

RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE
“ELECTRODRIVE STAINLESS STEEL GZUNDA”
MOTORISED HOSPITAL BED MOVER

The Electrodrive Motorised bed moving unit “The Gzunda” has been assessed for potential hazards which may arise from use of the vehicle whilst moving patients in their hospital beds. Whilst the manufacturer, Electrodrive, has limited control on vehicle use, there are a number of hazards that have been identified as a result of this risk assessment. These are detailed on the attached “Risk Assessment & Control” document and should be used as a basis for operator training and developing safety procedures by the hospital, before releasing the bedmover for general use.

It is the recommendation of the manufacturer that only authorised personnel should use the bed mover. The bed mover should always be disabled while unattended by removing the key switch. An unattended vehicle with the key switch in place is an open invitation for unauthorized use.

As far as possible, safeguards have been put in place to ensure that the vehicle will be operated with adequate warning to pedestrians, through operator initiated audible signals. However, the ultimate responsibility for safe operation lies with the operator, who should always be a fully trained and authorized person.

Hazard Identification Risk Assessment and Control
Electrodrive Gzunda Bed Mover

1.0 Operator visibility:

The Hospital bed (or trolley if used for moving linen or food trolleys) has the potential to obscure visibility when driving.

Risk assessment:

- Negligible for beds, as the bed top is below eyesight level, high for linen or food trolleys even though the machine is traveling slowly.

Control measures:

- Provide a “dead man” speed twist grip control that will only operate when rotated by the operator. The release of the twist grip will halt the movement of the unit.
-
- When used for moving linen or food trolleys the unit should be provided with a tiller type steering, and fitted with a “dead man” speed control throttle lever that will only operate when pressed. The release of the lever will halt the movement of the unit. In addition, instruct the operator to lead the trolley rather than have the operator pushing the trolley. This will ensure that the operator has unobstructed forward vision, and in addition the trolley will be easier to steer.

2.0 Hitching the Gzunda to the Bed:

The Gzunda is provided with hitching straps to secure the bed to the bed rail. This will secure the Gzunda firmly to the bed, and is firm enough to prevent the hitch from sliding sideways on the bed rail.

Risk assessment:

- Low if the straps are in sound condition.
- High if straps have not been properly maintained or are damaged.

Control Measures:

- Recommend annual replacement of straps. In addition, provide two strap assemblies to ensure the bed is still secure in the event of one strap failing due to inadvertent damage.

3.0 Safety risks for the operator:

Risk assessment:

- Negligible if the operator is properly trained and is familiar with the safety equipment supplied.

Control measures:

- Provide training and advice in the responsible operation of the Gzunda and the safe connection of the Gzunda to the bed.
- Provide training to ensure the operator is familiar with all safety devices and is well versed in the Gzunda operating procedures as set out on page three of the Gzunda operating manual.