



SUBJECT: How to reduce hoisting accidents

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)

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HSB12

Reducing Hoist Accidents

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) recently analysed 163 hoisting incidents and identified that 99 of these were falls incidents of people falling out of or from the hoist. This Health & Safety Bulletin is designed to show the main causes of these falls along with some basic guidance and information on how to prevent them.

1. Sling too small



Problem: using the wrong size sling is the most significant factor contributing to falls from slings. If the sling is too small, the upper back is unsupported, It feels constricting and the head is too close to the spreader bar.

Solution: accurate assessment and measurement by a competent person. (from nape of neck to gluteal cleft, as well as width) Do not share slings with other users – one size does not fit all!

2. Sling too big



Problem: using the wrong size sling is the most significant factor contributing to falls from slings. If the sling is too large, the person can slide through the aperture. This caused the largest group of falls

Solution: Solution: accurate assessment and measurement by a competent person. (from nape of neck to gluteal cleft, as well as width) Do not share slings with other users – one size does not fit all!

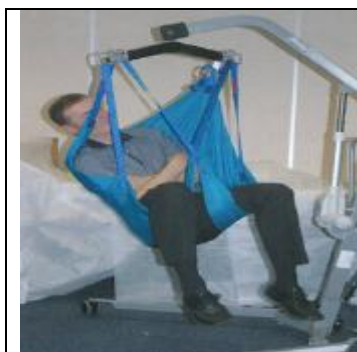
3. Not enough weight-bearing ability



Problem: using a toileting sling for all tasks. The lack of support they provide contributed to the fall

Solution: Only use these slings for toileting. Assessment should check that the person has weight –bearing ability, upper body strength and be able to assist

4. Uneven loop attachments



Problem: Usually a result of hurrying the task or two carers working together who are unfamiliar with the person. It is possible to tip sideways from a sling

Solution: The Moving and handling plan should always contain 'loop configurations' As a general rule, this is often 'short for shoulders and long for legs'

5. Insufficient support



Problem: Sling with insufficient support for the person's condition. ie poor upper body tone or sitting balance

Solution: Do not use a toileting/access sling without ensuring that the person has sufficient strength and balance

6. Too upright (poor trunk control)



Problem: Danger of falling forward and banging head and falling forwards on to the floor

Solution: Check the Moving and handling plan for loop configurations. If uncertain, check with the assessor.

Conclusion

Human error and rule breaking are inevitable. However, these accidents are predictable and therefore manageable. If in doubt – **ask!**

For more information please see the revised [Moving and Handling of People Policy](#)

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
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