

Participant Information:***Work System Design: A Study of Professional Practices among Ergonomists and Engineers*****Overview and Motivation**

This study explores the roles and practices of engineers and human factors specialists in the design of safe, productive work systems. The project will function as a ‘needs analysis,’ determining how best to assist work system designers in their day to day work and improve system performance. Specifically, we are interested in how and why various tools are used; the flow of information in an organization; the process of decision making; and the factors that influence knowledge exchange. Ultimately we hope to use this information to develop new approaches and tools for the design of works systems that are highly competitive and humanly sustainable. For more information, please refer to our website, <http://www.ryerson.ca/hfe/index.html>.

Your Participation in the Study

We are looking for industrial engineers currently engaged in work system design. Participation involves completing a short questionnaire and engaging in a telephone interview.

- **Participant Involvement:** Your involvement in the study is entirely voluntary. You may stop the telephone interview at any time or choose to not answer specific questions if you wish.
- **Duration:** The email questionnaire will take a few minutes to complete; the interview, itself, will last approximately an hour.
- **Privacy and Security:** With consent, we will record and transcribe your comments to make sure we don’t miss anything, and your name and any identifying information, such as your organization, will be held in strict confidence and never used in connection with the reporting of project results. Materials such as quotes from interviews will be reported anonymously. All information you provide will be kept on secure computer systems and your name will not be stored directly with any audio or transcript files.
- **Transcripts:** You will receive a copy of the transcript from the interview, in case you wish to modify or add to your comments. You will also receive a copy of the final report, once it becomes available.

Work System Design ‘Toolbox’

In parallel to our interview study, we are compiling an ‘inventory’ of work system design tools currently available. This ‘inventory’ will function as an evolving, freely distributed document. It is hoped this compilation of tools can inform both engineers and ergonomists of the tools available for their work. As part of an earlier phase of this project, an inventory of human factors tools was created. To download the latest copy, please visit Ryerson’s [Human Factors Engineering Lab](#) homepage. Comments and suggestions are appreciated!

Please join us in improving work system design. [Contact us](#) as soon as possible to schedule an interview.

Thank you,

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