

## COW ENTRY

### Task Description:

Bringing the cows into the milking parlour can be achieved in a variety of ways. Most of the ways require a worker / milker to supervise the cow movements as well as pulling a lever somewhere in the parlour (often above head height to avoid it being an obstruction). If there is nobody available for this the milker may have to leave the parlour to persuade the cows to come in.

### Comments of the employee:

- ❑ *'Having to leave the parlour to deal with cow entry can be tiring and time-consuming.'*
- ❑ *'After installation of the automatic moving barrier, I now rarely, if at all, have to leave the parlour workstation. It takes away one of the stresses of milking.'*

### MSD risks:

- ❑ Reaching above shoulder or head height to operate a lever (which may require some considerable force).
- ❑ Leaving and re-entering the parlour may require climbing up and down (steps) and stooping to attend to a cow.

### Exposed areas:

- ❑ Arm / Shoulder
- ❑ Neck / Upper back
- ❑ Legs / Lower back

### Solutions:

- ❑ Installation of an automatic moving barrier in the collecting yard which gently persuades the cows to move towards the parlour entrance. With a closed-circuit television monitor installed too, the milker can see where the cows are in the collecting yard and how they are behaving. The TV screen must be conveniently located at the workstation and not subject to glare.



*Collecting yard with gate*



*Workstation with monitor in red box*

### Comments

- ❑ The milker can see what's happening in the yard and can attend to any problems quickly.
- ❑ When the gate starts to move H & S regulations require that an alarm is sounded. The cows have learnt this and start moving before the gate has to push them.