

SECTION ONE – BASKET STRETCHER

INTRODUCTION

The Basket Stretcher is a lightweight stretcher designed to move casualties from areas inaccessible to conventional stretchers, either with or without the aid of lines and the four point bridle.

DESCRIPTION

STRETCHER

The stretcher shell is constructed of a durable, high density polythene plastic, with a permanently attached heavy duty aluminium frame. Moulded runners and smooth side walls provide greater protection from sharp objects.

A removable foam mattress covered with a tough, industrial grade nylon is secured to the shell with velcro.

There are four restraint straps and an adjustable foot board.

FOUR POINT BRIDLE

The four point bridle consists of four polyester slings, fitted with carabiners, attached to a sling which has a twist-gate carabineer attached to the other end. The four bridle carabineers lock onto each corner of the stretcher to enable it to be lifted or lowered horizontally. By fitting the four slings at the head of the stretcher, a vertical lift can be achieved. The assembly has a safe working load limit of 272 kg.

ISSUE LOCATION

The basket stretcher is carried on the A.L.P Appliances, stationed at Shrewsbury and Telford.

USE

The first priority will be to stabilise the casualty using the prescribed principles of first aid.

Position basket in close proximity to the casualty so that straps can be properly aligned. The straps should be positioned across the patients chest, hips, middle of the thighs and the middle of the lower leg. Adjust the foot support board so that it will not interfere with the transfer of the patient.

Release the basket restraint straps and fold the straps over the edges of the basket. Carefully lift and place the casualty into the stretcher.

Secure the casualty restraint straps by snapping the strap buckles together. Only the straps directly across from the strap ends should be connected. Apply tension to the loose strap end while maintaining a firm grip on the buckle, to allow the straps to be tightened without undue pressure on the casualty.

Position the foot support board so that it supports both feet. Hold the foot board in place, apply tension to the loose end of the strap until the board is firmly secured. If the casualty is smaller than the adjustment range, slide the hook end of each strap loose from the hand slots and move the hooks to the next available slot.

CARRY ONLY BY THE HAND SLOTS PROVIDED

LIFTING

HORIZONTAL

A horizontal lift will be achieved by attaching the red bridle straps to the head and the blue bridle straps towards the foot of the basket. Ensure the straps are not twisted.

To prevent the stretcher spinning, guy lines should be attached to the hand slots at the head and foot of the stretcher.

VERTICAL

A vertical lift will be achieved by attaching both sets of bridle straps to the grommets at the head end of the basket.

As the stretcher approaches the vertical, a further check of the patient restraint straps and the foot support board should be carried out to ensure security of the casualty.

Guy lines should be attached to the foot of the stretcher.

MAINTENANCE

- Maintenance of the stretcher will primarily be a quarterly and after use visual inspection.
- Check for damage to the basket including punctures, cracks, bent frame and loose rivets.
- The bridle should be inspected quarterly and after use for frayed webbing, damaged stitching and to ensure that the action of the carabineers functions correctly.
- Clean with a mild detergent.
- Any defects should be reported to Technical Services.

- The four point bridle is to be inspected annually by a qualified competent person. Technical Services will arrange this test with an approved contractor.

TECHNICAL DATA

Measures:	218mm x 660mm x 200mm
Weight:	14kgs
S.W.L	272kg