

Plasterboard Handling Methods - Musculoskeletal Injuries

The Problem/Challenge

Lack of information about board weights for operatives. Wide range – from jobbing builders to specialist drylining contractors but mainly sub-contract site operatives injured. Sites driven by cost – not by considerations of Health and Safety – speed rules! Board handling is part of the project delivery, and to be considered by all stakeholders.

The Risks

Operatives are taking excessive risks lifting boards. Operatives treat musculoskeletal injury as a risk that you take and can't be avoided. Musculoskeletal damage is occurring without being identified. Operatives have a shortened working life, and families suffer.

The Solution

Boards to have heavy lifting symbols or weights attached, specifically can highlight the key issues to contractors. Progress through working together to find approaches that work. The designer can encourage good working practices and mechanical moving and lifting aides, hoists, goods lifts, in drawings, specifications, and red, amber, green lists, etc. This is a generic industry issues that needs a collaborative response by all duty holders and worker engagement.

The Benefits

Better plasterboard installations with more motivated operatives, and increased productivity. Longer working life of operatives and skills retention. Reduces risk to companies against future injury claims.

Key Points

Work with the stakeholders to jointly develop an approach to reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injury. Safeguard the health of individuals working with boards by mechanical aides or good lifting practices.



Half boards and Equipment

