



Company Profile: ergoCentric Seating Systems

ergoCentric Seating Systems is one of the largest manufacturers of quality ergonomic seating for industrial and office environments in Canada.

Launched as Ergo-Industrial Seating Systems Inc. in 1990, the company was started by Terry Cassaday, a trained lawyer and businessman, who had just three years earlier opened a specialty retail store in downtown Toronto selling a full range of wellness products, including ergonomic office chairs.

Not long after opening his store, Terry began to notice a burgeoning demand in the marketplace and launched a company specializing in the sale of ergonomic seating systems designed specifically for factory environments. The company very quickly attracted the support of such major customers as Magna International, a global auto parts manufacturer based in Aurora, Ontario.

With the company's early success showing no signs of waning, Terry decided in 1993 to close his store and focus exclusively on designing and manufacturing ergonomic seating systems.

It was around this time that the company produced its first ergonomic office chair.

Even with the broadening of its product line, the company never strayed from its primary purpose, which was to make the highest-quality ergonomic seating solutions possible – no desks, no cabinets, no keyboard trays. Just ergonomic chairs.

In a few years the company's ergonomic office chairs accounted for the biggest portion of the company's business. As a result, by the year 2000, the company began proudly using the name ergoCentric Seating Systems for its office seating division.

Today, ergoCentric continues to make its seating using the highest quality material and workmanship. The company has earned its international ISO 9001 quality assurance designation and ISO 14001 environmental standard.

The first company to have their chairs recognized by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, ergoCentric strives to provide virtually everyone with a comfortable and productive seating solution. As a result, the company continues to drive the sustained growth and success it has enjoyed since its earliest days through a dedicated network of dealers throughout Canada and the United States.

Best ergonomic seating solution possible

According to Terry, the company's president and chief executive officer, the inspiration for ergoCentric to open a manufacturing facility in Mississauga, Ontario and to start making its own brand of chairs stemmed from a desire to offer customers absolutely the best ergonomic seating solution possible.

With the input of kinesiologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and ergonomists, ergoCentric set about designing and building chairs that would reduce the stresses caused by the seated posture, and provide the lowest total cost of ownership to the organizations that paid for them.

While continuously working toward its goal of making the best ergonomic chair in the world, ergoCentric worked with healthcare practitioners to get injured employees back to work and keep them there. This work helped the company understand first hand the large diversity of the workforce – all of whom needed to be fitted with the right chair for their needs. From the smallest person to the largest, to people with special needs and aging workers, ergoCentric developed seating systems to fit them all.

It was this process that led ergoCentric to conclude that while every chair had to comply with sound ergonomic principles, its seating systems had to be modular and fully adjustable. More importantly, training is vital to ensuring people realize the full benefits of their chair.

Modularity

Modularity is crucial in ergonomic chairs. A modular approach to chair design allows ergoCentric to fit virtually everyone with a comfortable and productive seating solution. The company's willingness to modify any of its components ensures it can accommodate even hard to fit people, usually at no extra cost. Modularity also makes it easy and inexpensive for customers to repair or to reconfigure chairs to suit their changing needs and new employees.

Full Adjustability

Employee turnover, the many job functions, and the fact that each person is different, makes it essential that ergonomic chairs are fully adjustable, so they can be customized to suit each individual and their changing needs. Full adjustability is also important to provide the variation of postures that are so important to the human body.

Adjustability Understood

ergoCentric makes a promise to its customers that it will properly fit 100% of their workforce to the chairs they purchase from the company. No other ergonomic chair manufacturer, anywhere, makes such a promise.

ergoCentric always takes end user training and instruction seriously because it believes that ergonomic chairs are of little value if they don't get adjusted. As a result, the company strives to design its chairs to be easy to adjust.

Through a combination of on-site and Web-based training and after-sales support, ergoCentric continues to do everything it can to make adjustability understood.

Recognized by Canadian Physiotherapy Association

ergoCentric Seating Systems' commitment to excellence in ergonomic function and design is exemplified by the fact that the company's ergonomic chairs were the first ever to be recognized by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association. ergoCentric has also earned its international ISO 9001 quality assurance designation and ISO 14001 environmental standard.

With ergonomic furniture of all types now the fastest growing segment of the North American office furniture industry, many ask why ergoCentric doesn't broaden its vision beyond seating solutions. The reason is that Terry is convinced that his mission to keep producing chairs that have a positive affect on people's health and productivity in the workplace cannot be achieved if ergoCentric allows itself to waver from the course he set for the company more than 15 years ago.

"We are experts in ergonomic seating, because this is all we do," he says. "It's what allows us to stay focused on our mission."

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Founded: December 1st, 1990

Web site: www.ergocentric.com

Video: The Anatomy and Biochemistry of the Human Body in the Seated Posture can be viewed at www.ergocentric.com/free_video

Industry: ergoCentric Seating Systems manufactures quality ergonomic seating for companies looking to maximize health and productivity.

Recognition: ergoCentric is the first seating manufacturer to be recognized by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

ISO ISO 9001:2000; 14001:2004

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