What is the problem?
Manually lifting new passenger and 4WD tyres from one level to another (eg mezzanine levels) or transferring them to other locations (eg into/from racking).

What are the risks?
Manually lifting or lowering tyres may involve high force, bending, twisting and awkward postures. It can cause musculoskeletal injuries to the shoulder, lower back and knees.
The risk is increased by:
• lifting and lowering tyres above shoulder height and below knee level
• throwing tyres to and from elevated levels
• retrieving tyres that have become wedged in racking systems
• handling larger, heavier tyres
• undertaking stocktake and bulk delivery activities.

Operators should not climb up racking or over tyre stacks to access stored tyres.
Tyres should be controlled by an operator at all times.

What is a solution to the problem?
Reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries by:
• ensuring tyres stored above shoulder height can be stored/retrieved using appropriate access equipment and mechanical lifting aids
• using a storage conveyor to lift the tyres to mezzanine levels
• using a tyre chute to return tyres from mezzanine levels to the ground
• installing or using a purpose-built racking system that is spaced to ensure tyres don’t become wedged
• ensuring tyres are handled between knee and shoulder height.
Train workers in the safe operation of storage equipment and systems of work.
If these solutions are not practicable for you, talk to your suitably qualified occupational health and safety professional, industry association or union about other options.

Further Information
WorkSafe Advisory Service
Toll-free: 1800 136 089
Email: info@worksafe.vic.gov.au
worksafe.vic.gov.au

Relevant WorkSafe publications
Code of Practice for Manual Handling, 2000
Automotive Workshop Safety, 2004
Prevention of falls – Mezzanines, 2005
Manual Handling in the Automotive Industry, 2005

Related WorkSafe Health and Safety Solutions
• Wheel balancing
• Tyre changing
• Wheel dunking
• Fitting and removing wheels

(Health and Safety Solution continued overleaf)
A Health and Safety Solution

The problem

Worker is at risk of injury when manually lifting tyres, particularly tyres above shoulder height.

Worker is at risk of injury when throwing tyres to a higher level.

The solutions

Use a purpose-built racking and access system. The system of work should ensure that tyres are not thrown or handled above shoulder height and below knee level.

Use a loading/retrieval system to eliminate the need for manual lifting.