

TLR Safe Work Practice - Client Mechanical Lifts**TLR Safe Work Practice - Client Mechanical Lifts**

For TLR, mechanical client lifts include any mechanical device **designed to lift** a client. Safe use of mechanical lifts includes workers appropriately trained on use of mechanical lifts AND:

- preparation and planning to ensure the mechanical lift is operating as intended
- verification that the equipment has been regularly maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendation (including regular load testing)
- verification that the weight of the client does not exceed the lifting capacity of the equipment being used as determined by manufacturer
- proper selection, maintenance, use and application of the sling/harness; in TLR the mechanical lifting technique starts with the application of the sling/harness
- ensuring the room/pathway is clear of any obstacles
- ensuring the client meets the criteria for the selected technique
- ensuring the appropriate number of workers are present
- worker positioning to ensure safe body mechanics
- effective communication:
 - the "1-2-3-command"
 - with everyone involved in the move and throughout the entire moving technique
- stopping the moving task when any of the workers identify any risks that may jeopardize the safety of those involved in the moving task
- a Specialized client mobility risk assessment when considering the use of a lift for transportation when the lift was not designed for that purpose

NOTE: A total lift is intended to achieve lying to sitting, sitting to lying or to lift a client off the floor. A sit/stand lift is **not** intended for this purpose.

TLR mechanical lifting techniques are written for a minimum of two workers and begin with the application of the sling/harness. To ensure the safest move for everyone involved:

- the primary worker manages the client and leads communication with the client and worker(s). They also operate the mechanical lift controls or assign this task appropriately.
- the second worker takes direction from the primary worker. They manage the equipment and ensure it is working as intended.
- in addition, one or more assistants may be required to manage the equipment (e.g., bariatric) and/or attachments (e.g., intravenous) to ensure the safety of the moving task.

Deviation from using two workers with mechanical lifts requires a specialized client mobility risk assessment that is appropriately documented and communicated.

It is important for workers to be supported with taking the time to practice using a lift with their colleagues. Practice provides the opportunity for workers to experience being in a lift and become more familiar with proper operation of the lift as per their training.

Health Canada Alert 109 states a client should never be left unattended while in a mechanical lift and mobile floor lifts are not to be used for transportation.

TLR Safe Work Practice - Use of Slings/Harnesses

Refer to manufacturer's guidelines for appropriate use, care, cleaning, etc., of the sling/harness.

Slings such as universal or hammock are to be removed from under client after use. Slings that are sheet-like, and most often used with overhead track lifts, are designed to be left under the client.

Deviation from this safe work practice requires a specialized assessment. There is a high risk of damage to skin integrity when a sling/harness is left under a client (pressure on thighs, on the sacrum or on the back, wherever client is in contact with a part of the sling - seams, straps, etc.)

source: various vendor websites at the time of printing

Sit/Stand Lift

A sit/stand lift should be considered for a client who is not able to:

- achieve standing and/or
- stand steady for 20 seconds with or without stabilizing

A sit/stand lift is used by a minimum of two workers to raise a client to a standing position. The client's weight must be less than the sit/stand lift's current rated capacity. No manual lifting is used.



Total Lift

A total lift is used by a minimum of two workers in raising the entire weight of the client. The client's weight must be less than the total lift's current rated capacity. No manual lifting is used.

A total lift may be a floor model (portable) or overhead track (fixed or portable). Portable models are not intended to transport a client nor move a client across thresholds. The lift and attachments used must be appropriate for the lift and the task (e.g., for bathing).



Refer to the TLR User Manual, Module 4, for more information on TLR standard client moving techniques.

Safety Talk Discussion

Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!