

Generic Risk Assessment 250430 rev.5

Written by Brod Mason, Project Manager, Steeldeck Enterprises, 21-Nov-25

Task – Manual Handling of Steeldeck Platforms

Location – Generic

Job No. – 0000



Brod Mason



This Risk Assessment has now been adopted by the ABTT Association of British Theatre Technicians.

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/abtt-isg-gold-members-steeldeck-risk-assessment-for-platform-decks/>

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/resources/abtt-isg-gold-members-steeldeck-risk-assessment-for-platform-decks/>

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Steeldeck-Manual-Handling-Risk-Assess-250430r5-ABTT.pdf>

NB: This document is a generic risk assessment and the red text in the document below is where we would expect the user to alter as required, in fact we would expect the user to alter any of this document to suit their situation, as well as the document header. An editable DOCX version is available from brod.mason@steeldeckuk.com

The tables that follow will help to give each hazard a RISK RANKING.

Likelihood	Risk Score	Consequences
Remote-Would not happen in 5 years	1	Minor Injury
Unlikely – Would not happen in 2-3 years	2	Lost time injury/illness
Likely – Would expect to happen once a year	3	Serious injury disablement
Very Likely – Could occur 2 or 3 times a year	4	Death
Certainly – Likely to happen at any moment	5	Multiple fatality

Calculate the risk by multiplying the Consequences and Likelihood scores.

Risk = Likelihood x Consequences

For each of the hazards identified, enter the scores for the likelihood and consequences on forms below and multiply to give the risk score.

Risk Score	Risk Ranking	Action Required
1-2	Trivial	No further action is required, and no records need to be kept.
3-6	Low Risk	No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to more cost-effective solutions or improvement that imposes no additional cost burden. Monitoring is required to ensure that the controls are maintained.
7-11	Medium Risk	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk, but the costs of prevention should be carefully measured and limited. Risk reduction measures should be implemented. Where a moderate risk is associated with extremely harmful consequences, further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures.
12-16	High Risk	Work should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may need to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves work in progress, urgent action will need to be taken.
17-25	Very High Risk	Work should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce the risk even with unlimited resources, work has to remain prohibited.

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Assessment No.	250430r4-03	Persons Exposed	Operatives, Other Contractors, Public, Young People, Pregnant Women
Description	Manual Handling of platforms		
Guidance Applicable	HSE Manual Handling - INDG143, HSE Manual handling assessment charts (the MAC tool) INDG383, HSE Risk assessment of pushing and pulling (RAPP tool) INDG478		

Before Controls				
Hazard	Likelihood (A)	Consequences (B)	Risk Score (AxB)	Risk Ranking
Back injuries, sprains & strains, and crushing	3	3	9	Medium

Control Measures in Place	Additional Controls Required
Physical Standard 8x4 platforms weigh 70Kg and have ample holding points, are a regular shape, with no sharp edges, making them a 2-person lift. Platforms should be lifted for shortest possible time, and where possible platforms to be moved on pallets using pump truck, or single platforms wheeled on dollies or Deck Trolleys	none <i>Steeldeck platforms come in many sizes smaller than 8'x4' which will be lighter and easier to handle, and this whole assessment can be adjusted accordingly.</i>
Personal Protective Equipment Full site PPE (see Method Statement) inc. Hand Protection Steel Toe footwear	none
Procedural Method Statement, Correct lifting techniques, If an operative thinks the lift is too heavy for them, they do not need to do it. Check route before lifting for obstructions and trip hazards, Handling to be carried out in exclusion zones from the public	none
Are there any Special Assessments for this activity in addition to this General Assessment? If so what type and Assessment Number(s)?	RM 31a Manual Handling Assessment (Lifting & Carrying) HSE Manual handling assessment charts (the MAC tool) RM 31c Manual Handling Assessment (Pushing & Pulling) HSE Risk assessment of pushing and pulling (RAPP tool)

