



HEALTH SAFETY & WELLBEING

Hazard Alert

Risk of collision when operating electric sit-stand desks

OVERVIEW

While promoting ergonomic flexibility, electric sit-stand desks present risk of striking objects if above and below desk clearance is not maintained free of obstructions. When clearance is not maintained, the desk could collide with wall mounted objects (e.g.: overhead shelves) or objects placed underneath the desk (e.g.: drawers). Collisions can result in injury and damage to equipment.

HAZARDS

- Entrapment risk: Hands, fingers, or limbs can become trapped during desk height adjustment.
- Collision risk: Desks can strike obstacles such as overhead shelves, wall mounted objects and decorations, chairs or under-desk items such as drawers if there is insufficient clearance. These items can also fall and strike people.
- Equipment damage: Computer equipment and other items may be knocked over if the desk collides with objects during movement.
- Failure of safety features: Anti-collision mechanisms, where fitted, may not always detect obstructions.

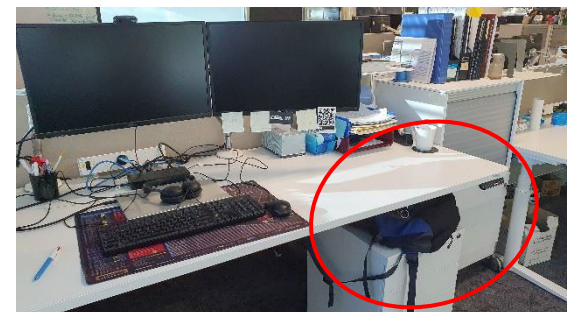


Desk struck shelves resulting in the shelves falling.

ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MANAGING THE RISK

Where sit-stand desks are in use or being introduced:

- Review the workspace layouts to ensure sufficient above and under-desk clearance, noting objects above, under or around desks that could obstruct their movement.
- Remove any obstructions that can collide with the desk.
- If available for your specific desk model, check if the top and bottom height limits are set. Note, the lower limit should not be set too high so as to interfere with a comfortable sitting posture.
- Consider manually adjusting the desk height using the up and down buttons, rather than relying on the pre-set settings.



Desk crashed on top of drawers and personal items.

Hazards and incidents should be immediately reported to your Supervisor and your Safety Officer and followed up with a [SARAH+](#) report.

Damaged and malfunctioning equipment must be reported to [Buildings and Property](#).

Additional Resources:

- [Sit Stand Desks Information Sheet](#)
- [Office Ergonomics Guideline](#)
- [Ergonomics Interactive Videos](#)

More Information: Please contact the Monash Health Safety & Wellbeing team hsw@monash.edu