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Target Audience:  
All FOD Inspectors

## **INDUSTRY GUIDANCE TACKLING THE RISKS OF MANUAL HANDLING INJURIES IN TYRE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY: A PRACTICAL GUIDE.**

This SIM informs Inspectors of a guide, entitled **Tackling the risks of manual handling injuries in tyre collection and delivery: A practical guide**. It was produced and published in May 2005 by a partnership of trade associations, trades unions and HSE. It is aimed at all employers who are involved in collecting, delivering, despatching and receiving new and used vehicle tyres and provides practical guidance on how to assess and reduce the risks of musculoskeletal injuries from manual handling of vehicle tyres during collection and delivery.

### BACKGROUND

1 New and used vehicle tyres, particularly tyres for commercial and agricultural vehicles, can be heavy and awkward to handle especially when they are being delivered to premises or loaded onto vehicles ready for despatch from premises. Case study visits by ergonomists from the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to premises in the tyre retreading, storage, distribution and retail sectors have indicated that the manual handling risks can be high. Anecdotal evidence from businesses involved in tyre collection activities point to the potential for high levels of musculoskeletal injuries and sickness absence among employees if the risks are not assessed and controlled properly.

2 In the light of this evidence the Rubber Industry Advisory Committee (RUBIAC) to the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) assembled a working group of representatives from HSE, HSL, Local Authorities, National Tyre Distributors Association, British Rubber Manufacturers Association, Retread Manufacturers Association and the trades unions TGWU, GMB and Amicus to consider the issues and prepare an industry guide.

3 The guide, a copy of which is included as a pdf file at the annex to this SIM, includes a series of case studies showing typical tyre handling operations during collection and/or delivery of tyres from/to premises in the tyre retail, distribution and retreading sectors. For each operation the manual handling risks are compared with

the risk criteria published in INDG 383 **Manual Handling Assessment Charts (the MAC tool) or L23 Guidance on the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended)**. In each case the higher risk tasks involved in each operation are discussed and practical ways in which the risk of injury can be reduced are suggested.

4 The guide also contains simple practical guidance on manual handling training while at the same time making it clear that training should not be used as a substitute for avoiding hazardous manual handling operations as far as is reasonably practicable or reducing the risk of injury as far as is reasonably practicable through provision of a suitable working environment and methods of work.

5 The guide places particular emphasis on the fact that when a visiting driver is present at premises to collect or deliver tyres the site is a shared workplace. In these circumstances the duties under Regulation 11 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require the employer who operates the site and the driver's employer to cooperate with each other, particularly in relation to assessing the manual handling risks, and to coordinate the measures that each employer takes to eliminate or control the manual handling risks.

#### STATUS OF THE GUIDE

6 The contents of the guide are not, in themselves, legal requirements. Nor is the guide an approved code of practice. Employers are free to take other action to meet their legal obligations under the Regulations. The guide, and the risk control measures described in it, do however represent the consensus view of the organisations that participated in preparing the guide.

#### ADVICE TO INSPECTORS

7 When Inspectors visit businesses involved in fitting, retailing, storing and distributing tyres or businesses engaged in tyre manufacturing and retreading, road haulage or servicing of buses, coaches and other public service vehicles they should, when considering manual handling risks, include consideration of the risks involved in manual handling vehicle tyres during collection and delivery. Inspectors will wish to draw the guide to the attention of employers in appropriate circumstances and may use the guide themselves to help them judge whether employers have avoided hazardous manual handling operations so far as reasonably practicable and whether they have properly assessed hazardous manual handling operations that cannot be avoided and reduced the risk of injury so far as is reasonably practicable.

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## **ANNEX**

Collection and Delivery of Tyres

Tackling the risk of Manual Handling Injuries: A Practical Guide