

SAFE USE OF MACHINERY MOVING SKATES

Applies to: Probst, Hilman, Steerman, Pfaff, HTS ECO-Skate, Enerpac, and similar machinery moving skates (nylon, PU soft wheel, steel wheel)

Purpose

Machinery moving skates are used to transport heavy machinery, equipment, or loads safely across level surfaces.

They distribute load weight across multiple rollers or wheels to reduce floor pressure and enable controlled movement.

This leaflet provides safe-use guidance to prevent tipping, uncontrolled movement, floor damage, or personal injury.

Before Use

- Inspect skates – Check frames, axles, wheels/rollers, bearings, turntables, and handles for cracks, flat spots, corrosion, or deformation.
- Verify SWL – Ensure total skate capacity exceeds the full weight of the load, including centre of gravity and dynamic forces.
- Choose correct wheel type:
 - **Nylon wheels** – Hard, low rolling resistance, suitable for smooth concrete.
 - **Soft/PU wheels** – Floor-protecting, quiet, suitable for resin, tiles, or softer floors.
 - **Steel rollers** – For very heavy industrial loads and hardened floors.
- Confirm number of skates required – Usually 3-point or 4-point systems.
- Inspect floor surface – Must be level, smooth, free of holes, debris, and slopes.
- Check load base – Ensure underside has suitable flat points to support skates without slipping.
- Ensure steering system – If using steerable skates, verify turntable and handle movement.
- Use compatible jacks – Load must be raised using hydraulic toe jacks or lifting points before inserting skates.
- Confirm route – Plan the entire path including turning space, door height, floor type, and risk areas.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained crew should undertake machine moving work.

During Operation

- Place skates correctly under approved lifting points or frame members.
- Use a **3-point configuration** (2 fixed rear skates + 1 steerable front) for best stability.
- Ensure the load's centre of gravity is central to the skate layout.
- Move slowly and steadily — avoid sudden pushes or stops.
- Use pushing force from the **lowest possible point** on the load.
- Maintain clear communication between team members.
- Keep hands clear of pinch points between load and skates.
- Use guide bars or tow handles to help steer loads safely.
- Stop immediately if skates shift, become misaligned, or bind.
- Maintain exclusion zones around the load.
- Use winches, tirfors, or control ropes when precise movement is required.

Do Not

- Exceed the skate's SWL or use mismatched skate types on the same load.
- Use skates on slopes, ramps, or uneven/soft floors.
- Drag or twist skates sideways — wheels/rollers must travel straight.
- Place skates under weak sheet metal or unapproved lifting points.
- Lift loads higher than necessary to insert skates.
- Push loads from high up (risk of tipping).
- Work beneath a load supported only on skates.
- Use damaged, flat-spotted, or seized wheels.

After Use

- Remove skates once load is fully lowered and stable.
- Clean wheels to remove dust, grit, and debris that may cause wear.
- Inspect axles, bearings, and frames for cracking or deformation.
- Lubricate moving parts if manufacturer recommends it.
- Store skates on a level surface in a dry, protected area.
- Tag out and report any damaged equipment for repair or replacement.
- Maintain inspection records if used as lifting accessories under LOLER.

Safety Reminders

- Always use skates with compatible hydraulic jacks and proper cribbing/support.
- Ensure the travel route is inspected and cleared before starting.
- Never exceed SWL or operate on unsuitable floor surfaces.
- Maintain a stable, low load profile at all times.
- Use appropriate PPE: gloves, safety boots, high-visibility clothing.
- Only trained personnel should operate machinery moving equipment.
- Stop the operation immediately if unsafe conditions develop.

Support and Maintenance

For service, inspection, and spare parts, contact your local Lifting Gear and Safety Depot

Depot List

Bristol: 0117 9714883

Avonmouth: 0117 9550456

Newport: 01633 334450

Port Talbot: 01639 540007

Pembroke: 01646 574000

Plymouth: 01752 474488

Fareham: 01329 550988

Redruth: 01209 703990