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Target Audience:
FOD Inspectors

MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS (MSD) RISKS FROM MANUAL HANDLING OF TV SETS

In response to continual allegations and evidence that this activity is one with particularly high risks, this SIM outlines some background to the problem and describes one particularly effective type of handling aid.

1. It is now accepted that MSD risks from manual handling of TV sets during repair is a serious problem. This is borne out by the number of law suits brought by TV engineers for injuries suffered through lifting and carrying TV sets, and by a very vigorous campaign led by one engineer (for details, see [Back Injury in the Television Trade](#)).
2. The TV repair industry has shrunk massively over the years but lifting and carrying of sets is still widespread. With the growth in large sets even more problems can arise and opinion generally in this country and elsewhere is that proper handling techniques are essential to prevent injury or progressive long- term damage, as for any MSD problem.
3. A specific manual handling aid, the Telelift, has recently re-emerged and can be seen at [Lifting Logistics](#). It was developed in Australia and has already been adopted by several TV manufacturers and many repair companies in Britain. It and its predecessor from the 1970s attract high praise from the Todd campaign, and from many TV engineers who have contacted the campaign. Marcus Jones Servicing distributes it in the UK.
4. HSE is aware of one other similar device, the liftM8 sold by Advanced Handling ([Advanced Handling](#)). Both devices operate in exactly the same fashion. Telelift and Advanced Handling are in dispute over allegations of breach of patent but at present both are still advertised.
5. Both devices cost only a few hundred pounds and although this can appear expensive to smaller employers, many businesses have already recognised that this sum is insignificant compared to the costs to the business of lost time and damages arising from back injury.
6. All inspectors dealing with any complaints or notifications of accidents or ill health arising from the TV repair industry should be aware of the strong network that the Todd campaign has generated and of the widespread sense of grievance at the way they have been treated.
7. Several recent indications are that employers now take a more positive approach to preventing this sort of harm, though some industry claims over what is still acceptable have

appeared rather dubious when compared to current HSE guidelines. Controlling the activities of off-site staff is always more difficult than, say, workshop staff and inspectors should address this during any interventions at employer sites. As HSE is the enforcing authority when employees are outside the premises, local authority officers should work with HSE staff if any formal enforcement in relation to this is anticipated.

8 New guidance from the MSD programme on use of handling aids is expected shortly and use of purpose designed TV handling equipment should be promoted in line with the general advice there on use of handling aids.

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