After Controls				
Hazard	Likelihood (A)	Consequences (B)	Risk Score (AxB)	Risk Ranking
Back injuries, sprains & strains, and crushing	1	3	3	Low

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RM 31a Manual Handling Assessment (Lifting and Carrying)

Hazard Identified	Back injuries, sprains & strains, and crushing
Assessment No.	250430r4-03-A
Associated General Assessment No.	250430r4-03
Brief Description	Moving and handling of individual Steeldeck platforms
Persons Exposed	Operatives

Risk Factors to Consider		✓ or *	Comment/ Possible Solution
Do the Tasks involve:	Holding loads away from the trunk?	No	Platforms have ample holding points, are a regular shape, with no sharp edges, and can be carried close to torsos
	Twisting?	No	
	Reaching upwards?	Rarely	
	Large vertical movements?	No	
	Long carrying distances?	No	
	Strenuous pushing or pulling?	No	
	Unpredictable movements of loads?	No	
	Repetitive handling?	No	
	Insufficient rest or recovery?	No	
	A work rate imposed by a process?	No	
Are the Loads:	Heavy?	Yes	Standard 8x4 platform 70Kg
	Bulky/ unwieldy?	No	
	Difficult to grasp?	No	
	Unstable/ unpredictable?	No	
	Intrinsically harmful?	No	
Consider the Environment- are there:	Constraints on body/positioning?	No	Route to be checked for obstructions & trip hazards
	Poor floors?	Maybe	
	Variations in level?	Slight	
	Hot/ cold/ humid conditions?	No	
	Strong air movements?	No	
	Poor lighting?	No	
Consider Individual Capacity- does the job	Require unusual capacity?	No	
	Pose a risk to those with health problems?	No	
	Pose a risk to pregnant women?	Yes	
	Call for special information/ training?	No	
Other factors	Movement restricted by PPE?	No	See main RA for PPE
	Correct PPE being worn?	Yes	
	Planning/ rest breaks?	OK	
	Changes in workload?	No	
	Enough training and information?	Yes	
	Exclusion zone?	Yes	

Precautions in Place	Additional Measures Needed
Multiple crew booked to ensure team lifting, correct PPE available, decks may have lifting points.	

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HSE Manual handling assessment charts (the MAC tool)

How to complete a MAC assessment

Note: Using the MAC may not comprise a 'suitable and sufficient' risk assessment. You may need to do a full risk assessment when certain conditions apply. Before you start your MAC assessment, **look at the checklist** on the score sheet to see if any of them apply to you. The Appendix of Manual handling (L23)* explains this in more detail.

G = GREEN - Low level of risk. Although the risk is low, consider the exposure levels for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, disabled, recently injured, young or inexperienced workers.

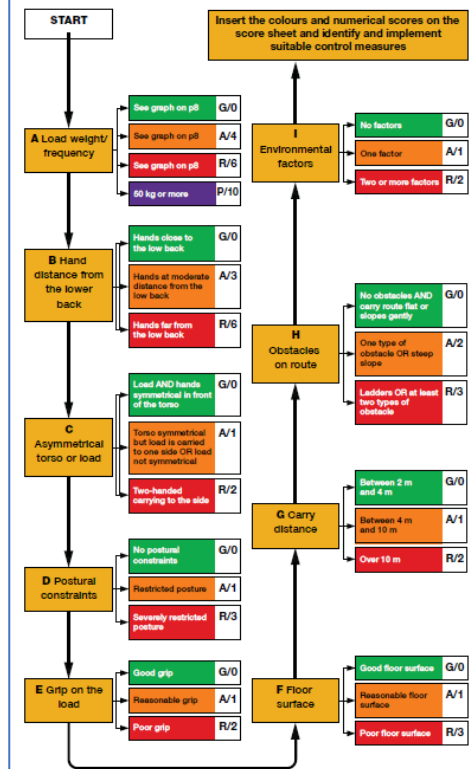
A = AMBER - Medium level of risk. Examine tasks closely.

