleague to lift and unwind the heaviest cables.



The lifting tool

Photo: Justin Dupuis-Nicoll, CSST

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND RESULTS

CAE employees, with the help of an apprentice from the *École de technologie supérieure* (ÉTS), designed and manufactured two innovative devices: a lifting tool for cables and a rotating table to unwind them. The lifting tool consists of an arm and a claw that the worker lowers into the barrel using a button. The claw grasps the coiled cable and automatically lifts it out of the barrel. The worker can then place the coiled cable on the rotating table. Thanks to these tools, workers no longer need to move into uncomfortable postures and the handling of heavy cables is automated, significantly reducing the risk of MSD. Workers can now perform the task alone because it no longer requires considerable physical effort.