

RODWORKERS JOB DESCRIPTION – ACTIVITY DEMANDS

STANDING:

- during all tasks
- for brief periods of up to 10 minutes at a time
- few tasks permit sitting
- in conjunction with other activity demands such as walking and climbing
- accumulated duration up to 66% of the work shift

WALKING:

- frequent walking over uneven surfaces in the form of uneven ground on newly excavated sites and over the grid work of reinforcing rods created for slab work
- distances vary from 2 to 150 meters at a time
- accumulated distance approximately 5 kilometers per shift

SITTING:

- during site modifications and mechanical splicing duties when welding work permits sitting
- available less than 10% of the time, and sometimes only to qualified welders
- when available, sitting duration is less than 33% of the work shift and the type of seating available is makeshift

LIFTING:

- lifting is variable in the range of 22.7 to 35+ kgs
- workers are expected to lift to the maximum they feel capable
- the following are examples of weights and lifting techniques employed:
 - rebar, up to 35+ kgs frequently carried on the shoulder
 - sheets of wire mesh; 35+ kgs carried by 2 workers
 - tool belt during rebar tying; 15 kgs; carried on the waist
 - rebar cages; 35+ kgs; 2 men lower from waist level to floor
- all lifting occurs for not more than 33% of the work shift
- mechanical or helper assistance is employed where able

BENDING:

- refers to bending of the spine
- occurs frequently (34-64% of the shift) when tying rebar
- during all other duties may occur occasionally up to 34% of the shift

CLIMBING:

- in the course of gaining general access to work, can include: ramps, ladders, stairs, scaffolds; and vertical grid work
- required in post-tensioning cables, placing rebar, mechanical splicing, site modifications, off loading, and scaffold duties
- not a required demand when doing wire mesh and pre-fabbed cages
- it occurs for not more than 33% of the work shift

BALANCING:

- included to identify those tasks where there could be a risk of falling
- considered a requirement during all tasks except for pre-fabbed cages, mechanical splicing, and wire mesh
- during those tasks where good balance is necessary it is called for up to 33% of the work shift

STOOPING/CROUCHING/KNEELING/AND CRAWLING:

- when required may occur for up to 33% of the work shift
- required in all duties except for pre-fabbed cages and wire mesh

REACHING:

- includes forward, overhead and when the trunk is forward flexed
- it occurs up to 33% of the work shift during wire mesh, off loading, scaffolding, post-tensioning cable, and mechanical splicing duties
- during pre-fabbed cages duty: forward reaching and reaching when forward flexed at the waist occurs for 33% of the work shift
- reaching over-head does not occur
- during placing rebar and site specification changes duties: reaching forward and when flexed at the waist is occurring for up to 66% of the work shift
- reaching above shoulder level occurs up to 33% of the work shift

PUSHING/PULLING:

- to position rebar, post-tensioning cable, to bend using a hickey tool or pipe extender
- resistance in the above examples is considered high
- to move scaffolding (on wheels), light to moderate resistance

GRIPPING:

- resistive gripping when doing manual material handling, and handling tools
- for up to 66% of the work shift
- the least resistance occurs during the tying of rebar and unloading duties
- during tying of rebar, repetitive gripping of pliers is required to cut and twist wire

TRUNK BENDING:

- during placing rebar duty, occurring for up to 66% of the work shift
- workers will alternate the tying with carrying of rebar as directed by the foreman

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:

- exposure to the elements for up to 100% of the work shift

OTHER TRADE CHARACTERISTICS:

- work done in bending shops is often done by another local
- few light duties to choose from
- More common re-training options:
 - structural steel welding
 - supervisor of Rodworkers
 - curtain wall installation
 - estimator: costs out job for tender
 - detailer: prepares the placing drawings
 - fabricator: works in the bending shop cutting and shaping rod to specifications