R = RED - High level of risk. Prompt action needed. This may expose a significant proportion of the working population to risk of injury.

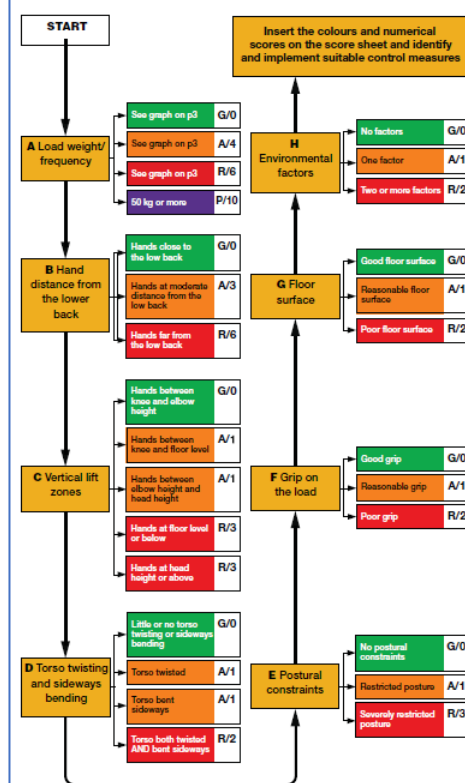
P = PURPLE - Unacceptable level of risk. Such operations may represent a serious risk of injury and must be improved.

- Identify the tasks to assess. Choose the ones that you know are hard work or that employees complain about.
- Consult employees and their representatives on the manual handling risks from their work and ways to manage and/or control these risks. See INDG232* for more information. Aim to gain insight into the demands of the job from the perspectives of all employees carrying out the task.
- Observe the task carefully (videoing may help) and make sure that you look at how it is normally done.
- Select the appropriate type of assessment (lifting, carrying or team handling). If a task involves lifting and carrying, consider both.
- Follow the appropriate assessment guide and flow chart to determine the level of risk for each risk factor. Always assess the worst-case scenario if unsure.
- Enter the colour bands and numerical scores on the score sheet and use them to identify which risk factors need to be examined and the total level of exposure to risk.
- An interactive score sheet is at www.hse.gov.uk/msd/mac/scoresheet.htm.
- Look for ways of modifying the task to reduce the red risk factors to amber or green and to reduce amber risk factors to green.
- If the individual does a number of tasks, assess each one separately.
- Prioritise action by addressing the task with the highest total score first. **The total scores do not relate to specific action levels.**

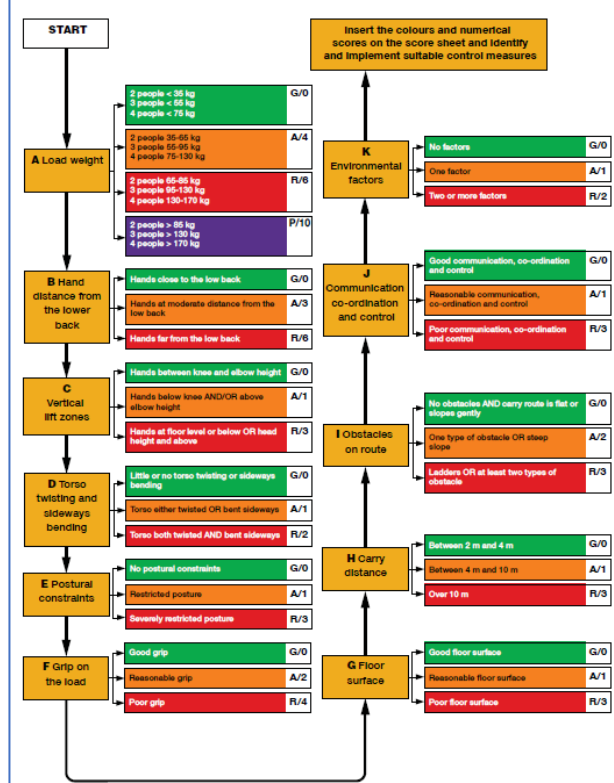
Carrying operations flowchart



Lifting operations flowchart



Team handling operations flowchart



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HSE Manual handling assessment charts (the MAC tool)

