

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

---

**GUIDE TO THE LIFTING AND  
MOVING OF PATIENTS**

**Part 2—SELECTION AND USE  
OF MECHANICAL AIDS  
FOR PATIENT LIFTING  
AND MOVING**

---

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee SF/21, Human Factors. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 2 November 1987 and published on 1 December 1987.

---

The following interests are represented on Committee SF/21:

Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy  
Australian Council of Furniture Manufacturers  
Australian National University  
Australian Physiotherapy Association  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
Department of Defence  
Department of Employment and Industrial Affairs, Qld.  
Department of Industrial Relations and Employment, N.S.W.  
Department of Labour and Industry, Tas.  
Department of Labour, S.A.  
Department of Labour, Vic.  
Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare, W.A.  
Industrial Design Council of Australia  
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia  
National Occupational Health and Safety Commission  
Royal Australian Institute of Architects  
Safety Institute of Australia  
Telecom Australia  
University of New South Wales

Additional interests participating in preparation of Standard:

Australian Association of Occupational Therapists  
Australian Chamber of Commerce  
Australian Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering  
Australian Medical Association  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Ergonomics Society of Australia and New Zealand Incorporated  
Institute of Ambulance Officers  
Institution of Biomedical Engineering  
Royal Australian Nursing Federation  
State Chamber of Commerce and Industry

---

**Review of Australian Standards.** To keep abreast of progress in industry, Australian Standards are subject to periodic review and are kept up to date by the issue of amendments or new editions as necessary. It is important therefore that Standards users ensure that they are in possession of the latest edition, and any amendments thereto.

Full details of all Australian Standards and related publications will be found in the Standards Australia Catalogue of Publications; this information is supplemented each month by the magazine 'The Australian Standard', which subscribing members receive, and which gives details of new publications, new editions and amendments, and of withdrawn Standards.

Suggestions for improvements to Australian Standards, addressed to the head office of Standards Australia, are welcomed. Notification of any inaccuracy or ambiguity found in an Australian Standard should be made without delay in order that the matter may be investigated and appropriate action taken.

---

*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 86166.*

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

---

**GUIDE TO THE LIFTING AND  
MOVING OF PATIENTS**

**Part 2—SELECTION AND USE  
OF MECHANICAL AIDS  
FOR PATIENT LIFTING  
AND MOVING**

---

First published as AS 2569.2 . . . . . 1987

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA  
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)  
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140

ISBN 0 7262 4780 4

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Human Factors under the supervision of the Safety Standards Board. It contains recommendations for the safe lifting and moving of patients with the aid of mechanical equipment, and incorporates guidelines to assist staff in the selection of appropriate patient-handling devices. This Standard does not include methods for safe manual lifting and moving of patients for which reference should be made to AS 2569.1, Guide to the Lifting and Moving of Patients, Part 1: Safe Manual Lifting and Moving of Patients.

In the preparation of this Standard, reference was made to the following documents:

- (a) BELL, Frank. Patient Hoist Biomechanics. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, January 1979.
- (b) BELL, Frank. Patient Lifting Devices in Hospitals, London and Sydney, Croom Helm Ltd, 1984.
- (c) TARLING, Christine. Hoists and Their Use, William Heineman Medical Books Ltd, London (in cooperation with the Disabled Living Foundation), 1980.

Acknowledgement is made of the assistance received from these sources.

---

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1 SCOPE .....	3
2 PURPOSE .....	3
3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	3
4 DEFINITIONS .....	3
5 SELECTION OF EQUIPMENT .....	4
6 MECHANICS OF HOISTS .....	6
7 STABILITY OF HOISTS ON SLOPES .....	8
8 CHOICE OF SLINGS AND SEATS .....	8
9 RECOMMENDED TRAINING .....	11
10 CARE OF PATIENT-LIFTING DEVICES AND ACCESSORIES .....	12
APPENDIX A. CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS OF TWO COMMON TYPES OF MOBILE HOISTS .....	13

© Copyright — STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Users of Standards are reminded that copyright subsists in all Standards Australia publications and software. Except where the Copyright Act allows and except where provided for below no publications or software produced by Standards Australia may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system in any form or transmitted by any means without prior permission in writing from Standards Australia. Permission may be conditional on an appropriate royalty payment. Requests for permission and information on commercial software royalties should be directed to the head office of Standards Australia.

