

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MARCH 2004

269. Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992

The Committee have recently had cause to discuss the application of the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 to operators and attendants on amusement devices.

The discussion revolved around those devices, and there are a few, where staff become involved in lifting children into their seats. According to the circumstances, such as frequency of lifting and duration of shifts, etc., it is feasible that this work might cause health problems.

The Regulations were introduced with a view to reducing such work-related problems and, even now, something like a third of all over-three-day injuries reported each year to HSE and local authorities are caused by manual handling. While most of the reported accidents cause back injury, hands, arms and feet are also vulnerable.

When operators or attendants are required to carry out some manual handling tasks, employers have a duty to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to health. Associated Health and Safety Executive guidance provides an explanation of a "filter" to screen out cases which may not require a detailed assessment. That is to say, the "filter" is a simple method of checking whether to consider the matter more deeply.

Although the Regulations date from 1992, a second edition of the guidance publication was issued in 1998 - *Manual Handling. Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992. Guidance on Regulations*; L23 ; HSE Books 1998; ISBN 0 7176 2415 3. Reference should be made to this 50+ page book for more detailed advice, including an Appendix on the subject of the "filter" mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

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