KpH Deconstruction Services Ltd

Innovation on site: Lift Runner Protection System

Working as a Strip Out and Enabling Company our waste removal activities perhaps represent the largest task item within our Risk Assessment and Method Statement. This can result in considerable amounts of manual handling and physical ability. We are always looking at ways to reduce the effects of ill health and Musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) on our workforce by introducing methods that reduce as far as possible the need for operatives to physically lift waste materials.

The use of lifts to help transfer waste and materials around site is a vital part of our logistics planning. Without the use of the lifts (on sites where external hoists cannot be implemented) waste would need to be manually carried up & down the stairs. This not only increases the risk of injuries and damage on site but puts our labourers under enormous physical discomfort even with increased rest breaks and rotation of teams.

In the past we have been faced with clients who have stopped us from using the lifts due to the fact that they are new and had concerns that they could be damaged throughout the course of the works. We have provided multiple solutions for protecting lifts and inventive solutions to create free standing tension supports for timber where they do not directly attach to the lift car itself. Although the protection of the inside of the lift itself is straight forward, lifts still get damaged due to debris falling through the door opening runners. Although we have introduced regular cleaning of the lift runners with handheld vacuums, we wanted a way to stop the debris from falling through in the first place.

A work around on site has been to use a removable low level ramp which stays within the lift and is placed over the runners when in use and removed out when the lift is being used by tenants.

To improve on this our site created a ply board hinged section that is lifted and lowered by a chain to cover the running gear when needed and simply flaps back over forming part of the floor protection when not in use. The prototype has been constructed in timber to see if the design works, which it has. The next stage is to create in thin metal with a foam/rubber backing to cushion over the running mechanism which will be an even smaller profile when flipped over when in normal use.

This innovative solution although simple, will allow us to prove to clients that lifts can be suitably protected and reduce our manual handling on site.