Tony Rees MIOSH, takes a look at the general health and safety requirements for Golf Clubs and Greenkeepers

Taking precautions

Over the next few months we are going to look at the general and more specific health and safety requirements for Maintenance Buildings. The buildings that on most golf courses are used for the storage and maintenance of equipment. We have so far looked at individual pieces of health and safety legislation. We will now look at how this legislation affects a working area of the golf course. Let's first look at the legislation involved:

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; Specific sections of the Factories Act; The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations; The Manual Handling Operations Regulation 1992. As with the previous Regulations these apply to all workplaces and place a duty on employers to, firstly, avoid Manual Handling tasks. When carrying out a Manual Handling task, there are four main areas that need to be investigated, these being firstly, the task ie what is actually needed to be done? Secondly, you have to take into account the individual who will be required to perform this task. This will entail looking at whether or not the person has a history of back problems, for example, or are physically capable of lifting, pushing or pulling the items or equipment involved. The third factor to be considered is the actual load itself ie What is it? What shape is it? Is it rigid or flexible? Is it stable? Has it got handles? etc. Finally; you must take into consideration where this task or operation is to take place ie is it to be carried out in an open shed in the middle of winter when it will be cold/wet and the operator will be wearing extra clothing which may impede movements etc. The risks of injury need to be assessed, recorded and action taken to reduce them to the lowest level by providing such items as lifting tackle, hoists, trailers, etc. or do you provide training in safe and correct lifting techniques for all staff involved.

Next month we will look at the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations.

Further information on training courses and consultancy contact Lantra National Organisation Ltd (Jean John on 01282 831973 or Tony Rees on 01886 622790).