

New Edition of Handbook of Control Room Design and Ergonomics

A new edition is out of the 'Handbook of Control Room Design and Ergonomics', by Toni Ivergard and Brian Hunt. Its subtitle is 'A Perspective for the Future'. Here a brief summary of this 2008 edition.

This Handbook of Control Room Design and Ergonomics was first published in 1989 by Taylor & Francis, and was based on rather classic approaches to ergonomics and design.

The 2008 edition cover more extensively the use of the control room and its related computer system beyond the traditional tasks of process monitoring and supervision. We also describe the use of the control system for optimizing and developing the existing systems and processes. The control room can also be used for the purposes of education, learning and simulation training. But at the utmost the control room of the future should become a high ceiling environment for creativity and innovation. By 'high ceiling' we mean an environment which has a high tolerance for error and which is thus a suitable environment for learning from error. This 2nd edition aims to be a very practical handbook of guidelines and case studies.

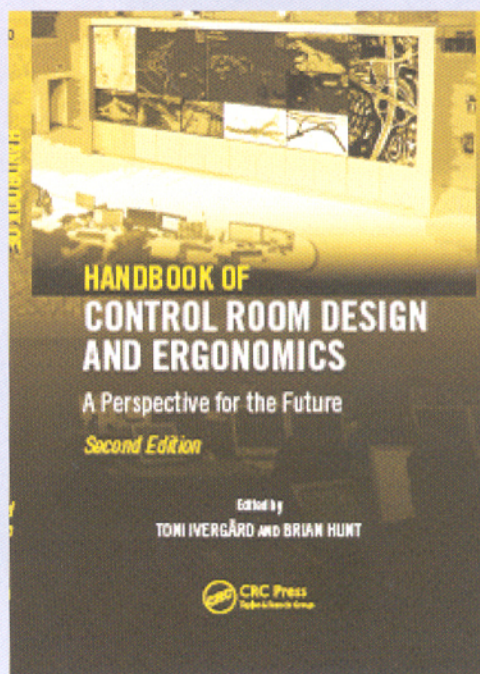
Nowadays, it is often more appropriate to talk about control centres. A modern approach for looking at work in control rooms uses recent concepts of creativity and learning/developing environments. We have incorporated such concepts into the current text. Today, process control encompasses a new generation of computer systems which have enormous capabilities, including the potentials of new display technologies. Advanced technologies are today, to a very large extent, integrated and interrelated with human factors and organizational development.

We have retained some basics of ergonomics of controls and displays and their interrelations while we have added a major part related to all new innovations in large scale information displays. These new features also influence the design and layout of the control room. In the course of writing this second edition, we approached leading-edge companies for ideas and suggestions, and they generously assisted us in providing a number of exciting design examples. We are grateful for the helpful insights from these colleagues from industry.

Ideally, control room work of the future is no longer a tedious or boring, monotonous task solely focused on low vigilance of work processes. It is now a stimulating creative design for optimizing system performance and shaping the future as part of business development efforts to improve competitiveness while conserving scarce resources and saving the environment.

However we are confronted with a very dramatic era of rapid change in the field of Control centres including completely new areas of applications. Over the last decade we have seen the introduction of expanding control centres for Security and safety, Trading includes 'carbon trading'. We expect to see new forms of control centres for the Government sectors and international organizations (including global environmental concerns) and also for traditional manufacturing and the service and tourist sectors.

Toni Ivergard & Brian Hunt,
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