

Risk assessment in manual handling by Gabriel Ip

Learning objective: To understand the factors affecting risk

www.ucel.ac.uk/rlos/risk_assessment/

1 Introduction

Manual handling of loads can be hazardous irrespective of the techniques used. So you need to be aware of some of the factors that make handling "risky". This will also help you to make effective decisions when faced with a handling situation

2 Task, Individual Capacity, Load & Environment

When faced with a situation which requires manual handling, you are invited to ask yourself a number of questions. They require only a yes/no answer. The more "yes"s given, the higher the risk. If all questions could be answered "no", then the handling would suggest no risks. But in moving and handling a patient, it is impossible to respond "no" to all the questions asked.

The questions are grouped under 4 categories, using the TILE acronym:

TILE stands for Task, Individual capacity, Load & Environment.

3 The TILE questions

Task:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You're holding the object at a distance from the trunk? 2. Is there any twisting in your movement? 3. Is there any bending in your posture? 4. Is there a risk of sudden movement of load? 5. Does it require frequent or prolonged physical effort? 6. Does it occur frequently? 7. Does it occur repetitively? 	Yes	No
Individual capacity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the job require unusual height or strength? 2. Does it put at risk those who are pregnant/have health problems? 3. Does it require special knowledge or training to be done safely? 	Yes	No
Load	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is heavy? 2. Is it bulky? 3. Is it difficult to grasp? 4. Is it unstable or with content likely to shift? 5. Is it sharp? 6. Is it hot? 	Yes	No
Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there insufficient space? 2. Is there an uneven, slippery or unstable floor? 3. Are there variations in levels of floors or work surfaces? 4. Is the temperature too extreme? 5. Is it poorly lit? 	Yes	No

4 TILE assessment

1. Can you give some examples when TILE questions may be useful?
2. What does it mean if TILE questions yield a lot of "yes" answers?
3. Is it possible that TILE questions yield only "no" answers?

Answers:

1. TILE questions are useful when you're faced with a manual handling situation.
2. The more "yes" answers, the greater the risk.
3. No. Not when you're handling a patient.

5 Resources

THE MANUAL HANDLING OPERATIONS REGULATIONS 1992 URL: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/56-1.htm>

Institution : Health and Safety Executive

Summary: The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (MHO) came into force on 1 January 1993. This circular highlights the key issues for inspection and enforcement by local authority enforcement officers.

This doc last updated: 17/8/04 9:30