

The Crane, Hoist and Monorail Alliance



Safety Tips Sheet No. 8: Alternatives to Manual Handling of Individual Containers. Providing alternatives to manual handling of loads can improve the workflow and reduce operator fatigue and avoid possible injury.

This is the 8th in a series of Safety Tips Sheets developed by the Crane, Hoist and Monorail Alliance concerning safe moving of loads. The content of this series was developed by Ergonomic Assist Systems and Equipment (EASE), which is a Council in the Material Handling Industry of America.

Once a work place hazard is identified, there are several solutions that can be incorporated to improve the workflow and work place safety.

Alternatives to Manual Handling of Individual Containers:

- Manual Floor Solutions
 - use a cart or platform truck
 - use a portable scissor lift
 - use a conveyor, slide or chute
 - use a lifter, hydraulic or air-powered
- Storage Systems
 - use a vertical or horizontal carousel to bring parts to the operator
 - use a tilter or powered lift
- Overhead Solutions
 - use a hoist, vacuum lift or load balance
 - mounted to a workstation crane

For additional information and safe lifting practices, please refer to links in the MHIA website <http://www.mhia.org/> . The Ergonomics Guidelines for Manual Material Handling provides illustrations for the safe alternatives to manual handling of individual containers. For a complete copy published by the EASE Council, please visit www.mhia.org/ease.

Through the OSHA and Crane, Hoist and Monorail Alliance, the Alliance participants developed this Tip Sheet for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. 3/2008