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AS 2569, Part 1—1982
UDC 616.083.94:614.5/.6

Australian Standard 2569, Part 1—1982

GUIDE TO THE LIFTING AND MOVING OF PATIENTS

Part 1—SAFE MANUAL LIFTING AND MOVING OF PATIENTS



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Incorporated by Royal Charter

This Australian standard was prepared by Committee SF/21, Human Factors. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 8 July 1982 and published on 11 October 1982.

The following interests were represented on the committee responsible for the preparation of this standard:

Australian Association of Occupational Therapists
Australian Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
Australian Medical Association
Australian Mines and Metals Association
Australian National University
Australian Physiotherapy Association
Confederation of Australian Industry
Cumberland College of Health Sciences
Department of Defence
Department of Employment and Labour Relations, Queensland
Department of Health
Department of Industry and Commerce
Department of Industrial Affairs and Employment, South Australia
Department of Industrial Relations, New South Wales
Department of Labour and Industry, Tasmania
Department of Labour and Industry, Victoria
Department of Labour and Industry, Western Australia
Department of Motor Transport, New South Wales
Department of Science and Technology
Department of Transport
Department of Veterans Affairs
Ergonomics Society of Australia and New Zealand Incorporated
Health Commission of New South Wales
Health Commission of Victoria
Industrial Design Council of Australia
Institute of Ambulance Officers
Institution of Biomedical Engineering (Australia)
Public Health Department, Western Australia
Royal Australian Nursing Federation
Safety Institute of Australia
Victorian Association of Occupational Therapists
University of New South Wales

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This standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 79135.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**GUIDE TO THE LIFTING AND MOVING
OF PATIENTS**

Part 1

**SAFE MANUAL LIFTING AND
MOVING OF PATIENTS**

AS 2569, Part 1—1982

First published1982

12 OCT 1982



**PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.**

ISBN 0 7262 2691 2

PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Human Factors under the supervision of the Safety Standards Board, in an endeavour to reduce the incidence of back injuries which occur during the manual lifting and moving of patients.

It describes the safety measures to be observed and recommends practices which are intended to reduce the risks of disabilities and costs in human and economic terms. The standard provides guidelines for persons lifting and moving patients as occasional or continuous tasks and it includes appendices describing recommended methods for the safe manual lifting and moving of patients and incorporating check lists and accident reporting functions.

This standard does not cover mechanical and/or mobile patient-lifting devices, for which reference should be made to AS 2569, Guide to the Lifting and Moving of Patients, Part 2—Mechanical Aids for Patient Handling.*

The illustrations to the text of this standard were provided by the technical staff of the Medical Illustration Department, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney and were reproduced from action photographs. Acknowledgement is made of the assistance received.

This standard is not a manual for the safe lifting and moving of patients, but it may be used as a basis for the development of training programs and institutional policies of a more specialized nature. Although the conditions referred to in this standard with regard to the safe lifting and moving of patients may be considered, to a large extent, to apply to hospitals and health care institutions, the standard is intended to cover also conditions in private homes and the transporting of handicapped persons.

The following reference material was considered by the committee during the compilation of information on the lifting and moving of patients, and is recommended for use as reference in the development of training programs—

'Basic Lifting Techniques', 1981—produced by the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

'Kinetics and Lifting Techniques in Nursing', April 1975—issued by the Nurses Education Board, N.S.W.

'Lifting Patients in Hospitals'—published by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists.

'No Light Matter'—feature film by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

'Lifting and Carrying Patients' (film and slides)—Heineman Training Services, London.

*In course of preparation.

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