

Statement of the Issue

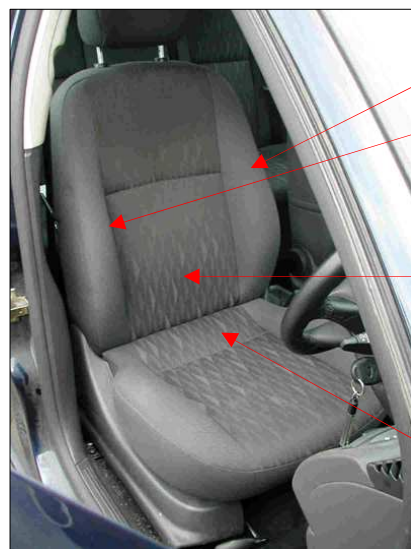
An engineer drove long distances (typically 1000 miles per week) to get to site. He suffered a slipped disc and found driving even short distances very painful. It was not possible for him to work at home, nor to relocate as the location of the sites he worked at varied, and he worked at each site for no longer than a few months. He found sitting in the company car particularly painful, both as a driver and a passenger; he did not experience much discomfort with his personal car (different manufacturer).

Solution

An assessment of the company car indicated that the seat was inadequate; the backrest was too narrow for the user (who was quite broad), there was no lumbar (small of the back) support, and the seat sloped up at the back, placing pressure on the user's coccyx (tail bone), which aggravated his discomfort.

Recommendations were made to either:

1. change the seat in the car to an after-market seat with a wider backrest and lumbar support, or:-



2. swap his car for another in the fleet with a more appropriate seat for this individual. This included a lumbar support (height and depth adjustable) and a more appropriate shape for the seat and backrest shape. A height and depth adjustable steering wheel, and footrest for the left foot were also recommended.

Lateral support on edges of backrest results in the backrest being too narrow for the user.

Flat backrest provides inadequate lumbar support.

Angled foam at back of seat pan is too pronounced and puts pressure on the user's coccyx.

The second recommendation proved possible and the resulting provision of a suitable car by the company has enabled this individual to remain in work, with minimal discomfort.

For information visit www.hu-tech.co.uk or email: info@hu-tech.co.uk

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