



Safe Work Practice No.1

September 2002

Power Roof Hoists

- Only qualified roofers trained in the operation of a roof hoists shall assemble and operate a power roof hoist.
- The hoist shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A qualified mechanic shall make repairs or replace any damaged components prior to hoist use.
- Ensure the roof decking and structure can support the hoist, its counterweights and intended loads.
- Assemble hoist away from the roof edge and move into place after assembly is complete.
- Place the hoist away from overhead electrical wires.
- Avoid placing hoist over building access points such as at doorways and walkways.
- Place hoists only on flat or near level roofing systems.
- Install guardrails on each side of the hoist frame at unguarded roof edges.
- Inspect hoist and cable prior to operation, ensure all connecting pins, hydraulic hoses and hardware are tightened and secure.
- Use an appropriate counterweight system specified by the hoist manufacturer and maintain proper counterweight to load ratio at all times. Never use roofing materials as a substitute for the counterweight system.
- Be certain that all hoist safety guards are in place before starting engine.
- Do not attempt to make adjustments while hoisting equipment is in operation.
- When re-fuelling, shut off engine, allow to cool and remove fuel container from work area. If fuel is spilled, clean up the excessive fuel before restarting the engine.
- Identify loading/unloading areas, barricade and clear areas of any obstructions.

- Do not allow nonessential workers in the loading area or near the hoist. Do not allow anyone to stand or pass under the load at anytime.
- Do not exceed hoist's rated load capacity. Avoid sudden acceleration or deceleration of the load while hoisting.
- Use tag lines to control loads, avoid reaching over the roof edge.
- Wear personal protective equipment while loading and operating the hoist.
- Guard all roof openings.
- Do not operate a hoist when impaired by alcohol or other drugs.
- Shut off the engine when the hoist is left unattended.