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Psychophysics in Occupational Ergonomics

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Abstract: This paper examines an approach to modeling the relationship between perceived acceptable work exposures and physical stressors in upper-extremity tasks using psychophysical method. This approach provided unique and feasible solutions to work design problems involving exposure to the hazard of manual materials handling. In addition, psychophysical methods have been applied to upper-extremity activities to estimate acceptable work limits. A review of psychophysical theory and methods which can be applied to a wide range of occupational activities is provided.

Keywords: Psychophysics, Occupational Ergonomics, Manual Materials Handling, Upper-Extremity Work Limits.