Hazard Identified	Back injuries, sprains & strains, and crushing
Assessment No.	250430r4-03-B
Associated General Assessment No.	250430r4-03
Brief Description	Moving and handling of individual Steeldeck platforms
Persons Exposed	Operatives

Risk Factors	Colour Band (Green, Amber, Red, or Purple) & Score			Possible Control Measures
	Lift	Carry	Team	
Load weight & frequency	6	6	6	Steeldecks always to be carried by 2 operatives. Team working should mean no one needs to do more than one lift/carry every 2 minutes.
Hand distance from lower back	3	3	3	Using table technique arms are kept close to side
Vertical lift zones	1	N/A	0	Decks should be lifted when they are on their sides. Decks to be stacked to maximum of 10
Torso twisting & sideways bending	1	N/A	1	Use table technique wherever possible (side carry such as this only for short distances)
Asymmetrical torso or load carrying	N/A	1	N/A	Use table technique wherever possible (side carry such as this only for short distances)
Postural constraints	0	0	0	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
Grip on the load	0	0	0	Steeldeck platforms provides many handholds, and Team Leaders to brief operatives
Floor surface	0	0	0	Operatives will always check the routes floor surface before starting to carry a deck. <i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
Carry Distance	N/A	0	0	Operative will not carry decks more than 4m, if a deck needs to be moved further it should be done on wheels
Obstacles on route	N/A	0	0	Operatives will always check the route for obstacles before starting to carry a deck. <i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
Communication, co-ordination and control	N/A	N/A	0	No large equipment to be moved during sound checks or tests, or in a very noisy environment
Environmental factors	0	0	0	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions such as temperature, strong air movement, or extreme lighting states.</i>
Total Scores	11	10	10	<i>The total scores do not relate to specific action levels</i>

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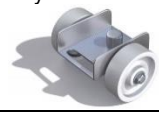


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RM 31b Manual Handling Assessment (Pushing and Pulling)

Hazard Identified	Back injuries, sprains & strains, and crushing
Assessment No.	250430r4-03-B
Associated General Assessment No.	250430r4-03
Brief Description	Moving and handling of individual Steeldeck platforms, and palettes of Steeldeck platforms (max10)
Persons Exposed	Operatives

Risk Factors to Consider		✓ or ✗	Comment/ Possible Solution
Do the Tasks involve:	High initial forces to get the load moving?	No	Single decks Max 100Kg, median 70Kg. Palettes of decks max 10 high, max 1000Kg, median 600Kg
	High forces to keep the load in motion?	Maybe	
	Sudden movement start or stop or manoeuvre the load?	No	
	Twisting/ manoeuvring of the load around obstacles?	No	
	One handed operations?	No	
	The hands below waist or above shoulder height?	No	
	Movement at high speed?	No	
	Movement over long distances?	No	
The Load or Object to be moved	Repetitive pushing/ pulling?	No	Palettes held together with ratchet straps. Palettes moved using pump trucks. Individual decks moved using Deck Trolleys 
	Does it lack good handholds?	No	
	Is it unstable/ unpredictable?	No	
	Is vision over/ under it restricted?	Maybe	
	<i>If on wheels/castors, are they:</i>		
	Unsuitable for the type of load or the floor or location?	No	
	Difficult to steer?	No	
	Easily damaged or defective?	No	
Consider the Environment- are there:	Without or poor breaks or difficult to stop?	No	Route to be checked for trip hazards
	Inadequately inspected/ maintained?	No	
	Constraints on body/positioning?	No	
	Confined spaces or narrow doorways?	No	
	Sharp surfaces that could cause cuts?	No	
	Rutted/ damaged/ slippery/ uneven or sloping floors?	No	
Consider Individual Capacity- does the	Trapping or tripping hazards?	Maybe	
	Poor lighting?	No	
	Hot/ cold/ humid conditions or Strong air movements?	No	
	Require unusual capacity?	No	
Other factors	Pose a hazard those with health problems?	No	See main RA for PPE
	Pose a hazard to pregnant women?	Yes	
	Call for special information/ training?	No	
	Movement hindered by PPE/ Correct PPE worn?	No	
	Are trolleys/ floor surfaces poorly maintained/ cleaned?	No	
	Planning/ rest breaks?	OK	
	Changes in workload?	No	
	Enough training/ information?	Yes	
	Exclusion zone?	Yes	

