

# Plasterboard Handling – Contract Design Stage



## The Problems / Challenges

- 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 Musculo-Skeletal injury as a risk that can't be avoided.
- Musculo-Skeletal damage is occurring with-out being identified.
- Operatives have a shortened working life.



*Trolley*



*Mobile Board Lift*



*Support Frame*



*Lightweight Prop*

## The Solution

Boards to have heavy lifting symbols attached. 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.

Half size boards can be a good solution provided multiple boards are not lifted.

## 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 on all projects.
- Safeguard the health of individuals working with boards by mechanical aides or good lifting practices. Attach heavy lifting symbols where necessary or use half size boards.
- Designers can help by identifying heavy units that are required in the design and request appropriate lifting proposals in the Tender & Construction Phase Plan.

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