

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 038 – HANDLING PVC PIPE AND COLUMNS

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Safe Work Procedure establishes minimum requirements for manual handling, movement and storage of PVC pipe, fabricated columns and similar long cylindrical items at Illusions Australia.

It addresses awkward loads, rolling, long-load control, sharp fabricated edges and storage stability.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Workers must assess the load, route and required number of people before handling.

Mechanical assistance or team handling must be used where the size, length, weight or shape makes single-person handling hazardous.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Safety footwear.
- Gloves suitable for grip and protection from sharp fabricated edges.
- Eye protection where cutting, drilling or fabrication is also undertaken.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- The weight, length and centre of gravity are understood.
- The travel route and destination are clear.
- Sufficient workers or mechanical aids are available.
- Pipe/columns are free from unsecured attachments or sharp projections.
- Storage racks/chocks are suitable and stable.
- Doorways, corners and overhead clearances have been considered.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Plan the lift and route before moving the item.
2. Use mechanical aids for long/heavy items where practicable.
3. For team handling, nominate one person to coordinate the lift and movement.
4. Lift and lower together using controlled movements.
5. Carry long items so both ends remain controlled and visible.
6. Use a spotter when passing through doors, corners or congested areas.
7. Place cylindrical items onto chocks, racks or restraints to prevent rolling.
8. Stack only to a stable height and secure where required.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Attempt to catch a falling or rolling pipe with hands or feet.
- Carry long pipe through blind areas without controlling the far end.
- Store cylindrical items where they can roll into walkways.
- Lift awkward/heavy items alone where assistance is required.
- Stand beneath vertically handled columns or unstable loads.
- Use damaged racks or improvised unstable supports.

7. LONG-LOAD CONTROL

Long pipe and columns can swing, strike people or structures and create leverage forces.

- Use coordinated team handling.
- Maintain clear communication.
- Use a spotter in restricted areas.

8. STORAGE AND ROLLING

Round items can roll unexpectedly and stored columns may topple.

- Use chocks, racks or restraints.
- Keep storage away from emergency routes.
- Do not exceed rack or stack capacity.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Stop if the load begins to slip, roll or become unstable, if communication is lost, or if the route becomes obstructed.

Lower the load to a safe position rather than attempting to recover an uncontrolled movement.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Store pipe/columns in designated restrained locations.
- Remove packaging and trip hazards.
- Inspect racks/chocks after loading.
- Report damaged storage equipment or handling aids.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate the hazard or energy source where safe to do so.
3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Adequate assistance is unavailable.
- Weight or balance is uncertain.
- The route cannot be cleared.
- Storage cannot prevent rolling/toppling.
- The load has sharp or unstable attachments that cannot be controlled.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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