

To: Phil Costello

From: June Felstead  
Unison Health & Safety Officer

8 June, 2007

**Re: Risk Assessments**

After completing the Risk Assessments of your 3 sites at WGC, Stevenage and Bedford Hospital, I spoke to numerous staff members who were concerned about Manual Handling.

I would like to check that staff have received adequate training in the equipment they are expected to use.

I also have been informed that not all your vehicles will be carrying lifting and moving aids (such as moving belts, pat slides, banana boards etc) and that none of them will have the new style Ibex chairs or stair climber chairs, which obviously the staff from East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) have been using for some time.

Under Health and Safety Regulations all Manual Handling must be Risk Assessed, obviously these assessments are to identify areas which need improvement to make work safer.

If hazardous manual handling operations cannot be avoided, employers must take appropriate steps to reduce the risk of injury to employees to the lowest level reasonably practicable, which is the EEAST policy.

As staff have been using these safer lifting aids for some time, there will be an increased risk of injury to them when using unfamiliar equipment. It could also be viewed as a "step backwards" if staff are expected to revert to using equipment that was deemed previously unsuitable.

June Felstead  
Health & Safety Officer