



## **European Standards and the Machinery Directive**

### **The Machinery Directive**

Like all EU Directives, the Machinery Directive has been transposed into the national regulations of the individual European Member States, and has become a set of mandatory requirements, backed by the sanctions of Criminal Law.

However, the enormous range of equipment covered by the Directive means that its requirements are necessarily expressed in very broad terms.

For example, a requirement states that it shall be possible to use the machine without risk of slipping or falling. What would a tail lift designer have to provide? An anti-slip platform surface, a safety barrier around the platform, or maybe a safety harness?

The existence of regulations which are mandatory, yet open to such wide interpretation, would make life untenable for product designers, and indeed for the enforcement authorities.

### **The Standards**

The purpose of European Standards is to overcome this dilemma. They support EU Directives, by interpreting their requirements in the context of a particular product group. They define 'best practice' and, by virtue of regular amendments and revisions, keep abreast of the latest state-of-the-art safety solutions.

The Standards themselves are never mandatory, but their legal status is that they provide a Presumption of Conformance with the requirements of the Directive.

European Standards relating to ALEM products:

- BS EN 1398 Dock Levellers
- BS EN 1570 Mobile elevating work platforms
- BS EN 1756-1 Tail Lifts for goods BS EN 1756-2 Tail Lifts for passengers