



## 15. Force - characteristics of the load



What do you see or notice in terms of:

Note: For background information, see other side.

- handles?
  
  
- dimension of the load?
  
  
- edges that can cut, rough surfaces etc.?

In conclusion, the current situation

is acceptable

needs improvement

What *specific* improvements can be made?

Should we analyze the situation or the proposed solutions in more detail?

no

yes - more detail on other side





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We looked at ...	Why be concerned? (consequences)	Recommendations
<b>Handles</b>	If there are handles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• easier to hold</li><li>• less likely to fall or drop</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Put handles on objects that weigh more than 4.5 kg (10 lbs)</li><li>• Put handles for two people if weight is more than 18 kg (40 lbs)</li><li>• Position handles below or at height of centre of gravity</li><li>• Handles:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- should be slightly rough</li><li>- round/oval shape, diameter 19 to 38 mm (¾" to 1½")</li><li>- 115 mm (4½") long</li><li>- free space of 50 mm (2") or 75 mm (3") if wearing gloves</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Load dimensions</b>	If it's large: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reduces field of vision</li><li>• likely to fall or run into things</li><li>• muscle strain</li><li>• may cause back problems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limit load or objects to a maximum of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 60 cm wide, 35 cm high, 40 cm deep (24" wide, 14" high, 16" deep)</li></ul></li><li>• Use mechanical aids for awkward or large loads</li></ul>
<b>Cutting edges, rough surfaces</b>	If object has cutting edges or rough surfaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• may get local cuts and abrasions</li><li>• precise gestures are more difficult</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove edges that can cut or surfaces that are rough on the skin</li><li>• Wrap/box/bag dangerous objects</li><li>• Package loads that are too hot, cold or dirty</li><li>• Use protective gloves as a last resort</li><li>• Protect hands from heat and cold</li><li>• Handles/grips should be made of plastic, rubber or wood</li></ul>

Translated and adapted from SOBANE materials, available at [www.sobane.be/fr/tms\\_obs.html](http://www.sobane.be/fr/tms_obs.html)

