

2009 WorkSafe Victoria Awards Finalist

Best Solution to Prevent Musculoskeletal Injuries



Cherry Constructions Pty Ltd and Workright Safety Solutions Pty Ltd Keg Handling System

Cherry Constructions and Workright Safety Solutions have developed a mechanical aid system for handling beer kegs in the hospitality industry. Keg handling has been a major issue in hospitality for several decades and is traditionally done by hand without the use of mechanical aids.

The Keg Handling System seeks to improve the way kegs, which can weigh up to 67kg, are handled and reduce the risk of injury. It consists of a keg lifter and trolley, ramp and stack safe crosses. It can lift a keg, manoeuvre it into position and lower it to the floor or on top of another keg simply and easily with minimal effort from the operator. The trolley can pick up a keg from any position so the keg doesn't have to be moved to meet the trolley. It also has a locking device so the keg is fixed to the trolley. The stack safe crosses allow the kegs to 'nest' into each other, stopping them from toppling over.

The major risks associated with handling beer kegs are musculoskeletal injuries to the back, shoulders and arms, and crushing injuries. The automated and easy-to-manoevre system is readily used in small spaces and by a range of staff. This design can also be adapted for other industries to aid in lifting and transporting many items including gas bottles, oil drums and even large pot plants in nurseries.

