



Safe, Compliant Use of Material Handling Equipment

A Guide by Packline – Safety, Efficiency & Compliance



Material handling equipment (MHE) plays a vital role in packaging, logistics, and production.

Correct use ensures productivity, safety, and compliance with UK regulations such as the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, PUWER 1998, and LOLER 1998.

Planning & Risk Assessment:

Before operations, carry out a risk assessment and lift plan covering load details, equipment selection, environment checks, control measures, and supervision.

Operator Competence & Training:

Only trained and competent personnel should operate MHE. Provide initial and refresher training, evaluations, and ongoing supervision, with all records documented.

Inspection & Maintenance:

Regular inspections, scheduled maintenance, and examinations by competent persons are essential. Record all checks, and resolve defects before use.

Safe Operation Practices:

- Respect Safe Working Load (SWL) limits.
- Balance and move loads smoothly.
- Keep safe distances from pedestrians.
- Use exclusion zones for high-risk lifts.
- Shut down equipment before servicing.

Modifications & Bespoke Solutions:

Consult manufacturers before making modifications or retrofits. Always inspect and confirm compliance before returning equipment to service.

Summary Checklist:

- Complete risk assessment & lift plan
- Confirm equipment suitability
- Inspect before use & maintain records
- Ensure operator training & supervision
- Follow Safe Working Load limits
- Maintain compliance documentation

Packline provides on-site and return-to-base servicing, plus full training for safe, compliant operations. For advice, bespoke solutions, or equipment servicing, visit www.packline.co.uk.