



The size and design of the Ergotainer simplifies body movements addressing injury related risks when handling samples.

For further information please

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The Ergotainer

The Ergotainer is an ergonomic alternative container for storing and transporting soil and gravel samples with ergonomics in mind.

The Ergotainer is a reusable, airtight, burst-resistant product which has been designed to comply with ergonomic lifting standards. It comes in one size with two colour variations – clear with a blue lid and white.

The tough, non-porous material of the Ergotainer can hold up to 20kg and has a considerably longer lifespan compared to soil bags. The rigid sides of the Ergotainer allow it to be filled by one person, thereby reducing time and effort.

This Australian-made product will reduce the manual handling risks associated with the transportation of construction materials testing samples.

Addressing manual handling related injuries has become a high priority for management and staff due to:

- staff injury and disability
- loss of income
- increased insurance premiums
- lost time and productivity
- common law claims

Why change?

The need to improve manual handling practices within laboratories has been brought into sharp focus due to the increased incidence and cost of injuries.

A review of work practices and processes by occupational health specialists in work injury management identified the filling, lifting, carrying and storing of sample bags as a major contributor to injury in this high-risk area.

While mechanical aids such as electric lift trolleys and carts have recently been introduced into laboratories to reduce the amount of manual effort involved in material movement, the underlying cause of injury is related to the use of sample bags.

The project team realised that a replacement had to be found for the sample bag and, together with the occupational health specialists, developed a specification for a new sample container.



Research

A search of Australian and international manufacturers found only one product that substantially met the agreed specification. Field and laboratory trials proved that the concept was sound.

The concept container was found to have superior handling and filling characteristics when compared to a sample bag. In addition, the better stacking and storage ability substantially reduces storage space demands.

With strong industry support, it was decided to design and manufacture a suitable container in Australia.

General specifications:

Length: 285mm Width: 225mm Height: 310mm Volume: 16.0L

Features

The Ergotainer improves on sample bags through:

- A design that facilitates two-handed lifting and carrying as well as limiting sample masses to 20kg.
- Greater container stability allowing twohanded filling.
- Improved work flows and practices, reducing double handling and the need for a range of sample container types.
- A standardised container allows the modification of sample preparation and testing equipment for a common receptacle throughout a laboratory.
- Airtight lids providing moisture retention and being less prone to spillage.
- Available as either translucent, allowing materials to be more easily identified, or all white containers with greater durability.
- Manufactured from UV stabilised, burst resistant and recyclable materials.
- Heat and solvent resistant to 65-70°C and can be easily cleaned to remove contaminants and sample numbers.
- Containers are more stable for transport and stacking. The containers can be stacked up to two high in a regular prism shape, doubling storage capacity.

