

## Safe Patient Handling Equipment Checks

Ensure you use the proper equipment and appropriate attachments (e.g., slings, harnesses, belts) for the task being performed.

Prior to using the equipment, examine all lift support systems:

- slings - look for any signs of wear, frayed material or weak stitching
- straps, chains and hooks - look for wear and ensure hooks will not detach during use
- wheels, castors - ensure they are in good condition and free to move; check for debris/lint in wheels
- screws, nuts - ensure all are in place, tight and free from rust

After using the equipment, examine all lift support systems again to help to ensure that it is safe for the next use.

If you find a lift or accessory (e.g., sling, harness) that is in need of repair - do not use it! Put an “out of service” tag on the lift or accessory; remove it from use. Report and document this identified risk according to your facility’s policy and procedure. Tell your manager, supervisor or occupational health committee. Don’t wait for it to become an incident...STOP it before it does.

Ensure proper selection of slings and other lift accessories is specific for the equipment being used. In addition, refer to the manufacturer’s guidelines and secure the appropriate written permission/authorization from the manufacturer if interchanging slings and/or accessories is being considered.

Ensure that the accessory is suitable for the client and the task being performed, and is of the appropriate size and strength for the size and weight of the client.

Make sure not to exceed the overall maximum rated load for the lift.

When using a sling, ensure that the client’s limbs are properly placed as per the manufacturer’s instructions in order to help secure the client.

Ensure that any belts and/or restraining devices used to secure the client are sufficiently tight.

Depending upon the manufacturer’s guidelines, you may need to ensure that the base of the lift is kept as wide open as possible to maintain its overall stability. If the width of the base must be reduced in order to go through a doorway (e.g., from the client’s room to the washroom), ensure it is re-opened afterwards.

Some lifts may become unstable if they are pushed and pulled by the jib or mast; always use the device’s handles designed for this purpose.

Check to ensure the manufacturer’s regular maintenance schedule is followed and documented and the facility maintenance procedures are performed and up to date.

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### Safety Talk Discussion

**Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!**