Precautions in Place	Additional Measures Needed
Multiple crew booked to ensure team moving, correct PPE available, single decks moved with Deck Trolleys, decks on palettes secured with ratchet straps and moved using pump trucks.	

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Brookline



HSE Risk assessment of pushing and pulling (the RAPP tool)

How to complete an assessment

- Spend some time observing the workers and the work activity to ensure that what you are seeing is representative of normal working practice. Always consider the 'worst-case scenario'.
- Consult employees and safety representatives during the assessment process. Where several people do the same activity, make sure you get the views of workers about the demands of the operation.
- Select the appropriate assessment (ie pushing and pulling wheeled equipment or pushing and pulling items without wheels). If both types occur, consider them separately.
- **Ensure you read the assessment guide before you make your assessment.**
- Follow the appropriate flow chart and assessment guide to determine the level of risk for each risk factor. The levels of risk are:

G = GREEN – Low level of risk

Although the risk is low, consider the effect on vulnerable groups such as pregnant women or young workers, where appropriate.

A = AMBER – Medium level of risk

Examine tasks closely.

R = RED – High or very high level of risk

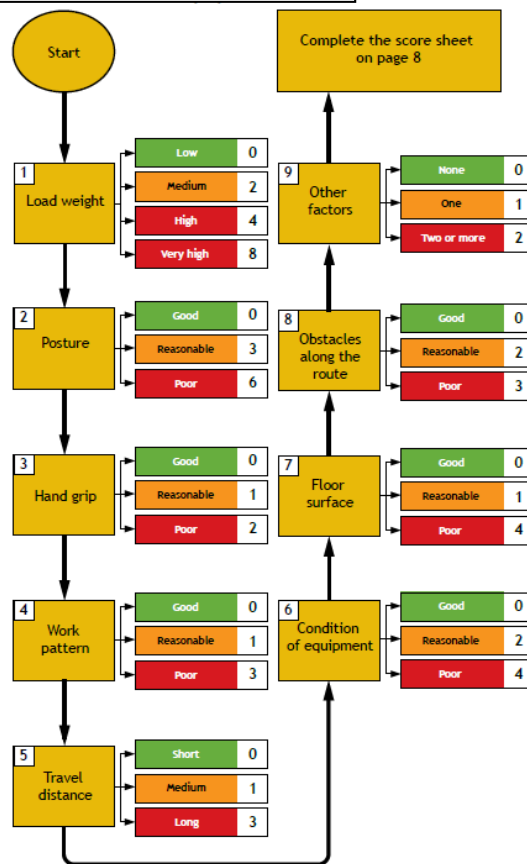
Prompt action needed. This may expose a significant proportion of the working population to risk of injury.

P = PURPLE – Unacceptable

Such operations may represent a serious risk of injury and must be improved.

