

Safety News

SR SAFETY SOLUTIONS



SR Safety Solutions
Health & Safety Consultancy



HSE Site inspections across Great Britain focus on moving and handling materials

As part of a health inspection initiative supported by the 'Work Right Construction: Your health. Your future' campaign.

The campaign is raising awareness of health issues in relation to moving and handling materials to improve the long-term health of those working in construction.

Starting on **September 4th 2023**, site inspections focusing on moving and handling construction materials will be checking employers and workers know the risks, plan their work and are using sensible control measures to protect workers from injuries and aches, pain and discomfort in joints, muscles and bones known as musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).



An estimated 40,000 construction workers suffered work-related MSDs last year. These injuries can have a serious impact on workers' ability to perform tasks; their quality of life; and in some cases, their ability to stay in work and earn a living. Many can and do suffer from long-term pain and discomfort.

Act now to protect workers' health

Employers have a legal responsibility to protect workers from ill health and should involve them in managing the risks to their health just as they would with safety.

Workers should not have to accept these injuries and potential long-term suffering as an inevitable part of construction work. They should talk to their employer about the risks and the measures in place to protect their health.

Things to consider:

- Use mechanical means first utilise Cranes, Forklifts and pallet trucks to move loads.
- Minimise double handling by arranging deliveries close to the working area(s) use barrows or trolleys to maneuver blocks.
- Operatives to be briefed as part of induction and risk assessment process
- Only lift within your personal capabilities inform management if items are too heavy for you.
- Take regular breaks to prevent static muscle movements and poor posture. E.g., stooping, twisting
- Refer to the Manual Handling assessments for specific tasks within your RAMS
- Ensure workers are aware of the Manual Handling risks and the controls to avoid injury

Source HSE News Bulletin Service

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