

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 33-14	Document Reference: AMG/F/HSQE/001
	Manual Handling	Issue Date: 28/10/14	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

As a follow up to the prohibition noticed served on 14th May 2014 with respect to the lifting and carrying of C143 concrete troughing, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) commissioned the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to undertake an independent assessment into the manual handling of concrete cable trough, focussing on the most commonly used sections, (C1-9).

In undertaking the assessment several examples of substandard manual handling techniques were observed. I am writing to remind you of your obligations under the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 which require employers to:

- avoid hazardous manual handling tasks, so far as is reasonably practicable;
- risk assess potential injury from manual handling that can't be avoided;
- reduce the risk posed by manual handling (e.g. by using lifting aids and mechanical devices, so far as is reasonably practicable).

Our construction teams will be undertaking specific activities over the next few weeks in order to assure ourselves that this risk is being managed as required by law.

Please ensure your site based teams are prepared to assist us when undertaking these checks.