Standards Australia will permit up to 10 percent of the technical content pages of a Standard to be copied for use exclusively in-house by purchasers of the Standard without payment of a royalty or advice to Standards Australia.

Standards Australia will also permit the inclusion of its copyright material in computer software programs for no royalty payment provided such programs are used exclusively in-house by the creators of the programs.

Care should be taken to ensure that material used is from the current edition of the Standard and that it is updated whenever the Standard is amended or revised. The number and date of the Standard should therefore be clearly identified.

The use of material in print form or in computer software programs to be used commercially, with or without payment, or in commercial contracts is subject to the payment of a royalty. This policy may be varied by Standards Australia at any time.

## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**GUIDE TO THE LIFTING AND MOVING OF PATIENTS**

**PART 2: SELECTION AND USE OF MECHANICAL AIDS FOR PATIENT LIFTING AND MOVING**

**1 SCOPE.** This Standard describes the factors to be considered in the selection and use of devices for the lifting and moving of patients. It sets out recommended practices to ensure as far as practicable the safety and health of persons performing lifting tasks and of the patients themselves.

**2 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Standard is—

- (a) to provide guidance for the staff of health care institutions in the selection, use, and care of lifting devices and accessories;
- (b) to improve the quality of patient care, to prevent the injury and fatigue of all persons involved in the lifting and moving of patients; and
- (c) to optimize the physical and psychological comfort of the patient being moved.

**3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The following Standards are referred to in this Standard:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| AS 1428   | Code of Practice for Design Rules for Access by the Disabled.                                      |
| AS 2569.1 | Guide to the Lifting and Moving of Patients<br>Part 1: Safe Manual Lifting and Moving of Patients. |

**4 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply:

**4.1 Accompanying documents** — documents accompanying lifting devices or accessories, containing all important information for the user, including operating instructions, parts list, and maintenance instructions.

**4.2 Instruction documents** — those parts of accompanying documents giving the necessary detailed information on the equipment to enable the user to operate the equipment properly and safely.

**4.3 Hazard** — a situation of potential risk of injury arising out of a patient-lifting, patient-transfer, or patient-moving process.

**4.4 Mobile hoists with slings** — mobile equipment on wheels for lifting, transferring, and moving patients in the seated, semi-seated, and supine positions. The body support unit consists of a supporting frame, spreader bar, and fabric sling or set of slings. (See Figure 1.)

**4.5 Mobile hoist with rigid seat** — mobile equipment on wheels for lifting, transferring, and moving patients in the sitting position. The body support unit consists of a rigid seat, e.g. one-piece moulded seat, and retaining straps or bars. (See Figure 2.)

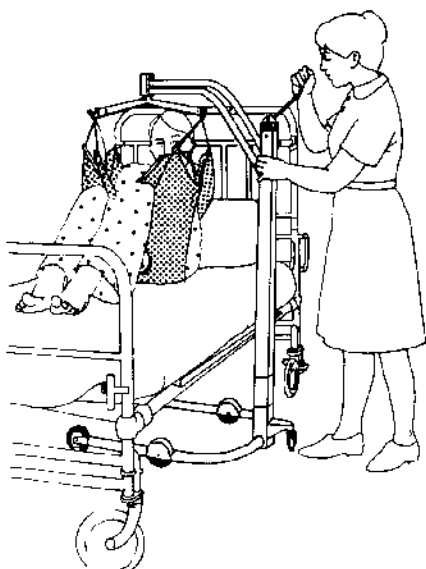


FIGURE 1. MOBILE HOIST WITH SLING

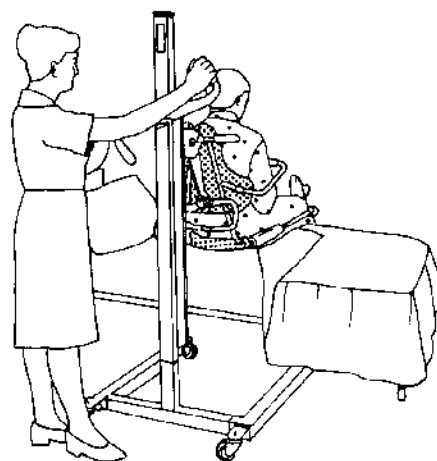


FIGURE 2. MOBILE HOIST WITH RIGID SEAT