Supply-Chain Hazards: Global Inputs, Local Impact and Hidden Risks Stats and Facts



FACTS

- **Unknown Material Hazards:** Imported materials or components may contain unrecognized chemical, biological, or physical hazards due to differing safety standards.
- **Inconsistent Quality and Safety Standards:** Variations in global manufacturing practices can introduce defective or unsafe products into local workplaces.
- **Delayed or Substituted Supplies:** Shortages may force workers to use unfamiliar or substitute materials or equipment, increasing the risk of misuse and incidents.
- **Hidden Chemical Exposure:** Products may lack complete or accurate hazard information, leading to improper handling and exposure risks.
- **Improper Storage and Transportation Damage:** Materials damaged during shipping can become unstable, increasing the risk of leaks, fires, or structural failure.
- **Lack of Training on New Inputs:** Workers may not receive adequate training when new materials or equipment are introduced, leading to unsafe handling.
- **Increased Handling and Manual Movement:** Supply disruptions often require additional manual handling, raising the risk of strains, sprains, and material handling injuries.

STATS

- In the United States, **transportation and material moving incidents remain a leading cause of workplace fatalities**, often linked to supply-chain activities such as loading, unloading, and handling goods (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022–2023).
- U.S. data shows that **contact with objects and equipment is a major source of workplace injuries**, including incidents involving shipped materials and handling operations (BLS, 2021–2023).
- In Canada, **material handling injuries account for a significant portion of lost-time workplace claims**, particularly in warehousing and distribution

sectors (Association of Workers’ Compensation Boards of Canada, recent years).

- U.S. occupational safety reports indicate that **hazard communication failures contribute to chemical exposure incidents**, especially when materials are mislabeled or improperly documented (OSHA, 2021–2023).
- In Canada, **transportation and logistics sectors report consistent injury rates related to loading, unloading, and moving goods**, often tied to supply-chain demands (AWCBC, 2021–2023).