



SUBJECT: Safe Use of Social Care Equipment (2)

RECIPIENTS: All LCC services/partners involved in the provision, use and supply of Moving and Handling and Social Care Equipment (Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Schools, Commissioning, Contracting)

ISSUE DATE: 21st May 2013 (Revised Feb 2018)

REF: HSB 20 ICES Inter Agency Management Group

1. Equipment Safety - Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Every year, there are numerous accidents to employees, carers, and service users from using work equipment in health and social care. Many are serious and some are fatal. Using the right, well-maintained equipment operated by trained staff can help prevent accidents and reduce the personal and financial costs. The link to the HSE website below provides information about how the law applies to the wide range of work equipment used in health and social care and signposts you to further information on how you can comply with these requirements.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/equipment-safety.htm>

The link highlights the introduction of the [community equipment code of practice](#) developed by CECOPS aimed at any organisation whether, public, private, or third sector, who commission or provide community equipment. It sets out a framework to maximise the efficiency of services, in delivering good quality and safe services, and in fulfilling their legal duties with regard to community equipment.



2. Risks to service users known to self-hoist or transfer

The Safety Bulletin detailed in the link below was produced some time ago by the HSE to alert health and social care providers to potential risks to service users whom are likely to self-hoist and transfer without the assistance of carers. We include a link to the Safety Bulletin again on this issue as a reminder to assessors and prescribers when assessing people to self-hoist or when carrying out a review. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/ceilingtrackhoists.htm>

3. Accident Incident Reporting - Riddor Reportable Injuries and Incidents

The Health and Safety Executive has produced an information sheet (hsis1) to clarify how the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) apply to the health and social care sector. RIDDOR requires employers and others to report certain types of injury, some occupational diseases and dangerous occurrences that 'arise out of or in connection with work'. Generally, this covers incidents associated in some way with work activities, equipment or environment, including how work is carried out, organised or supervised.

RIDDOR reports enable HSE or local authorities to identify where and how health and safety risks arise, reveal trends and help target activities. A significant purpose of RIDDOR is to alert enforcing authorities to events and help them to decide whether to investigate serious incidents. HSIS1 can be downloaded from the link below. Note Section 4. The requirement to report collapse of hoist or overturning as a dangerous occurrence.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsis1.pdf>

The LCC accident and incident reporting system is detailed on the link below.

PO3 system - <http://george/section.asp?docId=31631> (NHS staff to refer to the DATEX system)

Accidents occurring in the community involving hoists can be notified to key workers using the Community Incident Form which is issued in the Hoist Information Pack to users. See G12 Appendix G <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/jobs/manuals/health-and-safety-manual/hazards/moving-and-handling-people?tab=downloads>

All accidents and incidents should be investigated seeking support from the organisation's Backcare Adviser/Moving and Handling team where necessary.

4. Weighing Scales

The ICES Team have recently worked with members of the ICES Interagency Management Group to revise the Weighing Scales Service Request Form. The new Form has replaced the previous version and must be completed and submitted to the ICES Team for all new requests for the weighing scales.

The new Form includes guidance notes for prescribers and users - these instructions must be followed. Key points to note:

- Failure to complete the required sections of the form will result in the form being returned to the Prescriber to complete, as required
- The Weighing Scales must be used and be available for collection by NRS on the collection date provided by the ICES Team / NRS. If the scales have not been used within this timescale, a new form will need to be completed and submitted to the ICES Team
- The Prescriber is responsible for informing the Client / family member(s) that the weighing scales must not be used until the Prescriber is present
- Risk assessments (ie in relation to moving, handling and transportation of the equipment) are necessary, particularly where the Prescriber intends to collect the weighing scales from the NRS warehouse and take them to the Client's home

If you require further assistance or clarification on the this bulletin or have information you would like to share with readers please contact:

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