

2 BUILDINGS AND FACILITY LAYOUT

CASE STUDY

Gnomes from Nome in Alaska is a manufacturer of lawn ornaments. Their stock ranges from elf-like cement figures and stone birdbaths to kitschy pink plastic flamingoes, which are once again experiencing a surge in popularity. The Internet has allowed them to broaden their distribution, and they are now shipping their unique lawn ornaments all around the world. The company has quickly outgrown their old factory location, and the need for a new facility will allow them to design a factory with safety as a high priority.

1. Dallas Judge is a safety consultant hired by Gnomes from Nome to help in the design process. She suggests the focus should be toward adding protective equipment rather than removing hazards. Do you agree with her? Explain why or why not.
2. What are some of the general questions Dallas may ask before tackling some of the specific design decisions?
3. What are some of the factors Dallas and Gnomes from Nome should consider for the general design of the workplace?
4. During the summer, there is abundant natural daylight the factory can utilize. But in the winter months, there are only a few hours of daylight available. How will this affect the design of the facility?