SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) & ACCREDITATION GUIDE Manual Handling machinery, equipment, bulk timber and steel

Accreditation Code

**G3** 

## Safety Equipment and procedure whilst undertaking these tasks



**Advisable** 



- The key features of this work as set out below must be understood and be capably demonstrated during competency assessment. Competency will be assessed on both knowledge of key features, critical safety issues and demonstrated safe operation.
- Persons who have a weakness due to back or other injury should not lift heavy items.

## **Key Features of these tasks**

- 1. These tasks may involve lifting, shifting, loading and unloading machines, equipment and tools.
- 2. Lifting, loading and unloading lengths of timber and sheet timber.
- 3. Lifting loading and unloading lengths of steel and sheet steel.

## Critical Safety Issues

- 1. Manual handling is a major cause of musculoskeletal injuries and every effort should be taken to minimise these by reducing the demand on human effort by use of manual handling devices where practicable. Eg Trolleys and/ or handcarts.
- 2. Ensure that the passageway between collection point and unloading / loading point is clear of obstacles and free of tripping hazards.
- 3. Suitable clothing should be worn including fully covered footwear and leather safety gloves should be available.
- 4. Small tools should be placed in suitable containers eg boxes to minimise items being dropped. Use of a handcart is preferred over manual carrying even over short distances.
- 5. Lifting should take place with the heavy part of the load towards the body, bending at the knees and only minor back arching. Head should be upright NOT looking down. Feet should be apart and balanced to spread load.
- 6. Bulky loads should be avoided and machines and equipment disassembled to form smaller units and lighter loads wherever practicable. Use load carrying devices whenever practicable
- 7. Timber lengths and sheet timber can produce splinters that cause injury to hands and other parts of the body into which they come into contact. Leather gloves should be worn where possible and two, or more, persons undertake the lifting/ carrying operation holding the timber away from direct contact with the body.
- 8. Timber less than 2m in length and less that 15 Kg may be suitable for one person to carry but longer lengths and timber weighing more that 15Kg should be carried by two persons to ensure a balanced load. Two persons should generally carry sheet timber.

Men

10kg 5kg

Shr
20kg 10kg

Elb
25kg 15kg

Kn

10kg 5kg

Shoulder height

Elbow height

Knuckle height

Mid lower leg height

- 9. Avoid steel sections, in particular flat bars, being carried in quantities which can result in pinching to the body and hands. Leather gloves should be used when handling steel products and avoid loads that can flex. Use of trolleys to minimise manual carrying should be used where practicable
- 10. Loading / unloading items above waist height will invariably require greater exertion than that required to lift / carry loads at or below waist height. The diagram is a guide and should not be regarded as a maximum.
- 11. Note that the guideline load is reduced if the arms are extended.
- 12. This may mean that two or more persons may be required when loading / unloading some items.
- 13. Take regular breaks, avoid overexertion.
- 14. Avoid twisting and turning when carrying loads.
- 15. Ensure that loads are firmly secured, tightly tied and covered before being transported.

| transported.  |           |               |                  |                   |                        |                     |                     |
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