A Health and Safety Solution

Tyre fitting – Wheel balancing

What is the problem?
Manually lifting passenger and 4WD wheels onto/off the balancer.

What are the risks?
Lifting wheels on and off wheel balancing equipment by hand may involve high force to lift and manoeuvre the wheel. It also involves bending, reaching, sudden jerky movements and occurs many times during the day.

Most wheel balancing machines are at a fixed height, requiring wheels to be lifted from below mid-thigh height onto the spindle.

This can cause musculoskeletal injuries to the shoulder, lower back and knees. Injuries can occur suddenly or gradually over time.

The risk increases as the size/weight of the wheel increases.

What is a solution to the problem?
Reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries by using a mechanical lifting device to lift the tyre on and off the balancer.

Train workers in the safe operation of lifting equipment and in the systems of work.

If this solution is 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
Manual Handling in the Automotive Industry, 2005

Related WorkSafe Health and Safety Solutions
• Tyre changing
• Storage of new tyres
• Wheel dunking
• Fitting and removing wheels

The problem
Lifting the wheel from the floor onto the spindle involves high force, twisting and sudden jerky movements, and occurs many times per day.

A solution
Use integrated lifters to eliminate the need for manual lifting.