



COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS EVALUATION

Equipment Checklist and Health Tips

Equipment Checklist

Buying tips:

- When possible, test all equipment before making a purchase.
- Ask for equipment that meets American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

Computer terminals should include the following:

- A detachable keyboard;
- Easy to use brightness and control knobs;
- Tilting screen;
- Character size of at least 3/16”;
- No perceptible screen flicker; and
- Reduced electromagnetic fields (EMF) emissions.

Chairs should have the following:

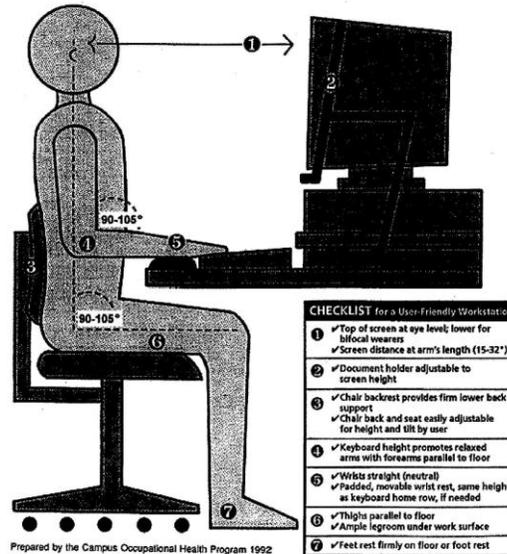
- Seat and back easily adjustable for height and tilt from seated position without use of tools;
- Back provides firm lower and mid-back support;
- Seat upholstered and padded, curves down at front edge;
- Five casters, for stability; and
- Adjustable armrests to prevent shoulder fatigue.

Tables should meet the following standards:

- Bi-level to allow independent adjustment of screen and keyboard;
- Adjusts easily from a seated position without use of tools;
- Adequate table top space for required tasks; and
- Adequate leg room.

Potential accessories (as needed):

- Document holder adjustable to screen height;
- Wrist rest that is padded, movable, and same height as keyboard home row;
- Foot rest for users whose feet don't rest flat on the floor;
- Task lighting;
- Adjustable keyboard tray, if table is too high;
- Lumbar support cushion, if chair doesn't support lower back;
- Glare screen with grounding wire; and
- Telephone headset.



Health Tips

Reduce glare to avoid eyestrain:

- Avoid light shining directly into your eyes or onto your screen;
- Hold a mirror in front of your screen to identify sources of glare;
- Avoid placing your computer directly under a bank of lights;
- Lower lighting level to about half of normal office lighting;
- Use task lighting if necessary;
- Position screen at right angle to window; and
- Use window curtains or blinds if necessary.

Take a stretch/exercise break:

- Take a 15-minute break from the computer at least every two hours to get up and move around;
- Rotate job tasks when possible to avoid constant keyboard work;
- Take mini-breaks as needed to stretch your body or rest your eyes. Frequent short breaks are desirable if your work situation allows;
- Blink often to keep your eyes moist;
- Refocus your eyes by looking away from your screen and focusing on a distant object at least 20 feet away every 10 minutes or so;
- Release tension in the neck by looking back over the shoulder while sitting up straight;
- Relax shoulders by rotating them backwards several times and then forwards;
- Spread your fingers as far apart as you can. Hold for five seconds, and then make a fist. Repeat this action several times; and
- Keep moving throughout the day by taking mini-breaks for your favorite stretches.

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You are encouraged to consult with your own attorney or other expert consultants for a professional opinion specific to your situation.



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