- Enter the colour band and corresponding numerical score in the appropriate column of the score sheet. Enter the remaining task information asked for on the score sheet.
- Add up the scores to obtain the total score for the operation. The total scores help prioritise those activities/operations that need most urgent attention and help check the effectiveness of any risk-reduction measures. The colour bands help determine which risk factors of the operation require attention.
- The scores can be used for comparison purposes but the total scores do not relate to specific action levels.

Section A; On Wheels



Section B; without Wheels



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HSE Risk assessment of pushing and pulling with wheels (the RAPP tool)

Hazard Identified	Back injuries, sprains & strains, and crushing
Assessment No.	250430r4-03-D
Associated General Assessment No.	250430r4-03
Brief Description	With wheels Moving and handling of Stacked Steeldeck platforms up to 10 (700kg), on a wheeled deck or as a pallette with pump truck
Persons Exposed	Operatives

Are there indications that the operation is high risk? (strike through wrong answer)

The operation has a history of incidents (e.g. accident book, RIDDOR Reports)	Yes	No
The operation is known to hard or high risk work.	Yes	No
Operatives doing the work show signs that they are finding it hard (e.g. breathing heavily, red-faced, sweating)	Yes	No
Discussions with operatives doing the operation indicate that some aspects are difficult.	Yes	No
Other indications. If so, what?	Yes	No

Risk Factors	Colour Band (Green, Amber, Red, or Purple) & Score			Possible Control Measures
	Small	Medium	Large	
A-1 Load weight			2	Team working should mean no one needs to do more than one lift/carry every 2 minutes.
A-2 Postural			3	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
A-3 Hand Grip			1	Steeldeck platforms provides many handholds, and Team Leaders to brief operatives
A-4 Work Pattern			0	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
A-5 Travel Distance			1	Uprate score if more than 30m
A-6 Condition of Equipment			0	Operatives will always check the condition of Equipment before starting to move decks. Pallettes held together with ratchet straps
A-7 Floor surface			0	Operatives will always check the routes floor surface before starting to move decks. <i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
A-8 Obstacles on route			0	Operatives will always check the route for obstacles before starting to move decks. <i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
A-9 Other factors			0	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions such as temperature, strong air movement, or extreme lighting states.</i>
Total Scores	0	0	7	<i>The total scores do not relate to specific action levels</i>

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HSE Risk assessment of pushing and pulling without wheels (the RAPP tool)

Hazard Identified	Back injuries, sprains & strains, and crushing
Assessment No.	250430r4-03-E
Associated General Assessment No.	250430r4-03
Brief Description	Without wheels
Moving and handling of individual 8'x4' Steeldeck platforms (70kg)	
Persons Exposed	Operatives

Are there indications that the operation is high risk? (strike through wrong answer)		
The operation has a history of incidents (e.g. accident book, RIDDOR Reports)	Yes	No
The operation is known to hard or high risk work.	Yes	No
Operatives doing the work show signs that they are finding it hard (e.g. breathing heavily, red-faced, sweating)	Yes	No
Discussions with operatives doing the operation indicate that some aspects are difficult.	Yes	No
Other indications. If so, what?	Yes	No

Risk Factors	Colour Band (Green, Amber, Red, or Purple) & Score			Possible Control Measures
	Rolling	Churning	Dragging	
B-1 Load weight			4	Ideally deck would be moved using a trolley
B-2 Postural			3	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
B-3 Hand Grip			1	Steeldeck platforms provides many handholds, and Team Leaders to brief operatives
B-4 Work Pattern			0	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
B-5 Travel Distance			1	Uprate score if more than 10m
B-6 Floor surface			0	Operatives will always check the floor surface before starting to drag a deck. <i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
B-7 Obstacles on route			0	Operatives will always check the route for obstacles before starting to drag a deck. <i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions</i>
B-8 Other factors			0	<i>Adjust colour and score according to local conditions such as temperature, strong air movement, or extreme lighting states.</i>
Total Scores	0	0	9	<i>The total scores do not relate to specific action levels</i>