



Factsheet – Roll and Reel Handling

Purpose of Document

Safer more efficient handling of rolls and reels is now possible following the introduction of a number of specialised trucks and attachments. This factsheet is not intended as a comprehensive guide but simply as an introduction to some recent innovations.

The Manual Handling Regulations

Whilst no specific safe lifting weights are specified, 25kgs for a male and 15kgs for a female are often cited. However, these are not rules but guidelines and depend not only on the individuals own capabilities and the dimensions of the load but also how it is to be lifted. When handling reels, particularly at the end of a production line, twisting, stretching and reaching are often necessary. This can dramatically increase the risk of injury.

Safer More Efficient Handling

The introduction of equipment to improve manual handling operations is initially often considered to reduce productivity although in reality the opposite is often the case. Consider the scenario where female operatives find it necessary to call a male colleague to change a reel. Two people are interrupted and delayed causing twice the productivity loss.

Further savings may be possible by using larger reels with the appropriate handling equipment and reducing the number of changes although this is obviously dependent on the production equipment.

Lifters – with capacities from 50kgs to 1000kgs there's almost certainly one to suit any application. For lower weights, maybe up to 300kgs, powered lift and manual traction should suffice but above this powered traction will almost certainly be necessary. A vast range of attachments are available.

Single spindle – this simplest of all attachments passes into the core of the reel allowing it to be lifted and pushed onto a cantilevered mandrel. Can handle any range of external diameters.

Twin spindle – a useful alternative to the single spindle in that with the reel in position, the lifter can be pushed from behind to load the reel onto a cantilevered mandrel thereby eliminating any twisting that may be necessary with a single spindle.

Vertical spindle – if reels are delivered with the core vertical, this ingenious device allows the reel to be lifted, rotated and then used like a single spindle.

Tray or rotary attachment – if the application requires a loose mandrel to be inserted then these can be used hold and then lower the reel into position.

Clamp – has all the advantages of the tray but also allows the reel to be lifted and rotated.

Bespoke attachments – reel handling applications differ widely and whilst minor design changes to the models shown above will often suffice, bespoke models are available for more difficult problems.

Conclusion

Careful product selection and regular maintenance are likely to reduce lifetime cost, improve efficiency and assist with legal compliance. We offer free independent advice and we will of course be pleased to discuss any of the issues raised, or you can visit our website at www.hallmark-direct.co.uk

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