



Factsheet – Stairclimbers

Purpose of Document

Moving items up and down stairs can be a hazardous activity but if no realistic alternatives e.g. lifts are available, then mechanical aids may be helpful. This factsheet is not intended as a comprehensive guide but simply as an introduction to some recent innovations. It cannot replace professional advice and a thorough Risk Assessment.

The Manual Handling Regulations

These regulations apply not only to loads that are lifted but also to those that are pushed, pulled or carried, a fact which is sometimes overlooked. Moving loads on stairs can involve all three and so particular care should be taken with the Risk Assessment.

Safer More Efficient Handling

Operations of this type can possibly be considered in two categories – regular journeys e.g. moving stationery supplies, cleaning materials etc and one off movements e.g. moving a heavy safe.

In the latter case it may be prudent to involve a specialist company equipped with specialist equipment and the necessary experience. This factsheet is therefore directed towards the movement of smaller, more regular operations.

Manual or Powered?

Manual stairclimbers are fitted with a tri-wheel arrangement which assists the operator when moving loads up or downstairs but as the motive power and braking is provided by the operator, these are really only suitable for the lightest of loads.

Powered units use a variety of clever systems to power the unit up – and equally important – down the stairs. However, in order to stop the unit pulling the operator forward or pushing him/her backwards the positioning of the load to place the centre of gravity centrally, is critical.

Models vary in their carrying capacity and the stated figure must never be exceeded. There may be a temptation to specify a capacity far greater than that which is actually required – the ‘just in case’ syndrome – but this is likely to add unnecessary cost.

Whilst loads may be carried loose on a sack truck, the load must be secured firmly with a stairclimber to ensure that it doesn't move thereby shifting the centre of gravity.

The size of toe plate will be determined by the size of load but various options are available.

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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