



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Division of Occupational Safety and Health
Construction and Specialty Services
PO Box 44650, Olympia, WA 98504-4650

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**DOSH Policy Statement on Ceiling Lifts, Ergo Tugs and Slings:
General Industry Crane Standards and Powered Industrial Truck (PIT)
Certification**

Ceiling Lifts for Patient Handling:

Although the ceiling lifts are similar in design and construction to overhead under hung cranes, they are not covered by the general industry crane standards for overhead cranes. The Division of Occupational safety and Health (DOSH) does not have regulations that are specific to Ceiling Lifts for Patient Handling. Ceiling lifts for patient handling must be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations. The failure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines could result in a safeplace violation with a penalty.

Ergo Tugs for Patient Handling:

Motor driven ergo tugs used to lift and move patients laterally do not meet the definition of a powered industrial truck (PIT). A PIT is defined as a mobile, power-driven vehicle used to *carry, push, pull, lift, stack, or tier materials*. (emphasis added) Since ergo tugs are specifically designed to handle patients and not material, they are not covered under the regulation for PITS. Ergo Tugs for patient handling must be operated and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations. The failure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines could result in a safeplace violation with a penalty.

Slings for Patient Handling:

Slings for patient handling must be used and maintained according to the manufacture's protocols. DOSH does not have specific regulations regarding slings for patient handling. The failure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines could result in a safeplace violation with a penalty. Unless a sling is a single patient sling, care must be given to ensure that biological hazards are controlled.