

SAFE USE OF SKOOTS® & HYDRAULIC SELF-LIFTING MACHINERY MOVING SYSTEMS

Applies to: Skoots®, Probst, HTS, Steerman, Load-Mover, Pfaff, and similar hydraulic self-lifting and machinery moving systems

Purpose

Skoots and similar systems are designed to lift and transport heavy equipment by hydraulically raising the load onto integrated wheel frames, allowing controlled movement across flat floors.

They remove the need for separate jacks and skates and are commonly used for moving safes, switchgear, machinery, cabinets, and heavy commercial equipment.

This leaflet provides safe-use guidance to prevent tipping, crush injuries, overloading, hydraulic leaks, or instability.

Before Use

- Inspect the system – Check frames, lifting jacks, wheels, handles, pump units, stabilisers, and straps for cracks, corrosion, or deformation.
- Verify SWL – Ensure combined Skoots system capacity exceeds the total load weight.
- Confirm lifting points – Identify strong, flat structural surfaces suitable for supporting the Skoots lifting pads.
- Check wheel condition – Ensure castors/wheels roll freely and have no flat spots, cracks, or excessive wear.
- Inspect hydraulic units – Check for leaks, damaged hoses, loose fittings, or bent ram rods.
- Inspect securing straps – Ensure all provided straps and lashing points are undamaged and rated appropriately.
- Verify load profile – Ensure load centre of gravity is known and accessible for safe lifting.
- Inspect floor – Must be level, smooth, dry, and free from debris, holes, or slopes.
- Check route – Assess doorway widths, turning spaces, floor strength, ramps, and potential pinch points.
- Test pump – Operate both hydraulic jacks (unloaded) to confirm smooth, even lift.
- Ensure operator competence – Only trained personnel should operate Skoots and similar systems.

During Operation

- Position each Skoots unit on opposite sides of the load, aligning lifting pads at the same height.
- Secure the load using the built-in straps before lifting.
- Pump both sides evenly to avoid twisting the load.
- Raise only enough to clear the floor — minimal lift height = maximum stability.
- Keep the load centred over the Skoots frames at all times.
- Move slowly, using the handle bars to steer and push — never pull heavy loads.
- Assign a spotter at front and rear during movement.
- Use tag lines for tall or unstable loads.
- Stop immediately if wheels lift unevenly, the load leans, or any abnormal noise occurs.
- Maintain exclusion zones around the load to prevent crush injuries.
- When lowering, do so gradually and evenly on both sides.

Do Not

- Exceed the rated capacity of the system.
- Raise one side significantly higher than the other.
- Use on slopes, ramps, uneven floors, or surfaces with loose gravel.
- Use damaged lifting pads, straps, hydraulic components, or wheels.
- Force the load around tight corners or twist sharply.
- Stand between the load and a fixed obstruction.
- Allow hands or feet beneath raised loads.
- Leave the load suspended on Skoots unattended.
- Use Skoots as permanent supports — they are for movement, not load holding.

After Use

- Lower the load fully and release all strap tension.
- Pump down the hydraulic rams completely.
- Inspect frames, wheels, straps, and hydraulics for damage.
- Clean wheels and lifting pads of grit and debris.
- Store in a dry, secure area on a level surface.
- Tag out faulty equipment immediately.
- Keep maintenance and PUWER inspection records updated.

Safety Reminders

- Always lift evenly and keep the load centred.
- Maintain slow, deliberate movement during transport.
- Never exceed SWL or operate on unsuitable floor surfaces.
- Use correct PPE: gloves, safety boots, and high-visibility clothing.
- Keep personnel clear of the load path.
- Only trained personnel should operate Skoots-type equipment.
- If conditions change or feel unsafe — stop and reassess.

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