



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2004

SUBJECT: ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FROM THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of a recent change in the guidance issued by the H.S.E., on the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A minor change to the Regulations, following pressure from the European Union, has brought about an amendment to the guidance issued.
- 2.2 The revised document includes information, which takes account of improved knowledge of the risks associated with manual handling and how to avoid them.
- 2.3 The factors which could put an employee at risk have been extended to include those who:-
- i) Are physically unsuited to carry out the task or operation,
 - ii) Are wearing unsuitable clothing, footwear or other personal effects and,
 - iii) Do not have adequate or appropriate knowledge or training.

3. FUTURE GUIDANCE

- 3.1 Following a project, undertaken by the Health & Safety Laboratory, to identify the risks associated with the pushing and pulling of heavy loads, further updates on H.S.E. guidance on the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992, are expected.
- 3.2 The conclusions of the project report recommend that:-
- i) The force necessary to start and stop a load are limited to 20 kgs for men and 15 kgs for women and,
 - ii) Where critical risk factors such as uneven floors, confined spaces, kerbs and trapping hazards are present, a detailed pushing and pulling risk assessment is undertaken.
- 3.3 The report suggests that the competency required to assess a pushing and pulling will be greater than that required to assess a lifting and carrying operation.
- 3.4 The possibility of further training for some assessors will to be considered following the publishing of the amended guidance.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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